*Box Elder High School*

**Choral Department Policies and Procedures 2015-2016**

**This disclosure, plus a wealth of other information, appears on the choir website.**

**behschoirbuzz.weebly.com**

**Choir Mission statement:**  Use choral music as a vehicle to train responsible, literate, and compassionate young adults by:

* Promoting a high consciousness of achievement through individual and group work.
* Developing a deep sense of personal commitment and accountability
* Developing communication skills: written, spoken, and musical performance

**Course Description:**

Choir classes will address many aspects of singing and performing. There will be daily work on the mechanics of correct vocal production, improving musical reading skills, improving aural skills, and musical improvisation. Students will be asked to listen to and identify music of cultural significance. We will address music consumerism, including behavior at classical concerts. All choir courses include participating in school concerts.

**Grades in choir are earned as follows:**

Class participation: 300 points per trimester (5 points per day @ 60 days)

Singing tests: 50 points per trimester. Students will sing their own part into a recording device, with their section leader present. These will be evaluated by the instructor.

Performances/Concerts 100-300 points per trimester, depending on the class

Written assignments/concert evaluations 50 points per tri.

Class Project 50 or 100 points per tri, depending on which class you are in

**Class Requirements**

Concert Choir-2 trimesters minimum are required. Madrigals need to be able to take 3 trimesters.

**Class Participation**

There are 5 points possible for each day of class participation, totaling 300 for the trimester.  5 points will be awarded for each day that you are on time, **participate enthusiastically** and follow directions.  2 points will be deducted for tardies.  Tardiness, sleeping in class, or doing homework for other classes will result in a loss or partial loss of points for that day.  **Using your cell phone in class** (without permission) **will result in losing ALL points for that day.**  Leaving your folder on the floor or chair will result in loss of points for that day.

**Concerts**

Major school concerts are scheduled months in advance. If you miss a concert, it **will** affect your grade.  Members of Arioso, Concert Choir, and Madrigals are required to attend Region and State Choral Festivals, provided that they qualify. Missing performances jeopardizes the work and confidence level of the entire class.  If there is a direct *school* conflict, absences will be excused.  Mrs. Bigler would never ask you to miss a game for a choral rehearsal. The same holds true in the other direction: Concerts Trump Practice. Great care has been taken to try to avoid conflicts with athletics, but conflicts do happen occasionally because of cancelled or rescheduled meets, particularly in the spring.

**Attendance and Tardy Policies**   To be considered "on time", you must be inside the classroom door when the tardy bell rings.  If your previous class is in the natatorium or the Franklin building, please inform the teacher and the class secretary, who will try to make accommodations as long as you don’t take advantage of them.

**Citizenship:**

Your citizenship grade will be negatively affected by the following:

Disruptive class behavior Using electronic games/calculators

Using cell phones or MP3 players during class Disrespect to teacher or other students

Truancies, either for class or concerts Sleeping during class

Leaving Concert Choir after one trimester Tardies!

Excessive absences. (6 or more)

**NO HATS (Males OR Females) ARE ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM.**

**WATER IS THE ONLY DRINK ALLOWED IN THE CHOIR ROOM.**

**Class Project**

Students are required to complete a class project each trimester. There are two main purposes for projects. The first is to enhance musical skills. The second is to spread the load of running this large program by providing service. Projects should be completed one week before the end of the trimester.

**Enhance your musical skills**  **Provide service for a choir event**

Participate in Solo and Ensemble Festival Usher or pass out programs for a concert

Private music study, vocal or instrumental Participate in a choir fund-raiser

Sing regularly with a church or community group Help with choreography or script-writing

Participate in the school musical Publicity help: distribute fliers or posters

Rehearse regularly with a student group Concert set-up and tear-down

Perform in class, or arrange a for a guest Help with costumes, sets, decorations

performance Design a program or poster

Perform as an instrumentalist for a choral piece. Assist with Solo and Ensemble Festival as a door

Participate in Young Americans Workshop monitor or judge’s assistant.

Bring food assignments for festivals, choral exchanges, or Foundation.

**To make up points for illness or absences: ( More information on the choir website)**

* Attend a live concert or musical play and turn in a brief critique. (30 points)
* Watch a televised musical program and turn in a critique. (15 points per half hour)

Examples:

* Music and the Spoken Word with Tabernacle Choir is televised 3 times every Sunday.
* Videos of musicals or concerts may be used to make up absences for illness or family trips. Please choose things that are new to you.
* Mrs. Bigler has a selection of choral DVDs that may be checked out and critiqued for makeup credit. These are worth 30 points of makeup credit.
* Go to a free music website: [musictheory.net](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\800708106\My%20Documents\Policies%20and%20Procedures\Class%20Disclosure%2011-12.docx). 25 minutes of time working on music skills equals 25 points. Print out a report of your activity on the website and turn it in. **25 points is the maximum that may be made up by this method.**

**If missing an event was because of a school conflict, (game or meet—not a practice) no makeup is required. If missing an event was because of a family trip, illness, or work, makeup is required.**

Missing a major event affects the whole choir, so the make up is to do something that *benefits* the whole choir.

* Create a media presentation with background and historical context about one of the works that your choir is performing. 3 hours of research required.
* Create a media presentation about one or more of the composers of works your class is performing. 3 hours of research required.
* Create a bulletin board for the classroom—something of interest to all choral classes
* Perform one of your concert pieces as a solo for the class. If the piece is an a cappella piece, then your performance will be unaccompanied.

**Accommodation Statement**

All 504 and Special Education students are entitled to reasonable accommodations as determined by the student’s 504/IEP team.  A copy of the student’s accommodations will be provided to each teacher.  It is the responsibility of the student and parents to review the accommodation sheet with each teacher at the beginning of each trimester and determine the appropriate accommodations for any given class.

**Contact information for Mrs. Bigler:** Please call or email if you have questions or problems. The school phone is 435-734-4840. The school email address is [claudia.bigler@besd.net](mailto:claudia.bigler@besd.net) . The district internet systemis very aggressive about filtering out addresses they do not recognize. If you will put the words “Box Elder Parent” in the subject line, and in the text of the message, it should bypass the spam filters. If your email is not answered, try emailing [cbigler111@msn.com](mailto:cbigler111@msn.com).

**Please print this page and sign.**

**Student’s Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**I have reviewed the disclosure statement for choir classes. I am aware of the requirements and of the grading standards, and of the citizenship policies.**

**I will encourage my student not to use their cell phone during class except in times of EXTREME or life-threatening emergency.**

**Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Contact information:**

**Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Home phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Do you check email regularly? \_\_\_\_**

**Student Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**** I am okay with my student receiving notifications (reminders of rehearsals and performances) by text. Phone number for texting: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**** I give permission for my student to view brief musical excerpts from the following movies, which are rated G and PG: *Amadeus, (opera); Close Encounters of the Third Kind, (solfege); Singin’ in the Rain, (diction); Sister Act I and II, (choral performance); Pirates of Penzance,(operetta); Dead Poet’s Society,(overtones); Adventures in Babysitting (blues).*

**** I give permission for my student’s photo to appear on the choir website, (behschoirbuzz.weebly.com)

Photos on the website would be of concerts, or of choir activities, and individual students will not be identified by name.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Questions? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_