

Blaine High School Choirs

We've Got Core Strength!

www.blainechoir.net

2018 – 2019

Student Handbook

We've Got C.O.R.E. Strength!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Blaine High School choir program. Our mission statement is "We've Got C.O.R.E. Strength!" *C.O.R.E. (Community. Opportunity. Respect. Empathy)* refers both to how we sing, and to how we interact with each other. It is important that every student and faculty member in our program make a strong commitment to uphold our high standards not only at performances, but also at every rehearsal. We ask each of you to accept the challenge of working hard to achieve stunning artistic results. At public performances, we expect you to reflect the dedication and knowledge gained in rehearsals to have an emotional impact on our audiences and ourselves. Your role as a community member is an important one in many ways, including your growth in accepting and respecting each other's uniqueness. The music faculty is looking forward to working with each of you as you grow as musicians and as human beings.

Ms. Susan Zemlin-Choir Director 763-506-6791

Mr. Cory A. Westgard-Choir Director 763-506-6670

E-mail Ms. Zemlin at: Susan.Zemlin@ahschools.us

Mr. Westgard at: Cory.Westgard@ahschools.us

BHS Choir Web Page: <http://www.blainechoir.net> (schedules, newsletters, choir handouts posted throughout the year) Parents/Guardians: We post all of the informational documents we distribute to the students on the website for download. We are aware of how few of those documents actually get to you.

The Goals of the BHS Choir Program are:

1. To increase musical knowledge and literacy
2. To develop healthy/efficient vocal habits
3. To develop self-confidence and empathy in a safe, collaborative community
4. To provide new musical experiences for our audiences and ourselves
5. To increase enjoyment of music listening
6. To develop skills to analyze music and formulate informed opinions about interpretation
7. To discover how music can greatly enhance our lives beyond high school regardless of profession

In order for all students to steadily progress toward achieving these goals, each choir member needs to take an active part in helping our rehearsals run smoothly and effectively. Our choirs are like a community. We need to work together and support each other.

Classroom (Community) Basic Understandings:

1. Exhibit Positive and Effective Behavior In Class And On Stage

A. **Respect:** We will take pride in respecting classmates, directors, and property.

Develop a "listening attitude" in following class expectations. Gum chewing, disruptive talking, tardiness, texting, and other disrespectful behaviors are unacceptable in choir.

They hurt each other and create a climate of discontent. Hold each other accountable for being responsible and respectful.

B. **Contributions:** Work on development of efficient, expressive vocal skills, positive participation, and present an eagerness and willingness to grow – even in some of the areas that are not your favorites.

C. **Leadership:** Set examples of positive self-discipline; learn music quickly to help others with their parts; take initiative in all class activities. Be on time and accountable to your classmates and our musical product.

2. *Consequences for students who choose negative behaviors in the choir program:*

Step 1: Verbal warning in class

Step 2: Conference with teacher outside of classroom.

Step 3: Potential loss of group rehearsal privileges, written referral to assistant principal, phone call to parent/guardian.

3. *School and District Policies for Student Behavior*

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by these rules. Violations will affect the entire group, and show a lack of respect for your classmates and yourself. Please understand that the music faculty members believe very strongly in these rules. We believe that alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other destructive behaviors will prevent students from achieving the success they deserve. Be healthy!

4. *Academic Progress*

The music faculty members take academics very seriously. Your life will be more fulfilling if you keep up in school. Please talk to us if you are falling behind in a class. There are resources available to help you. We expect you to take advantage of those resources, including Bengal Junction.

5. *Harassment*

Music is internationally understood as an art form that brings people of diverse backgrounds and opinions together. Harassment in the choir program will not be tolerated. If a director is unaware of a harassment issue, it is the responsibility of a student to bring it to our attention. Do your part to solve simple disagreements and report serious issues to the directors. ANY harassment or name-calling needs to be reported to the director! Human beings can disagree and still treat each other with integrity and respect.

6. *Choir Folders and Music*

You are responsible for your folder and the contents therein. If music is lost or damaged, you may be assessed the current replacement cost. Take your folders home to practice, but make sure they are returned the next day. Forgetting your music is no different than showing up for math class without your math book. The music library is available for students to borrow music. Only designated student librarians may go back into the music library. Please check out music through a director or a student librarian!

7. *Concert Attire*

students will be responsible for dry-cleaning and maintenance of any assigned school-owned uniforms.

Concert Choir: tuxes and dresses

You will purchase your own uniform, just like the band and orchestra students.

We changed tux companies and got a better price this year.

Men's tuxes will cost \$100

Women's dresses will cost \$75

When you graduate, you can try to sell them to any new Concert Choir, Concert Band, or Concert Orchestra student. We are all using the same uniform to help you.

Students will have the opportunity to fund-raise to earn a discount on the cost of the uniform.

Cookie Dough and other items will be available to sell in the fall. Payment is due by the first concert on October 9th or you must submit a signed payment plan. Students with extenuating circumstances should speak privately to the directors to work something out.

