

CHS Choir Handbook 2020-2021



Choral Directors:

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Dear Choir Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Centerville Choirs! We are so excited to be teaching at Centerville High School and to be a part of this wonderful school district. Even with Covid-19, we have so much planned for the coming year and look forward to making it a success. The choirs are made up of students with the desire and ability to sing quality music. These students should also be willing to do the work necessary to improve not only their musicianship skills (vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory and history), but also their ability to work with a variety of people, be leaders in the school and community, and improve their self-confidence. We look forward to working with the students to have a productive and enjoyable year!

We have prepared this handbook for your information. The concerts, contests, and special events that are an outgrowth of our classroom activities play an important role in developing musicianship and maturity. We will plan on having virtual events, if we can't have them in person. In an effort to enhance communication, we will maintain a web page with forms and school handouts at <http://www.centervillechoirs.org>. We will keep parents and students up to date this year through Charms. Information on how you should sign up for Charms will be sent home on the very first day of school. All parents should also be on the lookout for this information. Charms is vital to our bookkeeping and communication, therefore it's very important that all families fill out their contact information in Charms correctly.

Please read the handbook carefully and **fill out the google form**

Ben Spalding & Kelly Korpusik

DAILY WORK AND ATTENDANCE

**It is better to aim for 'excellence' and hit 'good'
than to aim for 'good' and hit 'average'**

Participation Grade

Each student is awarded a participation grade each day for work in class. The factors considered in the awarding of participation grades are:

- Work habits (including posture & technique)
- Quality of classroom work (accuracy, musicality, preparedness)
- Rehearsal habits and attentiveness in class
- Attitude exhibited in class (attentiveness, responsiveness, energy, enthusiasm)
- Completion of classroom and homework assignments
- Cooperation with teachers and peers
- Classroom behavioral choices
- Proper materials (pencil, paper, folder, and music)
- Classroom notebook
- Promptness to class

Illness

What to do if illness keeps you from participating in daily work:

- Notify the Director on the way into class by signing the class logbook.
- If you become ill after the class has started and are unable to participate because of illness, you must immediately notify the Director by signing the logbook.
- An ill student may be allowed to forego classroom singing at the Director's discretion for up to a maximum of four days during a school year. After that, a parental note will be required. However, you are still expected to follow along with the work done in class and to complete the designated written and listening assignments. This is not to be used as an opportunity to do work from another class.
- In cases of extended illness or habitual non-participation, a doctor's note may be required. You will only be allowed 5 sick days in class the entire year.

Classroom Notebooks

- Students will be expected to keep a class journal with all notes, assignments, listening assignments, and quiz papers from class. This is especially important since there is no textbook for choir.
- These journals may be collected without advanced warning at any time and included as part of the daily grade.

MAKE-UP WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS

Make-up Work for Excused Absences from Concerts

- Since the concerts for choir are essentially the tests for the material learned in class, it is necessary that these “tests” be made up if an absence should occur.
- Work should be made up within one week of your return to class, unless you have made special arrangements with the teacher.
- It is your responsibility to see the teacher for a make-up assignment for an excused concert absence. See below for more information.

Make-up Work for Daily Absences

- Attendance in class is necessary to make a significant contribution to the choir. A student will be given a make-up assignment once they have missed more than 4 days of class.

Make-up Assignment after 4 Daily Absences

- Select a topic involving music or musicians that interests you or listen to a classical recording or music broadcast on PBS. Complete a written report, one page in length, on that subject for each day of absence past your allotted 4.
- This assignment is due within one week of your return to school.
- If you have been absent with an extended illness (four or more consecutive missed days), you must see the teacher within your first week back in order to arrange your make-up assignment.

INDIVIDUAL QUIZ GRADES

- Quiz grades will constitute one-third of the quarterly grade average.
- Areas to be evaluated include: musical notation and terminology, physiological terminology, singing checks over concert music, listening and musical dictation, historical information, and musical literature covered in class.

GRADING SCALE

Grades are determined as follows:

Quarterly Grades

33% - Concert Grades

33% - Daily Work

33% - Quiz Grades (both written & singing)

Semester Grades

40% - First Quarter grade

40% - Second Quarter grade

20% - Final Exam

CONCERT ATTENDANCE/GRADES

PERFORMANCE AT ALL CONCERTS IS A REQUIRED PART OF THE CLASS.

