

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,

Mr. John Hayden 228-8701 X117
jhayden@benton.k12.ia.us
www.bvocalmusic.com

Ms. Alyssa Stoddard X342 (voice mail only)
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www.bvocalmusic.com

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 Christmas vacation.** As time will not allow it, students will not be required to take lessons with the instructors.

The study and use of Sacred Choral Music at Benton Community

The classroom and subsequent performance of sacred choral literature has been approved and protected by a series of decisions rendered by the United states Federal Court of Appeals; specifically the eighth circuit case of Flory vs. Sioux Falls (South Dakota) School District, 1978; and in the Tenth Circuit case of Bauchman vs. West high School (Salt Lake City, Utah) 1995. These rulings guarantee that the performance of sacred choral music in the public schools does not violate the provisions of the Constitution of the United States or the First Amendment, which provides for the separation of church and state.

In addition, position statements from two professional music education organizations advance the following. "It is the position of the Music Educators National Conference that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music curriculum. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience."

.It is the intent of the Benton Community High School vocal music program to expose our students to the classroom study and performance of the highest caliber or choral literature, whether it be sacred or secular. Subsequently, in no way should this informed study suggest or forward the notion that this program promotes or advances a specific religion or religious doctrine. Rather, it is our position that we study both sacred and secular choral literature for its inherent art and value to society throughout the ages; and through its public performance, understand its place and contribution to the aesthetic arts which continue to inspire and elevate the human spirit in all times and places.

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 2009-10

August

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

August 10-14	Band Camp
August 1-3 OR 8-10	Wartburg All State Camp
August 17	Marching Band 6-9
August 24	Marching Band 6-9
August 31	Marching Band 6-9

September

September 5	Sauerkraut Days, Marching Band
September 8	Musical Auditions 5:30
September 9	Musical Auditions 3:30
September 12	Celebration Co. Choreography Session 1:00-10:00
September 14	Marching Band 6-9
September 14-18	OPUS Auditions
September 26	Marion Marching Band Invite

October

October 3 perform mid afternoon)	5 Seasons Marching Band Competition (band will
October 10	State Marching Band (Cedar Rapids)
October 17	Mid Iowa Ankeny Marching Competition
October 20	Marching Band/Vocal Fall Concert 7:00
October 24	All State Auditions
October 24 TBA	Celebration Co. Choreography 3:00-???? Location
October 25 Location TBA	Celebration Co. Choreography Session 1:00-9:00
October 26 p.m. Location TBA	Jubilation, Inc. choreography session 8:30 a.m.-3:00

November

November 4	1:00 dismiss Musical Matinee in the morning for middle school
November 5-7	Fall Musical "Zombie Prom"
November 9	Evening Show Choir Practice
November 10	WAMAC Choral, Vinton. Entire BC Concert Choir will perform
November 11	Concert Choir and Mixed Choir perform at Veteran's Day Program at high school 10:00 a.m.
November 14	Illusions Retreat 8:00-Noon
Week of November 16	JAVA Auditions
November 16	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
November 17	Band WAMAC Festival Concert (Centerpoint)
November 19	OPUS concert, Ames,
November 20-21	All State Festival, Ames
November 25	No School
November 26-29	Thanksgiving Break
November 30	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal

December

December 1	7/8 Band/Vocal Concert
December 5	NEIBA Honor Band
December 7	Band Concert 7:00
December 8	Evening Show Choir Practice
December 10	7:00 Cathedral Concert
December 12	Madrigal 6:30

December 14	Show Choir Practice
December 21	Central Lutheran Christmas Concert (auditorium use)
December 22	Holiday JAVA 7:00
December 23	Winter Vacation Begins

January

January 4	School Resumes
	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
January 11	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
January 16	State Jazz Band Contest
January 18	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
January 25	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal

February

February 1 this year)	State Show Choir Contest (Benton WILL be hosting again
February 8	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
February 12	K-12 Staff Development, No School, TOC set up
February 13	Touch of Class
February 15	No School
February 20	Pella Show Choir Invitational
February 22	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
February 23	6:30PM 7/8 Band/Vocal concert
February 26	Coe College Jazz Festival, Jazz Band
February 27 Epworth	Show Choir Invite Western Dubuque High School,

March

March 1	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
March 6	NEIBA Jazz Contest
March 8	Evening Show Choir Rehearsal
March. 9	7:00 Vocal/Band Concert
March. 12	Illusions to Jefferson
March. 13	Jefferson Invitational
March. 19	4PM 6/7/8 Solo/ Ensemble Contest
March 20	Cel Co and Jubilation, Inc to Mundelein, Illinois
March. 27	High School Solo/Ensemble Contest (location TBA)
March 29	Fill the Gym

April

Week of April 12	JAVA Auditions
April 15	7:00 Festival of the Bands
April 30	7:00 VHE Program High School Auditorium

May

May 3	6:30 Middle School Vocal Concert
May 7	Large Group Contest (Concert Choir, Mixed Choir, Women's Choir, Men's Choir and Concert Band)
May 11	7:00 JAVA
May 18	7:00 Senior Dedication Concert
May 21	Middle School Band and Illusions to Adventureland
May 23 Band)	Graduation (Concert Choir, Mixed Choir and Concert
June 2-6	Band Trip to Ohio.

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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