

B-CC Choral Handbook

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Music



*W*elcome to the Bethesda Chevy Chase choral program! Whether you are returning from last year or entering the program as a new student, I am thrilled that you are joining one of our excellent choirs!

*Y*ou will find that the choral program at B-CC has made some changes. The Advanced Choir is our newest addition to the program and will work on exciting and challenging SATB repertoire.

*T*here are also some fantastic student lead vocal clubs this year including the "Glee" club and the Men's Choir. I encourage you to find time to participate with these ensembles.

*P*lease read through this handbook carefully with your parents and please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to sharing the B-CC choral experience



About your teacher

My name is Amy Vanek and this will be my sixth year teaching music at B-CC. I graduated from the University of Maryland in 2005 with a degree in music education.

I currently perform as a soloist and with several professional choral ensembles. I am currently taking graduate classes at Westminster Choir College. This summer I participated in the

Westminster Choral Festival where I learned new and exciting choral techniques. I look forward to sharing what I learned with my students.

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Ms. Vanek's Info:

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- School Phone:240-297-6300
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GRADING POLICY FOR CHORAL ENSEMBLES

Letter Grading System:

90%-100%- A

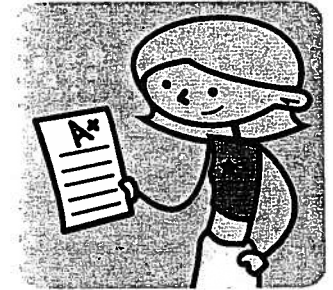
80%-89%- B

70%-79%- C

60%-69%- D

0%-59% E

Students are eligible to make up missed assessments if they have an excused absence. Students must come to the teacher the day returning from an absence to retrieve any missed information and schedule a make-up time.



Grading Scales for Vocal Ensembles at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

Classroom Performance: 60% of Final Grade

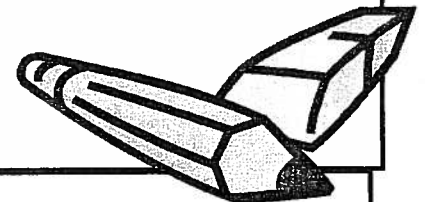
- Students will be evaluated on their performance of repertoire, warm ups and technique in each class. Although I will not be grading you on your “effort”, classroom performance will highly reflect what you have learned . Examples of classroom performance skills are:
 - Having all music and materials required in hand once rehearsals have started.
 - Demonstrating vocal and music reading skills
 - Showing proper rehearsal techniques
 - Inserting markings and comments in music to demonstrate understanding

Performances and Individual Assessments: 35% of Final Grade

- Students will be evaluated on their learned materials in concerts each semester. Their performance grade will reflect concert attendance. Students will need to attend all rehearsals and performances and must be on time. Please review the choral schedule so that you can plan accordingly.

Homework: 5%

- Although there are very few take-home assignments for this course, students will be expected to do several activities such as:
 - Written Journal Responses
 - Poetry Analysis
 - Music must be reviewed at home at least 5 times per quarter



Reassessment

- 1) Students will have opportunities to be reassessed on assessments.
- 2) Students will have opportunities to be reassessed after at least one re-teaching of subject materials and will then schedule a reassessment time with the teacher.

ABSENCE POLICY
For all Required Concerts/Performances/Rehearsals

There are very few absences which are considered valid reasons for missing any required performances. Your grade will be lowered one letter grade for not participating in a mandatory event without an excused absence. If the absence IS excused, then the student will be required to make-up the activity, just as a student who misses a test would need to make-up the test. Since it is not possible to recreate the performance, the make-up activity will be for the student to record the following requirement onto a CD or mp3 file format:

- Acapella performance of assigned choral music that demonstrates student's mastery of performance objectives (to be chosen by music director)

Once the performance selection has been assigned, it is the student's responsibility to record the selection either at school or at home onto a CD or mp3 format. Once the recording is complete, along with handing in the CD or emailing the mp3 file, the student must also complete a Rubric for Performance Assessment sheet. This sheet requires the student to assess their own performance based on a standard set of requirements. The teacher will then moderate the student's marks. The student's make-up grade of the performance will be derived from this Rubric for Performance Assessment sheet and assigned to the performance that was missed due to an excused absence.