- A numerical grade is based upon punctuality, correct dress, on-stage and off-stage behavior, and musical contribution.
- If you miss a concert due to an excused absence, a make-up assignment must be completed, as explained below.
- No make-up credit will be given for concerts missed due to work, lack of transportation, or other unapproved excuses.

Concerts are the most critical activity of the choir class. They are a demonstration of the learning that is taking place in the classroom on a daily basis. Your attendance, behavior, performance, and promptness at concerts and dress rehearsals are all considered in the assignment of final grades. Plenty of advanced notice is given so that you can make arrangements to attend.

Since the learning that occurs at a concert is a result of observing other performers in action as well as performing, students are required to remain for the entire length of the concert in order to receive full credit for the concert.

The only exceptions that will be made are in cases of severe illness or when your parent has made arrangements, **in writing**, at least one week before the concert date. The Director reserves the right to require medical documentation when appropriate or to deny the absence following consultation with the CHS Principal for absences other than illness, funerals, or religious holidays.

- When a student has missed a concert and has an excused absence, they will be given the opportunity to make up the work with a written assignment when the absence has been excused.
- All excused concert absences must be made up to receive proper concert credit.
- Unexcused absences may not be made up and may result in dismissal from the ensemble.

DRESS REHEARSALS

- In order to sing in the concert, you must have attended the dress rehearsal.
- Dress rehearsals will usually be held after school on the day of the concert, or as announced ahead of time.
- Medical or dental appointments of an emergent nature or unavoidable college visitations are considered an excused absence from a dress rehearsal; although, it is recommended to avoid these if at all possible.
- Other exceptions will be granted only when a parent has made arrangements one week in advance; when the Director, after consulting with the administration, deems that extenuating circumstances were of an unavoidable nature; or in cases of severe illness. The Director reserves the right to require medical documentation to confirm the severity of the illness.

CONCERT DRESS

- Choral Uniforms for Symphonic Choir, Bella Voce, Men's Choir and Women's Choir are provided and required to wear at each concert. Every student will be fitted at the beginning of the year for their uniform. Cost and the pieces provided vary for each choral group. Bella Voce and Symphonic Choir women must purchase the required earrings and a necklace. *we will not fit students for uniforms until we are back to school in person*
- Please note: Every student is required to provide black dress shoes. Black flats are required for women. Points will be deducted from your concert grade for failure to wear the required concert attire. The teacher should be notified in advance of any extenuating circumstances.
- **Uniform pieces MUST be returned the night of the Senior Recognition Concert, with the exception of Symphonic Choir that will use them at Graduation. Students will be responsible for the cost of any items not returned.**

EXTRA REHEARSALS

- Every attempt will be made to keep additional out-of-school rehearsals to a minimum. They are sometimes necessary, however, to help the students achieve their best performance.
- Notice of mandatory rehearsals will be given at least one week in advance.
- Failure to attend a mandatory rehearsal will cause a loss of points, a decrease in the student's concert grade average, and may prevent the student from participating in the upcoming concert, subject to the Director's discretion.
- The Director reserves the right to lower a student's grade when a rehearsal is missed with insufficient documentation.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

- When a bus is provided by the school system for a school-related event, ALL STUDENTS MUST RIDE THE BUS unless prior arrangements have been made in writing and approved by the Director.
- In addition, students are expected to ride only the bus to which they have been assigned. Any exceptions to this rule are to be made at the Director's discretion only.
- Due to the liability factors involved, students who disregard these rules will be disciplined accordingly.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

The expectations listed below are provided to help the class to run smoothly. Behavior is always a matter of choice. Often problems can be avoided by thoughtful reflection before acting.

Discipline matters which are violations of the school discipline code will be handled according to the school discipline code and in cooperation with the appropriate administrator.

Student's Responsibilities

1. Always be quiet and attentive when the teacher is teaching, conducting, or giving instructions.
2. Always give every task your best effort and work only on the assigned musical task, unless otherwise given permission.
3. Always remain in your assigned seat unless otherwise given permission.
4. Bring the following materials every day: music, pencil, and paper. Use only the music that has been assigned to you, unless otherwise given permission by the instructor.
5. No candy, gum, food, or beverages are allowed in class without specific permission.
6. If you are unable to participate due to illness or injury, notify the instructor on the way into the room by signing the logbook near the door.
7. If you have any other needs of a non-emergency nature, notify the instructor without disrupting class by signing the logbook near the door on the way into the classroom.
8. Return homework and any papers requiring parental signatures on time, including google forms and assignments in google classroom.

