

Mixed Choir and Concert Choir Handbook

Objectives of Music at Benton Community Schools

A fundamental goal of music in education is to develop students' artistic literacy by providing opportunities to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes in using music effectively and independently. Specifically, upon completion of public schooling at Benton Community, the musically educated person should:

1. Continue to pursue music in his or her life as a consumer, performer, or composer by evaluating and using music in relation to its setting and purpose.
2. Be aware of and recognize the value of the world's musical heritage, feeling comfortable with music in varied settings and respecting each individual's unique aspirations and values.
3. Use wisdom in applying musical skills, knowledge and attitudes in diverse settings and for his or her own purpose.
4. Be skillful as a consumer, performer or composer of music using it as an avocation or a vocation.
5. Be sensitive to the many elements and symbols of music, which interact and contribute to its beauty and form.
6. Be aware of the interrelatedness of the arts and other existing disciplines with in the school setting

A note to all parents,

Please take time to read this booklet that has been prepared to avoid confusion with schedules, grades, expectations, and the like. I hope you realize that you are Benton Community Schools best attribute. It is the support of the parents that is the prime ingredient in a successful fine arts program at any school. I am confident you will support your sons and daughters as they participate in the fine arts at Benton and I encourage you to get involved in one or many of the multitude of activities that are scheduled for this school year. Please go to our website and log on to yahoogroups.com to sign up for an e-mail service that will help keep you better Informed.

Thank you again for your support and please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions about the vocal music department. Please take time to fill out the volunteer page of this packet and have your son or daughter bring it to school. Thank you.

Sincerely,

<p>Mr. John Hayden 228-8701 X117 jhayden@benton.k12.ia.us www.bvocalmusic.com</p>	<p>Ms. Alyssa Stoddard X342 (voice mail only) astoddard@benton.k12.ia.us www.bvocalmusic.com</p>
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Expectations and guidelines for the classroom

The rules are short and simple. Simply follow the rules and use common sense when in the vocal music classroom.

1. Be in your spot ready to sing when the bell rings.
2. Don't be late. You are now young adults and need to act accordingly. If you are late you need a pass.
3. Once you reach 10 absences (for any reason) you will not pass the class.
4. Each student will be assigned their own folder. It is the responsibility of the student to return his/her folder and music after each concert and to keep the music in good condition. Any lost or damaged music will be the responsibility and will be replaced at the expense of the parent and student. Please use a pencil when marking music. Mixed Choir students will not be using folders.
5. If you are engaged in any behavior that is making it more difficult for learning to occur, you will be asked to leave. It is absolutely necessary that we respect each others desire to participate and learn in a structured environment free of interruptions and distractions. In short, if you are not singing, do not talk!

Clothing

Concert Choir: You will be assigned clothing and jewelry for the concerts. It Is your responsibility to keep track of It and make SURE It Is presentable for all concerts. Take care of this clothing

Mixed Choir: Girls will wear ALL BLACK dresses below the knee. Boys will wear black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, long sleeved white shirt and we will provide you with a tie

Lessons

Those of you who will prepare a solo for a home show or for state contest will be required to spend some time with the instructors in lessons. **Solos and ensembles for Spring contest must be picked out before thanksgiving vacation.** As time will not allow it, students will not be required to take lessons with the instructors.

Information/Volunteer Sheet for Parents

Please check any or all of the following items that would apply to your situation and ability to assist in the vocal music department. . Also feel free to write any additional information I should know about you or your child in order to assist in their education.

I would be willing to assist in the following areas:

- Chaperone a trip
- Chaperone an overnight trip or retreat
- Help provide transportation ((We have a truck and trailer...need drivers)
- Help with show choir uniforms, (Sewing, hemming, etc...)
- Help with the Benton Show Choir Invitational (list special skills below)
- Bake cookies for different festivals
- Work in the music office a couple of hours a week
- Help to serve/prepare dinner for a festival at school
- Assist with Madrigal Dinner preparation
- Fund Raising activity
- Accompany for concerts or contest

Please list any special talents/abilities you might have that we could utilize here at Benton.
(Construction, Handywork, etc.....)

Thank you for your time. Please return this to school with your son or daughter.

Name _____ Name of your child _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Parents: Please go to yahoogroups.com and sign up for e mail updates.
Our group Is bcvocalmusic@yahoogroups.com

9-12 Vocal Music Grading Policy

Chamber Choir, Mixed Choir, Concert Choir

Mr. Hayden 228-8701 X 117

Ms. Alyssa Stoddard X 342 (voice mail
only)

How will I receive my grade in this class?

Your grade will be determined by a point total at the end of each term of vocal music. This policy is very straight forward and is not designed to keep anyone from receiving a good grade, it is designed to make the student, the teacher and your parents are accountable to your education.

If you show up to class, show up on time, come to all concerts (or do necessary make-up work), and are on task in rehearsals you will do fine.