Excused absences may include a student illness, death in the immediate family, or other emergencies that will be discussed on an individual basis. Montgomery County attendance policy states that an excused note must be turned in no later than three days after the absence. For night school and athletic event conflicts, the music director must be consulted prior to the concert. In most cases, the performance program can be rearranged or make-up classes can be worked out to satisfy all parties.

Performances that occur outside of the regular school day are an extension of all performing ensembles. These performances are co-curricular activities, not extra-curricular. This means that performances are part of the student's grade for the class.

All make-up assignments for a missed performance must be completed and handed in by within one week of the missed performance. Make-ups turned in after the deadline will only receive up to 50%.

Unexcused absences may include, but are not limited to, babysitting, lack of transportation, sports practices, and work related employment. Unexcused absences may be made up, but will only receive a maximum of 50%.

If you have questions concerning the validity of any situation, please consult the music director as soon as possible.

BCC Choral Music Ensembles Reassessment Policy

Reassessment is a functional part of daily rehearsals. When we rehearse sections and parts, we are reassessing the main components of a quality music ensemble.

Individual playing exams in B-CC choirs are not that frequent as we strive as a group to play together and perform regularly.

When an individual/small group singing exam is required, advance notice will be given prior to the date of performance. If a student is absent when they are required to sing the exam, upon return, the student must contact the instructor and determine a date for the make up exam.

If a student would like an additional opportunity for reassessment on that individual singing exam, s/he must meet with the instructor at least once to review the material for guidance and direction. This review meeting must be within one week of the initial assessment date. After this meeting, a mutual time may be set between the student and instructor for reassessment.

Performance Grading Criteria

Listed below is a criterion by which students will receive credit for a performance. If all the criteria are met, in addition to the individual's singing standard, students will receive the maximum credit for each performance. Performances include, but are not limited to, evening concerts, community performances, in school concerts, and festival performances.

100% - Maximum grade

- Punctual for call time
- Wears proper attire
- Has necessary materials

20% - Reduction in grade

- Student attire does not meet specified requirements for performance

10% - Reduction in grade

- Student is late to specified call time

10% - Reduction in grade

- Student is missing necessary materials for the specified performance

Choral Procedures, Rules and Expectations

Expectations of All Choral Students at B-CC:

1. Students will come to each rehearsal with their choral folder, music and a pencil
2. Students will arrive to class on time and have materials ready when the bell rings. Tardiness and Unexcused absences will not be tolerated.
3. Students will throw out gum, candy and any food before entering the room. Water bottles are the only permitted beverage in the choir room or auditorium.
4. Students will always ask for permission before leaving the room for any reason.
5. Students will treat each other, school materials and faculty with respect at all times.



Performance Attire for Choral Ensembles:

Concert Choir:

- *Women* will need to purchase the following garments for concerts and festivals.
 - Floor length black skirt
 - A dressy white Blouse (Long or short sleeves are acceptable)
 - Black dress shoes with a closed toe
- *Men* will need to purchase the following garments for concerts and festivals
 - Black dress pants
 - A white collared button up shirt with long sleeves
 - A solid black tie
 - Black dress shoes with black socks

Advanced Choir and Chamber Choir:

- *Women* will need to purchase dresses from the B-CC Music Website.
 - www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/academics/music/conc_ertdress.aspx.
 - Women will also need to purchase a necklace from the music dept. for \$8
- *Men* will need to purchase a tuxedo outfit which will include a notch lapel, coat, pleated tux pants, wing tux shirt, cummerbund and bow tie. They can find this attire on the B-CC website
 - www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bcchs/academics/music/conc_ertdress.aspx.
 - Men will also need to wear black dress shoes with black socks

