

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
GRADING POLICY
FOR CHORAL ENSEMBLES

Instructor: Ms. Lisa R. Itkin

<http://tinyurl.com/MusicBCC>

Lisa_R.Itkin@mcpsmd.org

240-740-0434 (office); 301-910-3581 (cell)

55% Classroom Performance /Formative

All students will be graded on attainment of the outcomes listed on the course syllabus page as per ensemble class. Throughout the course of daily instruction, students will be required to demonstrate and/or actively engage in:

- Appropriate posture when singing
- Appropriate breathing techniques
- Appropriate listening skills when following directions from instructor
- Appropriate vocal tone (refer to the Performance Rubric)
- Proper music reading skills
- Appropriate support and understanding when working with peers and in small groups
- Appropriate musicality skills (refer to Performance Rubric), i.e. – dynamics, accents, stylistic considerations

Students must always have their music for class. Board of Education guidelines on excused and unexcused absences will be strictly adhered. Violation of classroom rules will result in demerits. *Each demerit assigned will lower the student's grade by three percent.*

40% Performances, Concerts, and Individual Performance Assessments/Summative

Choral music students are required to perform in a number of daytime, evening, and/or weekend performances to meet course objectives and outcomes. In addition, students will be graded on their ability to perform selected materials taken from music played or assigned in class. At all public performances and/or adjudications, students will be required to adhere to the guidelines for concert attire and call times for the performance (refer to the page outlining "[Performance Grading Criteria](#)".)

In regards to performances, choral music performances are covered by the same MCPS policy as class sessions. There are few reasons that can be considered valid for missing a required performance. A student's grade will be reduced by one full letter for not actively engaging in a mandatory event without proper notification. The instructor reserves all authority to grant or refuse an excuse for absence.

Family emergency, illness, or death in family will be excused. The student should bring a note signed by a parent or guardian explaining the emergency. This note is required as soon as possible after the absence. Remember that choral music is a curricular performance course and a performance is comparable to an exam; it demonstrates how well a student has achieved the outcomes of the course. In the case of an excused absence, a written report will be required as a substitute for the performance. (Please refer to the page "[Absence Policy](#)" in the handbook for more information).

Students are required to make up any class work missed due to special rehearsals or other Music Department activities. Such activities are designed to enhance the student's high school music experience and not to excuse them from schoolwork.

If questions arise about possible conflicts, please consult with the teacher and provide documentation as soon as such conflicts arise.

5% Preparation of assignments/Homework

Music is rehearsed on a daily basis. Students are responsible for adequately preparing all materials assigned in class. It is strongly encouraged that students practice at home.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

Music Department

Goals of Choral Ensembles

1. To provide a safe environment in which students can learn about music through performance
2. To help develop creativity, self discipline, character, and control.
3. To help students relate music to the world around them.
4. To help students develop the desire to search for knowledge and to appreciate music after their formal education has been completed.
5. To give fundamental understandings and develop advanced skills to those desirous of pursuing a musical career.

Choral Ensemble Expectations

1. Students will enter the room and have all materials ready within three minutes of the late bell.
2. Keep cell phones, iPods, or other electronic devices off and out of sight, unless the teacher indicates that it is appropriate for use in the lesson.
3. Students will treat each other, school material/instruments, and all teachers with RESPECT! Respect is the key to success in this class.
4. Absolutely no food or drinks in the classroom. Bottled water is acceptable.
5. Keep hands off any instruments and/or equipment that are not yours.
6. Students will put all materials away before exiting the room. Please keep this room clean for all classes.
7. Students will ask for permission to leave the room/lavatory.
8. Always put forth your best effort and be attentive and focused throughout the entire class.
9. Stay in the classroom until the bell rings.

DRESS CODE FOR PERFORMANCES

Concert Choir:

- Women will wear dress pants/skirt and blouse/top of any color. Skirts should be AT LEAST knee length. Men will wear black dress shoes, black socks, dress pants of any color, button up shirts of any color and a tie of any color. BCC choral robes will be provided.

Advanced Choir Women and Chamber Choir Women:

- Women are required to purchase a long black dress from the BCC [website link](#). The cost is approximately \$80 (with shipping). Previously worn gowns may be purchased from the Music Boosters Community Closet for \$40.
- Black dress shoes with clear or dark stockings.

Advanced Choir Men and Chamber Choir Men:

- Men are required to purchase a tuxedo outfit which will include a notch lapel coat, pleated tux pants, wing tux shirt, and a cummerbund and bow tie. The information is located from the BCC [website link](#). The cost for these items is approximately \$110. Previously worn tuxedo attire may be purchased from the Music Boosters Community Closet for \$5-\$20 per item or \$60 for the entire outfit.
- Black shoes and black socks.

Syllabus Confirmation Assignment

Please confirm that you have read the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Music Department Syllabus for the 2016-2017 school year by emailing the following information to:

Lisa.R.Itkin@mcpsmd.net.

Please include the following:

Subject: NAME, GRADE and MUSIC CLASS

Body of email: I, _____ have read and understand the 2016-2017 B-CC Music Dept. Syllabus.

Thank you and we look forward to another great year!

-Music Department