1. **Show up to class:** You are eligible to receive **10 points** every time you are in class. Period. There is absolutely no way at all to make up what you miss when your gone, and it's impossible for us to progress as a "group" when the "group" is gone. If you do miss a rehearsal you are allowed to make up that time with the instructors and receive your points back for that day. You are allowed two school activity absences per term. After that you must make up that time with Mr. Hayden or Ms. Stoddard. You will receive 10 points automatically if you are on a school sponsored trip, but you **MUST** be sure we know where you were or are going to be. You will have **ONE** week from the date of your absence to make up any credit

Example: 45 days , 10 points per day= 450 points. **(not every term has 45 days)**

Grading scale:

90%- A
80%- B
70%- C
60%- D
50%- F

2. **Show up on time:** Every tardy without a pass is a deduction of 3 points from your participation points for that day. Even if you get every other possible point every day of the term (not missing once), if you are tardy 7 times, you're grade will be lowered one letter grade (percentage based).
3. **Show up to all concerts:** There's a **10% reduction** in your final grade if you miss a concert. The only way you can make up this credit is to attend a choral concert somewhere in the area and write a one page, double-spaced review of the concert. If you can't find one, I will find one for you. It must be a concert that contains choral music. It can be a local college, high school, church concert music series, professional choir, etc... A rock concert will absolutely not be an acceptable alternative.
4. **Be on task during rehearsals:** Simply put, pay attention, sing, and don't interfere with other people's learning. This is an elective class. You chose to be here, so act like it, or your grade will reflect it. You will receive **5 of your 10 points every day** indicating your level of participation. Another way to lose points pertains to what we call "non involvement". You may not be distracting anyone, but you're not participating in the rehearsal. The scale will be the same as above, and the percentage of attendance points will be averaged with your participation points percentage to determine your final grade.
5. **Complete any assignments** that are given to you and complete them on time. These will be added to your total points. Examples will include concert reflection papers, music theory assignments, notebook entries, written reflections about rehearsals, short papers regarding historical elements of music we are currently working on, etc....

Choir Letter and Choral Honor Award Point Sheet:

A choir letter is available to students who wish to put in the hard work and dedication required of an exemplary music student in order to further his/her musical growth and understanding. This award is reserved and designed for the music student who displays leadership skills, heavy involvement, musical knowledge, and personal enrichment. The requirements for the choir letter are as follows:

1. A student must be a member of one of the high school choirs for the entire school year.
2. A student must participate in all scheduled performances for his/her ensemble. An unexcused absence from any scheduled performance will be reason for disqualification from the choir letter process.
3. A student must receive an A or a B, for all three previous terms in choir.
4. In order to earn a choir letter, a student must acquire 325 points by participating in the activities listed below. Any student who earns 400 points by participating in the activities listed below will earn the **Choral Honor Award**.
4. All awards and point distributions are left to the subjective judgement of the instructor.
5. You are responsible for keeping track of your own points.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Extra ensemble meeting on a regular basis (Jubilation, Celebration, Madrigal)	50
Community solo performance(church, public solo, JAVA)	25
Community group performance church, public solo, JAVA)	25
REGULAR Church Choir member (Need a phone call from director) per year	50
Regular voice lessons throughout the year	25
I solo rating at state contest	50
I group rating at state contest	25
II solo rating at state contest	25
II group rating at state contest	15
III solo or group rating	10
Show Choir Crew(Qualification upon Crew Leader's verification)	50
Pre- All State rehearsal (Third Saturday in September)	15
Preparation and audition for OPUS Honor Choir	50
OPUS Honor Choir	50
All State Audition	
75	
All State Choir Member	75
Honor Choir Festival	50
Attendance at a Summer music camp	25
Choir officer	20
Accompanist	At instructor's discretion
Lead role in musical	75
Supporting role in musical	60
Chorus member in musical	20
Actor in Madrigal Dinner	25
Technical crew/lighting/sound for show choir or musical	50
Attending non-Benton concerts with a short review	20
Attending EVERY Concert Choir/Mixed Choir performance including.....	
Fall Concert, Cathedral Concert, Dessert Concert, Spring Concert, Veteran's Day, WAMAC Festival (for Concert Choir), and Graduation	25

BC Music Calendar 2008-09

August

Chamber choir...pick one of these camps (see web page for info)

July 28-1	Band Camp
August 1-3 OR 8-10	Wartburg All State Camp (chamber choir members pick one)
August 2	Watermelon Days , Marching Band
August 11	Marching band 5-8
August 15	Staff Dev.
August 18	Staff Development
August 18	Marching Band 6-9
August 21	School Starts
August 30	Sauerkraut Days, Marching Band

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September

September 8	Marching Band 6-9
Sept. 18, 19, 20, 21	Celebration Co. Fall Choreography Retreat
September 22	Marching Band 6-9
September 24	Conferences 4-8
September 27	Marion Marching Band Invite

October

October 4	5 Seasons Marching Band Competition
October 11	State Marching Band
October 21	Band/Vocal Fall Concert 7:00
October 24	End of Term 1:00 Dismiss
October 25	All State Auditions