Consequence Levels

Level 1: Verbal Warning

Level 2: Last Out (talk to teacher after class)

Level 3: Call Home

Level 4: After School Detention

Level 5: Office Referral

CHORAL SERVICE AWARDS

Service awards are presented each year at the Senior Recognition Concert. These awards are gained through earning service points beyond the scope of the daily classroom.

The total points for each award is as follows:

- First Level Award - 400 points (Choir Letter)
- Second Level Award - 700 points (Pin)
- Third Level Award - 1000 points (Plaque)
- Fourth Level Award - 1300 points (Baton)
- Fifth Level Award - 1600 points (Special Plaque)*
- Sixth Level Award - 2000 points (Special Award)
* only if fifth level was received the prior year

Service Points List

I. GENERAL POINTS

Bella, Women's, Men's Choir.....	150
Symphonic Choir	200
Forte	200
Bonus for 4 years participation	50

II. SCHOOL RELATED ACTIVITIES

Contest vocal solo	30
Contest small ensemble	20
Contest piano solo	10

III. FALL AND SPRING MUSICALS

(100 point maximum per year)

Lead	100
Minor, chorus, or stage crew	75
Other crew work (each crew).....	25
Pit Orchestra.....	50

IV. OTHER MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

(Written confirmation from parent or director)

State, regional, or summer choirs.....	40
Church choirs.....	40
(40 point maximum per year)	
Other performances.....	5
(30 point maximum per year)	
Outside Concert attendance	5
(30 point maximum per year)	

V. PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

(Teacher Signature Required)

Voice (full year)	50
Piano (full year).....	35
Guitar (full year).....	25

VI. SERVICES

Choir officer.....	40
Section leader or librarian	30
Wardrobe.....	30
Aide.....	50
Accompanist.....	15
(45 point maximum per year)	
Choreographer.....	15
(45 point maximum per year)	
Design of program cover.....	15
Usher for musical event.....	10
Fundraiser sales (Quota).....	25

CENTERVILLE CHORAL BOOSTERS OVERVIEW

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year from the Centerville Choral Boosters.

The Centerville Choral Boosters handle most of the financial logistics of the high school choral program. This overview is intended to let you know what to expect with regard to costs, uniforms and booster membership.

We're looking forward to a year of amazing music, opportunities, activities and booster participation.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Spalding or me. You can also find more information at www.centervillechoirs.org/boosterfaq.

Sincerely,
Amy Chico
President, Centerville Choral Boosters
Amy.chico@centerville.k12.oh.us

Centerville Choral Boosters
500 East Franklin Road
Centerville, OH 45459
centervillechoralboosters@gmail.com

Checks payable to Centerville Choral Boosters

What's New and Important This Year?

- Choral fees are cut in half to start the year. We're asking that each student only pay \$50. We will ask for the rest if/when we return to school in person. Please let us know if you have any financial issues and we are more than happy to work with you. Never let cost prohibit your son or daughter from being in choir.
- You can also pay via PayPal at centervillechoralboosters@gmail.com

What's Not New?

- The Centerville Choral Booster program still handles all financial transactions for the CHS choir classes.
- The Boosters operate on a very specific and "tight" budget.
- We depend on fundraising for "extra" things like end of year awards, scholarships, spirit treats, and large improvement items (generally equipment/classroom improvements).
- We are looking into an option for a fundraiser that works in the fall.
- All parents are welcome at Booster meetings. Check the website for details.
- We always need volunteers!!

What You Need to Do Now:

- Return the google form to Mr. Spalding, by Monday, August 31, 2020.
- Ask us any questions about the program and (especially) about costs **NOW**, before the due date. We are always willing to work with all parents and students. We just ask that you communicate with us.
- Mark 9/30/20 on your calendar –that's when your fees are due. \$50 made payable to Centerville Choir Boosters. You can also send via PayPal to centervillechoralboosters@gmail.com

