Bobcat Choirs

Vocal Music Handbook

2012-2013



Welcome!  
The BHS Vocal Music Department is excited to give students the opportunity to perform successfully. Performing in a choir builds self confidence and promotes teamwork.

As your director, I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you. I am here to help you reach your musicianship goals, whether your goal is to go into music as a profession, or to be a music lover and supporter for the rest of your life. I am passionate about music, and I am passionate about working with YOU!

Mrs. Perry  
[Denise.Perry@k12.sd.us](mailto:Denise.Perry@k12.sd.us)

**I. Philosophy and Objectives:**The Brookings High School choral program provides the foundation for lifelong participation in and enjoyment of music. All members will be learning singing skills, music history and theory, and performance skills. A wide variety of music genres will be explored to help understand music in relation to culture and history. As a performance-based group, we will strive for excellence in every area; from musical to social skills. Each singer is a vital part of the program; no one ‘star’ can make a choir. With a strong sense of teamwork, dedication, and enthusiasm, we will reach our goals.

**II. Evaluation and Grading:**

* *Rehearsal Participation (50%)*The student can receive 5 points each day for rehearsal participation. Regular attendance and cooperative behavior are required for full participation points*. This includes some early morning rehearsals that will be scheduled periodically throughout the year.* Respect for the teacher and fellow choir members is expected. The student should be in his/her seat with pencil and folder when the bell rings. The student will refrain from chewing gum or candy. WATER bottles are encouraged, but coffee and pop are not allowed during the chorus rehearsal. The student is responsible for putting his/her music in the proper place at the end of rehearsal, and making sure his/her assigned area is neat before lining up to leave.
* *Performances (25%)*Because chorus is a performance-based class, attendance is **required** for all concerts. Students may earn points for an excused absence by singing, for the director, the music from the missed concert, or through other extra credit options. ***A written note from home is required for an excused absence.*** The student cannot make-up points lost due to an unexcused absence. Some unexcused absences include: working, oversleeping, not arranging a ride, etc. The dates for required performances are in this packet.
* *Written Assessments (25%)*

The student will be able to define musical vocabulary and correctly identify music theory concepts taught during the daily rehearsals on written assessments.

* *Extra Credit*

Extra credit points will be awarded for the following:

* + Attending an outside concert and submitting a written review – must attach program or ticket stub
  + Taking voice lessons
  + Non BHS choir-related vocal performances (church choir, musical, singing the Star-Spangled Banner, etc.)
  + Auditioning for select ensembles/choirs, and participation in solo/ensemble contest.
* *Brookings High School Grading Scale*

A+ = 98-100% B+ = 89-91% C+ = 80-82% D+ = 71-73%  
A = 95-97% B = 86-88% C = 77-79% D = 68-70 %  
A- = 92-94% B- = 83-85% C- = 74-76% D- = 65-67%

**III. Ensembles**

BHS has 3 choirs that meet daily, and are considered regular, graded classes. The 3 groups are:

* GIRLS CHOIR: A non-auditioned group including girls in grades 9 & 10. We cover beginning sight reading and theory, and basic vocal and choral techniques.
* MIXED CHOIR: A non-auditioned group including girls in grades 10-12 and boys in grades 9-12. We cover beginning sight reading and theory, and basic vocal and choral techniques.
* CONCERT CHOIR: An auditioned group comprised of boys in grades 10-12 and girls in grades 11-12. We cover intermediate sight reading, and more advanced vocal and choral techniques. The concert choir also has some extra performance opportunities during the school year.

**IV. Auditioned, extra-curricular opportunities**

* All State Chorus – we will select 12 students + 4 alternates to represent BHS at the All State Chorus event on October 26 & 27.
  + Audition prep rehearsals begin on Tuesday, Sept 4 from 7-9 PM
  + Auditions will be on Wednesday, Sept 12. Students from ALL choirs can audition.
  + ASC members will need to be at every Tuesday evening practice from Sept 18 – October 23.
* Jazz Choir – this is the top vocal group at the high school.
  + Auditions will be November 9th.
  + The group is a small ensemble of 14-16 singers. Students from ALL choirs can audition. (Must be signed up for spring choir.)
  + We will have a Jazz Choir retreat in January, and travel to 3 festival/competitions from January to March, and perform at the Flood of Jazz in April
* SDACDA Honor Choirs
  + Junior Honor Choir is for grades 7-9. Deadline for auditioning is September 28. The 2-day event will take place January 18 & 19 in Rapid City
  + Senior Honor Choir is for grades 10 & 11. Students will audition in April. Students who are selected attend a week-long camp in the summer, culminating in a spectacular 150 voice concert.
* Solo and Ensemble Contest
  + Students can prepare a solo to sing for a judge on March 12th in SF at Augustana.
  + Students can also participate in small groups at contest.
  + Participation in contest is KEY to developing individually as a singer.
* Voice lessons
  + There are several people in the area, including SDSU music faculty, and SDSU music majors, who give voice lessons.
  + Students benefit greatly from the individual attention, and grow in confidence and ability.
  + I will not be as available to help students, because I have to travel to the middle school more, and I have 40 more students this year than I did last year.