November

November 1-2	Jubilation Retreat
November 4	Election Day
November 5	1:00 dismiss Musical Matinee in the morning for middle school
November 6-8	Musical
November 10	WAMAC Choral,
November 11	Concert Choir and Mixed Choir perform at Veteran's Day Program at high school 10:00 a.m. <u>Evening Show Choir Rehearsal,</u> <u>JAVA Auditions 3:30</u> (no other audition times allowed this year)
November 13	1:00 dismiss
November 17	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
November 18	Band WAMAC Festival Concert 7/8 Vocal/Band Concert 6:30
November 20	OPUS concert, Ames, 1:00 Dismiss Conferences 2-8
November 21-22	All State Festival, Ames
November 24	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
November 26	No School
November 27-29	Thanksgiving

December

December 1	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
December 6	NEIBA Honor Band
December 8	K-12 Staff Dev., No School, 7:00 Band Concert
December 11	7:00 Vocal Concert
December 13	Madrigal 6:30
December 15	Holiday JAVA 7:00
December 22	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal with clinician
December 24	Winter Vacation Begins

January

January 5	School Reassumes Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
January 12	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
January 13	End of 1:00 Term Dismiss
January 14	Start of 3 rd term
January 17	State Jazz Band Contest
January 19	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
January 24	Marion Jr. High Honor Band
January 26	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal

February

February 2	State Show Choir Contest (location TBA)
February 9	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
February 12	7-12 conferences 1:00 Dismiss
February 13	K-12 Staff Development, No School, toc set up
February 14	Touch of Class
February 16	No School
February 17	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
February 21	Pella Show Choir Invitational
February 23	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
February 24	6:30PM 7/8 Band/Vocal concert
February 27	Coe College Jazz Festival, Jazz Band
February 28	Western Dubuque Invitational

March

March 2	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
March 3	7:00 Band Concert
March 7	NEIBA Jazz Contest
March. 6,7,8	Totino Grace (Celebration Co. only)
March. 10	7:00 Vocal Concert
March. 12	1:00 Dismiss
March. 13	Illusions to Jefferson
March. 14	Jefferson Invitational
March. 20	4PM 6/7/8 Solo/ Ensemble Contest
March. 28	Solo/Ensemble Contest

April

April 6	7:00 Fill the Gym
April 14	JAVA Auditions 3:30 (only audition time)
April 16	7:00 Festival of the Bands
April 30	7:00 VHE Program High School Gym

May

May 4	6:30 Middle School Vocal Concert
May 8	Large Group Contest (Concert Choir, Mixed Choir, Women's Choir, Men's Choir and Concert Band)
May 14	7:00 JAVA
May 15	Middle School Band and Illusions to Adventureland
May 19	7:00 Senior Dedication Concert
May 24	Graduation (Concert Choir, Mixed Choir and Concert Band)
May 28	End of Term 4
June 1-8	Concert Choir to New York and Washington D.C.

Opportunities within the Vocal Music Department Include:

**OPUS Honor Choir,
Fall Musical,
Mixed Choir,
Concert Choir,
All State Auditions,
Madrigal Choir,**

**Show Choir,
Show Choir band and
Crew, Solo Contest,
Ensemble Contest,
Assisting with middle
school choirs,**

**Travel opportunities in
and out of state
Trip to Washington D.C
and New York City
Holiday and Spring
Variety shows**

Fine Arts Wing Expectations and Rules
Choir area, Band area , Auditorium and Hallway
RESPECT

Respect everyone and everything
Everyone must follow the rules, no special exceptions
School is a place for learning, not a college dorm
People in this community spend a lot of money on this building
Every thing in the fine arts area costs money to purchase and repair
Cool kids follow rules!!!
Teamwork will help this area remain beautiful!!!

Respect Each other
Respect the instructors
Respect the facility
Respect any and all equipment
Respect everyone's desire to achieve a common goal

No food or drink (except water) in aud or on any blue carpet. Hallway only and make sure to throw away your trash. No food or drink in the music offices.

You may enter or leave the band room door, but only exiting is permitted through the choir door. It will remain locked. (Band room has a long runner that will save the carpeting)

Please do not touch or play any of the classroom pianos. You may use the practice room pianos with staff authorization. Every note played is one note closer to a repair. They will wear and tear just like any other object with moving parts.

Remember horseplay can be expensive. Mirrors, glass, cabinets, etc... you break, you buy!

Please don't write on any of the chalkboards. It's a message center and an instructional tool, not a graffiti wall. Also, don't touch any of the bulletin boards

DO NOT (notice there was no please there....) use the music area as your locker area. Use your locker, or your car, or make your backpack light enough to carry with you

On stage, keep away from all curtains, speakers, mic stands, etc..... Do not touch ANY electrical equipment (microphones, mixing boards, synthesizers) that may be set up.

Auditorium: Feet off seats, no jumping from the stage into or over the orchestra pit.

No students on staff computers. Too many issues with the BC network security, privacy issues, computer viruses, etc.... Use the library computers.

Unless a staff member is present, students are not allowed in any of the music offices

Do not be in the music area if you are supposed to be at lunch. Major disruption with seminar music rehearsals.

On early dismissal days, do not enter the choir room or the band room if there is a class going on. Go out the hallway fire doors and please keep noise down in the middle area.

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