Reppin' Blue:

School-owned tops. You will need your own black pants, socks, shoes.

Bella Voce:

Navy blue dresses owned by the school (**new uniforms coming this year**)

Black nylons and Black dress shoes, plus the necklaces we make.

9th Grade Varsity Blue Choir:

White dress shirt, Bengal Navy Blue tie (provided), black pants, socks, and dress shoes (no tennis shoes)

9th Grade Varsity Treble Choir:

Black dress pants, long-sleeve white shirt, black dress shoes

8. Musical Standards

You will be expected to understand the meaning of music notation, music reading skills, vocal skills presented in class, and your own voice part. You will be assessed by the directors in these areas at least once per trimester. There will be help available from the directors and from peer tutors. Please take advantage of this opportunity to become more confident on your part!

9. Fund Raising

We will be raising funds for choir activities and equipment. These funds are to be used for choir activities only! There will be times when a student can fundraise for a scholarship discount toward the purchase of a choir uniform item or field trip. All students are eligible to raise scholarship funds. There will be a simple application process to be able to use the funds for specific choir events and apparel.

BHS CHOIR GRADING & ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Each student will receive a course syllabus that is specific to his/her class. All grading and attendance policies for that course are explained in the syllabus. Students and parents are responsible for knowing these policies. Learning Targets and Common Summative Assessments will be detailed on the syllabus.

CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES

1. **Voice Lessons:** The voice is a complex instrument. Each person's voice has unique and special qualities. We have found that our most successful vocalists study privately. If you are interested in private voice lessons, there are several options available to you.

- a. The choir directors will both be available on a limited basis after school to help students who are struggling with parts, sight-singing, scholarship auditions, etc. Sign up for after school lessons personally with Ms. Zemlin so she gets it written in her appointment book. Students may take no more than one lesson per week. You are required to practice on your own between lessons.
- b. Lessons from professional studio voice teachers are also available after school and evenings in various locations. See Ms. Zemlin for the names and phone numbers of quality voice teachers. **Please check the name of your voice teacher out with Ms. Zemlin or Mr. Westgard, as we are concerned that you receive instruction in healthy, efficient singing.**

2. **Extra Curricular Vocal Ensembles:** We would like to offer the following extra-curricular(before/after school) ensembles this year:

- a. Chamber/Madrigal/Jazz Choir (SATB 24 singers)-audition required
- b. Chantez/Madrigal Singing Servants (SSA 18-24 singers)-audition required

- c. Varsity Edition (SATB 20-30 singers)-audition required
- d. Breakfast Ensemble (TTBB unlimited number of participants)-no audition necessary
- e. Madrigal Dinner Servants/Pre-Show/Tech Crew (10th-12th grade choir students + Varsity Blue for Pages)

3. **Solo/Ensemble Contests:** Students may work on solos, duets, and ensembles for contests/festivals. The music for these contests must be selected with the help of Ms. Zemlin, Mr. Westgard, or your private teacher. There are certain musical standards that these contests require, so make sure your music is approved and you take lessons on your piece! There are several contests/festivals in the spring, so start preparing in the fall. There may also be recital opportunities at BHS for those who wish to perform for an audience. These will be added to the calendar at a later date.

4. **Statewide Audition Opportunities:** This year 9th & 10th graders have the opportunity to audition for a statewide honor choir. The audition deadline is the end of October.

5. **MMEA All-State Choirs:** 10th and 11th graders are eligible to audition for All-State in March. Last year BHS was represented by Kody Staack, Eleana Yang, and Anne Beyer.

6. **Choir Accompanists:** If you are an accomplished pianist, why not give accompanying a try? See Ms. Zemlin or Mr. Westgard if you are interested!

7. **Choir Letters:** You may earn a letter in choir by participating in school-related choir activities outside the regular choir class. See the separate list on the bulletin board in room 162 or 163 for point values. It is also listed online at www.blainechoir.net.

8. **Practice Rooms** Practice rooms are available throughout the day for individual practice. See one of the music teachers to have a door unlocked. Be very gentle with the pianos. They are starting to wear out and we need them to last many more years.

9. **The Concert Piano:** Only designated student accompanists, staff, and hired professionals may play this piano. It cannot be uncovered or moved without the approval of the BHS Music Faculty!

**Blaine High School Choir
Event Schedule 2018-2019**

Events in BOLD are for ALL choir students and are required as graded Performance Events.

Any concert that includes an entire choir is required for the students in that choir.