**V. Concert Dress**

* Each student will have an assigned robe and stole (collar.) It is the responsibility of the student to return the robe and stole in the same condition in which they were received.
* Girls need BLACK DRESS SHOES, preferably closed-toed. They can wear a skirt or shorts and a t-shirt under the choir robe.
* Boys will wear black dress pants (not jeans) and a t-shirt. Boys also need BLACK DRESS SHOES (no tennis shoes) and black socks.
* Students should avoid distracting jewelry, and strong cologne or perfume
* When outside of the choir room, the robe is always to be fully zipped with the stole in place.

**VI. Expenses**

* There will be 2 choir T-shirts. The Black T-shirt will be worn on performance days, and at SDUS fundraising events. The Pops T-shirt is the concert attire for our May concert. The cost ranges from $9.50 to $16.00/shirt.
* Students will pay a $10 robe cleaning fee.
* Lost items: Binder = $10, Robe/stole = $150
* **Students can fund-raise to cover choir-related expenses:** T-shirts, robe fees, trip costs, and honor choir registrations.

**VII. Performances**

* ***Required Performances***Mon. October 15th - Fall Choir and Strings Concert 7:30 PM Bell Auditorium - ALL  
  Mon. December 17th – Holiday Choir Concert 7:30 PM @ the Performing Arts Center - ALL  
  Fri. January 11th – SD Chorale and BHS Concert Choir Performance 7:30 PM @ PAC   
  Thur. February 7th – BHS Concert Choir Performance @ SDSU Music In Service @ PAC   
  Mon. March 25th – Spring Choir Concert 7:30 PM Bell Auditorium - ALL  
  Wed. April 10th – Inst. & Vocal Large Group Contest in Brandon all day - ALL  
  Mon. May 13th – BHS ‘Pops’ Choir Concert 7:30 PM @ PAC - ALL
* ***Other performance opportunities/special events***Wed. September 12th – All State Chorus Auditions 4:00  
  Mon. September 24th & Tues. September 25th - Fall Musical Auditions  
  Fri. October 12th – Choir-sponsored ‘Six Appeal’ concert in Bell Auditorium  
  Thur. to Sat. October 25th-27th – All State Chorus and Orchestra in Rapid City  
  Fri. November 9th – Jazz Choir Auditions  
  Thur. November 15th to Sat. November 17th – BHS Fall Musical  
  Fri. December 21st – BHS Choir Christmas Caroling party  
  Fri. & Sat. January 18th & 19th – Jr. Honor Choir in Rapid City (9th graders eligible to audition)  
  Mon. February 11th – BHS Talent Show Auditions  
  Mon. February 18th – BHS Talent Show 7:30 PM in Bell Auditorium  
  Tues. March 12th – Vocal and String Solo and Ensemble Contest in Sioux Falls all day  
  Sat. April 13th – Senior Honor Choir Auditions in SF (10th & 11th graders eligible to audition)  
  Fri. April 26th – Flood of Jazz 7:00 PM at Methodist Community Life Center  
  Mon. May 20th – BHS Vocal Department AWARDS!!!

**VIII. Choir Trips**

For many years, the choir and band have been on a 4 yr. alternating rotation. The band went to NYC last year (2011-2012.) **The choir will take a trip to Los Angeles, California during Easter break of the 2013-2014 school year.** We will participate in the Disney Music Magic program.

We will be travelling by bus, and the trip will be 7 days. The estimated cost of the trip is $1100. This includes: 4 nights lodging, Disney workshop, Disneyland, Universal Studios, a show or game, City tour (Hollywood, etc) and the Beach.