**Choral Music
Performance Schedule
2011-2012**

Weds. Nov 9th, 2011	UMD Choral Invitational	University of Maryland	8am-10pm	Chamber Singers Only
Sat. Nov 12th, 2011	All State Junior Choir Auditions	Middletown Middle School	Scheduled times	9th grade singers
Sat. Nov 19th 2011	Senior All State Choir Auditions	Urbana High School	Scheduled Times	10-12 grade students
Monday, December 12th 2011	Choral Set up and Rehearsal	B-CC Auditorium	2:15-3:30	All Choral Groups
Tue, December 13th, 2011	Winter Concert – Choral/Instrumental	BCC Auditorium	7pm Concert	All Choral groups
Thu, December 16th. 2011	Instrumental Concert – Instrumental Only	BCC Auditorium	7:00pm Concert	Instrumentalists only
Fri. Dec 16th, 2011	In-School Holiday Concert	BCC Auditorium	Morning time TBA	All ensembles
Tue, Dec 20th, 2011	Westland Choirs and B-CC Chamber Singers	B-CC Auditorium	6:00pm	Chamber Singers
Sat. Feb 11th, 2012	Cabaret	BCC Cafeteria	7 – 11p.m.	Chamber Singers, Adv. Choir
Weds, March 7th, 2012	Festival Rehearsal for Adv. Choir	Chorus Room E007	6:30 – 8:30p.m.	Adv. Choir
Thurs, Mar. 8th, 2012	Festival Rehearsal for Concert Choir	Chorus Room E007	6:30 – 8:30p.m.	Concert Choir
Mon, Mar. 14th, 2012	District Choral Festival	TBA	Field trip during the school day	Concert Choir and Adv. Choir
Mar. 19th 2012	Chamber Singers Festival Rehearsal	TBA	6:30-8:30	Chamber Singers
Weds, March 21st, 2012	Chamber Choir Festival	Bethesda Presbyterian Church	TBA	Chamber Choir Only
March 29th-April 1st, 2012	Spring Music Trip	TBA	TBA	All groups
Mon, Apr 30th, 2012	Choral Concert Set up and Rehearsal	B-CC Auditorium	2:15- 4:00pm	All choral groups
Tue. May 1st, 2012	Spring Concert - Choral	BCC Auditorium	7:00p.m.	All choral groups
Thurs, May 3rd 2012	Spring Concert - Instrumental	BCC Auditorium	7:00p.m.	All instrumental groups
June 4, 2012	Graduation	DAR Constitution Hall	10 am	Chamber Singers Only

RUBRIC FOR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____

INSTRUMENT _____

MUSICAL EXCERPT _____

DATE _____

Tone Quality _____

- 5 - Demonstrates excellent characteristic sound in all registers/dynamics
- 4 - Good characteristic timbre, good control throughout most ranges
- 3 - Average control of tone throughout ranges/dynamics
- 2 - Inconsistent control of tone throughout most ranges/dynamics
- 1 - Tone does not adhere to characteristic timbre, control severely limited

Note Accuracy and Intonation _____

- 5 - Virtually note perfect, excellent tuning throughout all ranges
- 4 - Good performance with minimal flaws, good tuning throughout
- 3 - Average performance with some flaws, adequate tuning
- 2 - Recognizable, but technically flawed, inconsistent tuning
- 1 - Unrecognizable, lack of preparation, no attempt made at tuning

Rhythmic Accuracy _____

- 5 - Demonstrates correct rhythms and steady pulse throughout
- 4 - Minimal rhythmic errors with steady pulse
- 3 - Some rhythmic and/or pulse errors
- 2 - Several rhythmic and/or pulse errors
- 1 - Unsteady pulse, no understanding of correct rhythm

Articulation (tonguing, slurring, or use of bow) _____

- 5 - Demonstrates excellent use of articulation throughout
- 4 - Good overall use of articulation, some inconsistency
- 3 - Average use of articulation, not enough attention to detail
- 2 - Some attempt made at articulation, but very inconsistent
- 1 - Poor attempt made toward accurate articulation

Expressive Quality, Musicality, Interpretation _____

- 5 - Excellent phrasing, musical line, and nuance; excellent fluency
- 4 - Good overall phrasing and awareness of musical line, nuance
- 3 - Average phrasing, lacks conviction of musical line, nuance
- 2 - Some attempt made at phrasing, but minimal at best
- 1 - Poor attempt made toward phrasing or musical line

General Comments _____

TOTAL (out of 25) _____

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Music Department
4301 East West Highway Bethesda, MD 20814 (240) 497-6335



Contract of Agreement

After reading the choral syllabus, please read and sign the contract below. This contract is to be returned no later than Friday Sept 2nd.

I, _____ have read the choral program syllabus
(Name)

and understand the expectations and commitment that is needed to be in the ensemble. I have reviewed the choral calendar and fully understand that I must be present at all required performances. In addition, I agree to take responsibility for all musical resources in my use and will be financially responsible for any damages that may come to these materials while in my possession.

Student Name: _____

Please Print Neatly

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____