CHORAL UNIFORMS

WOMEN'S CHOIR

CHS Provides: Black gowns

You Provide: Black flats

May wear earrings sized like a nickel or smaller

No other jewelry

MEN'S CHOIR

CHS Provides: Black tuxedo pants, vest, jacket, tie

You Provide: Black Shoes

Black socks

White dress shirt

BELLA VOCE

CHS Provides: Black gowns

Necklace and earrings (pierced or clip on)**

You Provide: Black flats

No other jewelry

SYMPHONIC CHOIR - WOMEN

CHS Provides: Black gowns

Necklace and earrings (pierced or clip on) **

You Provide: Black flats

No other jewelry

SYMPHONIC CHOIR - MEN

CHS Provides: Black tuxedo pants, vest, jacket, tie

You Provide: Black shoes

Black socks

White dress shirt

**Paid for with your booster fees. Yours to keep.

CHORAL EXPENSES

The choral program at CHS is extremely active and provides a variety of experiences for the choral students. All of this costs money, of course. We have made every effort to control and minimize costs.

Covid 19 Payment Plan

Below is the normal yearly breakdown of all costs for the choir program to give you a better idea of how fees are typically assessed. At this time, we are asking that parents pay only \$50 towards the fees for the year until we can figure out what's going to happen. If we end out back in person and able to do everything below, we will ask that people pay the rest at that time, however, if we don't do everything we won't ask for any more than the first payment of \$50. Please email Mr. Spalding at ben.spalding@centerville.k12.oh.us if you have any issues with payment. We will work with everyone and we don't want money to be the reason why you don't participate in choir. We can work something out.

As stated above, this is the typical breakdown of the cost for a choir student per year. This year we've pre-purchased MusicFirst software for each and every student at the cost of \$20 per student. Each student will get a lot more for their money in terms of that software and the below cost charged per student. We will not charge for items below that we don't use/do. Example – OMEA Regional Competition, uniform rental, etc. However, those will be deducted from the second payment later in the year. We still ask that everyone pays the \$50 to cover basic needs of the program and to meet our online needs.

	Women's	Bella Voce	Symphonic Women	Symphonic Men/ Men's Choir
Uniform Rental	15	15	15	15
Jewelry (if new or need replacement)	0	10	10	0
T-shirt	20	20	20	20
OMEA Regional Competition	6	6	6	6
Music First Software	8	8	8	8
Music Arrangements	15	15	15	15
Clinicians/Assistance/Accompaniment	30	30	30	30
Sound	6	6	6	6
AMOUNT DUE TO BOOSTERS	\$100	\$110	\$110	\$100
*FORTE: SEE FORTE HANDBOOK				
*FEES WILL BE ADJUSTED IF A STUDENT ADDS OR DROPS A CLASS BASED ON WHAT THEY RECEIVE				
CENTERVILLE SCHOOLS WILL BILL YOU SEPARATELY FOR CLASSROOM FEES.				
Classroom instructional fee	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15

CHS CHOIR HANDBOOK SIGNATURE SHEET

* PLEASE FILL OUT THIS SHEET ON GOOGLE DRIVE AND RETURN IT **BY MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020**. GOOGLE DRIVE LINK IS IN GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR EACH CHOIR CLASS.

* FEES ARE NOT DUE UNTIL **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**. We accept PayPal payments to centervillechoralboosters@gmail.com or you can send a check to the school made payable to Centerville Choir Boosters.

PARENT(S) - PLEASE INITIAL THE FOLLOWING:

_____ I acknowledge that this handbook is online and available anytime on CHARMS or at www.centervillechoirs.org.

_____ I have read the online or printed handbook outlining the policies of choir participation and will help my son/daughter to meet those responsibilities as a contributing member.

_____ In addition, I give my permission for my child to attend school-sponsored music field trips arranged with the prior knowledge of Mr. John Carroll, Centerville High School Principal(if they occur).

_____ I understand that I will need to supply part of my student's uniform. This may include shoes, socks, dress shirt and dress pants, depending upon the group to which my student belongs (students can hold off on this for now).

I agree to the following Booster Fee for my student. This cost includes uniform rental fees, shirts, accompanist, clinicians, sound reinforcement, competitions, etc. Cost for every choir has been added up based on the exact needs of that group.

_____	\$50	Women's Choir	_____	\$50	Symphonic Choir (with required jewelry)
_____	\$50	Men's Choir	_____	\$50	Symphonic Choir (Men or Women that already have jewelry)
_____	\$50	Bella Voce	_____	\$500	Forte (see Forte Handbook for details)