**IX. Fundraising**

The Boosters decided in the May meeting to try something new with fundraisers this year. This decision was prompted by the fact the Boosters need to raise $4000 before the 2013-2014 California trip. There will be 2 types of fundraisers this year: GROUP and INDIVIDUAL

**GROUP FUNDRAISERS** *\*All students participate in at least 1 event*We are signing up to work at a variety of SDSU events to raise money for the Booster general fund. ***Each student should sign up to work 1 event***. These events will range from Stadium/Arena clean up after games to concessions sales. Darcie Bien has already made reservations for fall sports. There are spots for 90 students, and 12 adults. There is an online signup at: [**http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044FA9AF229-sdsu**](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044FA9AF229-sdsu)   
I will also send the link via listserv.

When the winter sports become available, we will sign up for as many as possible. *\*\*If we can get more than 146 slots total, we will also allow students to work the events and earn money for their individual accounts.*

***The other GROUP fundraiser this year is a choir-sponsored concert by the group ‘Six Appeal’ on Friday, October 12th.*** This a cappella vocal band is a group of 6 men who educate, as well as entertain. They will be working with the 3 choirs during the day, and putting on the concert that evening. THE ONLY WAY THIS WILL BE A FUNDRAISER IS IF WE REALLY PROMOTE THIS CONCERT, AND GET A GREAT TURN OUT!

**INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISERS** \**Students participate at own discretion*   
There will be 3 direct sales fundraisers in which students can earn money for individual student accounts. \*\* *WE NEED A COORDINATOR FOR THE HOLIDAY/SPRING FUNDRAISERS.*

* Classic Cookie: Frozen Cookie Dough and Cheesecake. Runs from Sept 5 – 19. Delivery on Friday, Sept. 28. Students earn 42% profit.
* Holiday Fundraiser: Poinsettias and Annick Gourmet Coffee. Sales from late October-early November. Delivery on November 20 or 21 (before Thanksgiving break.) Students earn 40% profit.
* Spring Fundraiser: Frozen butter braids and Annick Gourmet Coffee. Sales in late Feb-early March. Delivery on March 26 or 27 (before Easter break.) Students earn 40% profit.

**X. Choir Boosters**

The mission of the Brookings High School Choir Boosters is to enhance the choral experience for BHS students by coordinating parent volunteers, assisting with performance, managing student accounts, and providing financial support.

Each parent who has a child in a BHS Choir is considered a member of the BHS choir boosters. The involvement of parents is crucial to help the program grow and reach maximum potential. There are many ways to be involved. If everyone helps with something, no one should have to ‘do it all.’ With almost 150 students in choir, there should be plenty of people helping at various events.

The main way to be involved is by attending meetings. There will be 7 meetings this year. **Meetings are at 6:30 in the choir room** (even though the PTA calendar says 7 PM.) Please try to attend. Your ideas, your suggestions, and your help ALL matter! The dates for this year’s meetings are:

Thurs, October 4th Thurs, March 7th   
Thurs, November 1st Thurs, April 4th   
Thurs, January 3rd Thurs, May 2nd   
Thurs, January 31st (change from Feb. 7)

Other ways the boosters are involved include:

* Robe sizing
* Chaperoning out of town trips, like contest
* Overseeing direct sales fundraisers
* Providing food for events like Christmas caroling and May awards night
* Volunteering for group fund raisers at SDSU *\*new this year*
* Helping with the *Six Appeal* concert (a group fund raiser.)*\*new this year*

**XI. Communication & Support**

* ALL parents should sign up for the listserv: <http://www.k12.sd.us/Listserv/BrookingsHSChoir.htm>
* Since I am back and forth between buildings, the best way to contact me is via email: [Denise.Perry@k12.sd.us](mailto:Denise.Perry@k12.sd.us)
* Join the ***Bobcat Choirs*** group on Facebook. It is a fun way to share pictures, and stay in touch with the choir program in a more relaxed way!

2012-2013 Bobcat Choirs

Vocal Music Contract

SIGN AND RETURN

By signing this contract, I indicate that I have read, and understand the BHS Vocal Music Handbook.

* As a student, I indicate my realization that I am an important part of this ‘team’ called choir, and my participation and effort, whether positive or negative, greatly impact the overall outcome.
* As a parent, I support my student’s decision to participate in choir at Brookings High School.

I have read the policy and participant expectations, and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

This contract can be returned to Mrs. Perry  
1) at the BHS Back-to School event  
2) by mail or drop off at BHS, 530 Elm Ave. Brookings, SD 57006   
3) by scanning and emailing as an attachment to [Denise.Perry@k12.sd.us](mailto:Denise.Perry@k12.sd.us)

If necessary, I will make an additional copy for my own records.