* indicates there will be an admission fee for audience members

CC=Concert Choir BV=Bella Voce RB= Reppin' Blue Chamber=Chamber Choir

Date	Time	Event	Location
October 5	6pm	Homecoming Football Anthem (CC ONLY)	Bengal Stadium (pizza in 162)
October 15	7:30 p.m.	District 11 Fall Choir Festival(CC & BV ONLY)*	Bethel University
October 25	7:00 p.m.	Fall Choir Concert with ALL CHOIRS REQUIRED*	BHS Auditorium
October 27	All Day	ACDA Festival (selected students only)*	St. John's University
November 9	School Day	Veteran's Day Program (CC Only)	BHS Field House
December 7,8,9	6:30pm/5pmSun	Madrigal Dinner (auditioned students ONLY)*	BHS Cafeteria
December 17	7:00 p.m.	Winter Choir Concert (ALL CHOIRS REQUIRED)*	BHS Auditorium
January 13	1:30-4:30 p.m.	All-Conference Rehearsal (All Conference ONLY)	Park Center HS
January 27	1:30-4:30 p.m.	All-Conference Rehearsal(All Conference ONLY)	Park Center HS
February TBA	During School	Treble Choir Festival (BV ONLY)	Blaine High School
February 4	7:00 p.m.	NWSC Preview Concert (CC ONLY)*	BHS Auditorium
<i>February 9</i>	<i>1:30-4:30 p.m.</i>	<i>All-Conference Rehearsal (snow make-up date)</i>	<i>Park Center HS</i>
February 10	1:30- 5:00 p.m.	All-Conference Rehearsal (All-Conference ONLY)	Park Center HS
February 11	All Day	NWSC Music Festival (CC ONLY)	Park Center HS
February 12	7pm	All-Conference Concert (All-Conference ONLY)	Park Center HS
February 14	All Day	ACDA 9 th -10 th Honor Choir (auditioned students)*	Convention Center-Mpls
February 15-16	All Day	MMEA All-State Choir Concerts (auditioned)*	Orchestra Hall, Mpls.
March 2	9am-3pm	Optional BHS Solo Festival (any BHS Choir Student)	Music Classroom Area
March TBA	Several days	All-State Auditions (selected students)	Online with Ms. Z and Mr. W
Winter/SpringTBA	Afternoon/Evening	Anoka-Hennepin TTB Festival(Varsity Blue Only)	Target Center/T-Wolves Game
March 21	7:00 p.m.	Spring Choir Concert (ALL CHOIRS REQUIRED)*	BHS Auditorium
March 23	Daytime	Region 5AA Vocal Solo/Ensemble Contest (optional)	Centennial HS
April 12	Daytime	Region 5AA Large Group Choir Contest	Anoka HS
May 23	7:00 p.m.	Choir Season Finale Concert (ALL CHOIRS REQUIRED)*	BHS Auditorium
June 5	7:00 p.m.	Graduation (CC Seniors ONLY – Nat'l Anthem)	BHS Athletic Field

Schedule Updates Posted at www.blainechoir.net!

Concert Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend all events that are listed for their choir. This is a graded activity, similar to a final exam in another class. Students are also required to **remain at concerts for the entire concert**. This will require advance planning by parents/guardians to line up transportation. Transportation is not an excused absence. Students have the concert schedule on the first day of school. Therefore, work commitments are also not excused concert absences. It is very meaningful to the students when their families attend, so ignore your student if they tell you it is no big deal. Students will not receive full credit if they leave early. Listening and responding to music are as much a part of their learning as performing is, and both are part of the National and State Standards. They will fill out evaluations on their own performance the next day in class. There will be very few excused absences granted by the directors. All students are extremely valuable members of the performance teams!

To obtain an excused concert absence: The **parent/guardian** must contact the director **by phone in advance** of the concert. Ms. Zemlin's phone number is 763-506-6791. Mr. Westgard's phone number is 763-506-6670. **If a student brings a note, it will not be accepted.** We want the opportunity to dialogue with the parent/guardian about the absence and the make up assignment. Absences will be granted only for extreme illness, and funerals. Transportation problems and job conflicts are **not** excused. Many other students and their families are willing to help with transportation issues. The make up assignment for an excused absence is to sing the concert music for the director and write a brief written evaluation of a dvd of the concert with no penalty. It does take about an hour to complete this assignment and arrangements must be made to stay after school. We are very generous with students who are honest and have a serious illness or family tragedy.

Unexcused absences are a student choice. The student must sing the music from the concert within two weeks of the scheduled concert date (replacing the missed performance with a performance-based make-up). The student will be graded on this performance. They will also be expected to write a written evaluation of each song performed at the concert on the concert recording.

See the concert schedule on the previous page. Additional copies of this page are available to give employers and family members.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO YOUR DIRECTOR BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

Student Name _____ **Grade:** 9 10 11 12

Choir: Concert Choir / Reppin' Blue / Bella Voce / Varsity Blue (TBB) / Varsity Treble (SSA)

By signing this, I am accepting responsibility for the policies of the BHS choir program. I understand the concert schedule and the policy for excused/unexcused concert absences.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____

There may be times during the year when we need parent volunteers. Please contact Dawn Perra, BHS Volunteer Coordinator if you are interested in being a volunteer in the choir program. **All volunteers must be registered and submit a background check.** We cannot have anyone in our classroom or on field trips who has not been through this process.