

# **BOTHELL HIGH SCHOOL**

## **BOTHELL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR MEMBER'S HANDBOOK**

**SHERYL ERICKSON  
DIRECTOR OF CHORAL MUSIC**

## **FORWARD**

**By receiving this booklet, you are about to be a member of an organization based upon pride, achievement, and unity. We have an opportunity to continue a tradition that is based upon excellence in achievement, teamwork and unity from choir members and pride in our performance. Our challenge is to be part of a winning team where each member seeks to develop a sense of sportsmanship, professionalism, and dependability that will be a source of pride to Bothell High School as well as the community. We have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to give 100%. We must all give our best to keep the choir program strong.**

**Mrs. Sheryl Erickson  
Director**

## **CHOIR HANDBOOK TOPICS**

**Goals**

**Course Offerings**

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**Grading Policies**

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### **GOALS**

**The goals of the choir program are in line with the National Standards for Music.**

**The study of music through choral performance seeks to:**

- \*Develop understanding of the basic elements of music**
- \*Develop skills in reading and writing notation**
- \*Develop performance skills and provide performance opportunities**
- \*Develop understanding of the relationship of music within societies: historically, culturally, and stylistically**
- \*Develop awareness of the relationships between music and other disciplines**
- \*Develop listening skills appropriate to music**
- \*Differentiate through performance a variety of styles of music**
- \*Encourage creativity**

## **COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **Concert Choir**

1 year

Prerequisite – none (Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors)

This class will focus on building musicianship and rehearsal techniques, emphasizing a high standard of personal responsibility. Participation in numerous concerts and festivals is required.

### **Women's Choir (Bel Canto)**

1 year

Prerequisite – Audition Required

This class introduces and develops fundamentals of vocal production and musical skills. Stresses personal responsibility and teamwork. Women in this choir must have high expectations for rehearsal ethics and personal responsibility.

Participation in numerous concerts and festivals is required.

### **Madrigal Singers**

1 year

Prerequisite – Junior or Senior status; 2.5 GPA; Auditioned required.

This class is designed to accommodate experienced singers who may someday pursue a musical career. Students are expected to read music fluently, have additional vocal training, and have the highest expectations for rehearsal ethic and personal responsibility. Participation in numerous concerts and festivals is required.

### **Jazz Choir (JIVE)**

1 year

Prerequisite – Junior or Senior status; 2.5 GPA; Auditioned the previous spring

This class is for a select group of students who have strong musical skills and who wish to learn more about jazz. Includes performing in a wide variety of settings.

There is extra cost for attire and trips.

## CLASS EXPECTATIONS

**Bothell choir students distinguish themselves by demonstrating leadership in the areas of attitude, behavior, maturity, discipline and responsibility. Following are the expectations for the choir student:**

1. **BE PROMPT – Self-discipline is the key to success.** Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is essential and part of your grade. Choir is a “group” activity where all members depend on each other. For the ensemble to be successful, we must work together. This includes an attitude of cooperation and support for the choir and its members. You must be in your seat ready to sing when class begins or you will be tardy. \*see detailed information on tardies/unexcused absence on page 7 of this handbook.
2. **BE PREPARED** – You are expected to come to class prepared and focused. When you come to class you must leave your belongings by the door. You need to get your folder, pencil and get your music in order for the day. **ALWAYS BRING A PENCIL! HAVE YOUR MUSIC READY WHEN REHEARSAL BEGINS.**
3. **BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHERS** - All students are expected to act as ladies and gentlemen at all times. Showing respect means refraining from put-downs, offensive language, and unnecessary comments. Students must show respect for the director, other choir members, substitute teachers, chaperones, bus drivers and any other guest in our building.
4. **BE RESPECTFUL FOR PROPERTY AND REHEARSAL ROOM**  
All students are expected to keep their music in good condition and in their choir folders when not in use. You will be charged for lost music checked out to you. Do not take anyone else’s music. Food and drink (other than water) are not allowed in the choir room. **NO GUM!!!**
  1. **PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ON THE BOARD OR GO INTO MRS. ERICKSON’S OFFICE WITHOUT PERMISSION. THE PHONE MAY BE USED ONLY BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL**
5. **BE POSITIVE** – A willingness to learn on the part of each student is essential to success in this class. It is important to listen attentively, communicate properly and without unnecessary talking. It is also important for a choir member to be cheerful, friendly, and helpful.

## **CONCERT ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR**

**Concerts and performances are an important part of this class. They represent an opportunity for the group to proudly display the successes of daily efforts. It goes without saying, that each student must be present at each performance.**

**Attendance will be taken at a designated time before each performance. Excused absences from a performance must be of a serious nature (i.e. sudden or extended illness, death in the family, or other family emergency). To excuse an absence from a performance, the student must notify the director with a parent note, phone call or email message within TWO SCHOOL DAYS of the performance. Excused absences from a performance may not affect a student's grade. Unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the student's grade by one grade point.**

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## GRADING POLICIES

- 25%**            **MUSICIANSHIP SKILLS**  
Student mastery of various skills will be evaluated throughout each semester. Skills included will be sight-singing, rhythm reading and theory work as well as repertoire tests.
- 35%**            **REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION**  
Important outcomes for choir include full participation in class in the following areas: attitude, effort, enthusiasm, respect, leadership, rehearsal attentiveness and sectional requirements (2 sectional rehearsals are required each month for members of auditioned choirs). This subjective measure will be evaluated by the choir director, and will include observations of the above mentioned rehearsal expectations.
- 40%**            **PERFORMANCES**  
Attendance at all scheduled choir events (concerts, festivals, dress rehearsals, etc.) is required of each choir member. Students must be in the room, ready for warm-up at call time. Tardiness to warm-up will affect the concert grade. Evaluations will include attendance, behavior, and participation in set-up and take-down.

### UNEXCUSED TARDIES/ABSENCES

**Tardies and absences are a major disruption to success in this class. For that reason, unexcused tardies and absences will result in the lowering of student grades based on the following scale:**

- 3 tardies (or one unexcused absence) will result in lowering a student's grade 10% (92%A- to an 82%B-)
- 6 tardies (or 2 unexcused absences) will result in lowering a student's grade 20%
- 9 tardies (or 3 unexcused absences) will result in lowering a student's grade 30%
- 12 tardies (or 4 unexcused absences) will result in lowering a student's grade 40%
- 13 or more tardies will result in a grade of 'F'

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

### **CHOIR COUNCIL**

A Choir Council President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected from the Madrigal and/or Bel Canto Choirs. Candidates for these offices must have been in choir at least one school year. Four section leaders from Madrigal Choir will also be elected. These section leaders will be responsible for leading sectionals when needed and will serve as librarians to their individual classes. Two section leaders will be elected from Bel Canto and Concert choirs. They will be members of the Choir Council and serve as librarians to their individual classes.

Selection of choir council will take place during the first two weeks of class in the fall.



## UNIFORMS

**Hair back, deodorant, no perfume, small jewelry only, well-groomed, clothing pressed, black dress shoes.**

### **Concert Choir:**

- 1. Blue BHS Choir T-shirts: \$18.00 – BHS**
- 2. Robes with black to the floor: \$40.00 rental fee – payable to BHS**
  - a. Gentlemen: Dress shirts with ties, black socks and shoes**
  - b. Ladies: Nude Nylons, shirt with a rounded neckline that doesn't show and no pattern of skirt showing at the bottom. Closed toe black dress shoes.**

### **Bel Cantos: (Girls will purchase the dress to be used every year)**

- 1. T-shirt: \$18.00 check to BHS**
- 2. Black Dresses - \$71.00 – payable to BHS**
- 3. Nude nylons and black dress shoes (closed toe)**

### **Madrigal Singers:**

- 1. T-shirt: \$18.00 payable to BHS**
- 2. Women: Purchase Black Dress - \$71.00 (payable to BHS).  
Nude nylons and black dress shoes (closed toe)**
- 3. Men: Black Tux/shirt -user fee: \$45.00 (payable to BHS)  
Black socks and black dress shoes**

**The uniform user fee is needed to cover the cost of cleaning the uniforms as well as repair of the uniforms.**

**UNIFORM MONEY DUE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
**Make checks payable to BHS**

### **BHS MUSIC BOOSTERS**

Bothell Choirs enjoy the support of an active parent volunteer group, the Bothell Music Boosters. This is an organization of interested parents and friends, who assist the music department with financial aid for those items not included in the school budget such as scholarships, summer camp awards, transportations to events, fundraising opportunities, etc.

**Music booster meetings will be held on the following Mondays: October 12, November 2, February 1, April 4 and May 9. These meetings are held in the choir room at 7:30 PM.**

## **PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

**(PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY : THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10th)**

I have read the Bothell High School choir member's handbook. I understand my responsibility and commitment.

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Choir student

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Choir Parent

**Parents please fill out the rest:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to be reached \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

**The choral Department has a busy school year and we need everyone's help to ensure successful programs. Volunteering is a wonderful way to support your child's choral experience. Please take a look at the descriptions below and fill out the parent volunteer form on the following page for the activity or activities that interest you. We would love to have you help in any way you are able.**

# BHS Choral Department

## 2015-2016 PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Choir(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please place a check mark in front of the volunteer activities that interest you. The committee coordinator will contact you when it is time to begin working. If you are interested in being a committee coordinator, please indicate that on the bottom of this form as well.**

**Please send in the completed form with your student or bring it to the next Music Booster Meeting.**

### Concert Support

### Fundraising

\_\_\_ Hospitality

\_\_\_ Fall Concert/Auction

\_\_\_ Photographer

\_\_\_ Holiday Wreaths

\_\_\_ Fall Concert/Auction

\_\_\_ See's Candy

\_\_\_ Holiday Concert

\_\_\_ Pathway Concert

\_\_\_ Spring Night Club

\_\_\_ **Chaperone**

\_\_\_ **Type Programs**

\_\_\_ **Student Accounts**

\_\_\_ **Any place you need help**

\_\_\_ **I am interested in being a committee coordinator.**

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