

HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

2017-2018 Choral Handbook



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Welcome to choir! I am absolutely thrilled to begin my first full year at Huntington High School with all of you! Throughout the year, we will learn how to sight-read, perform, practice, use proper/healthy singing technique, and learn many different genres of music. Whether you are singing in the Concert Choir or Chamber Choir, you will have a great experience! We will work hard to achieve our goals and create beautiful music, which in turn will make our choir experience enjoyable and beneficial. I am looking forward to a truly amazing year with all of you!

Course Descriptions

CHAMBER CHOIR: (1 Year -1.25 Credit) 5 periods/week.

Offered to: Grades 10-12. **Prerequisite:** Membership by audition only.

This is a select choir comprised of students who have been outstanding members of Concert Choir. The Chamber Choir presents concerts in the community as well as joining with the Concert Choir in their concerts. Attendance at all extra rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Members are expected to attend group voice lessons every week.

CONCERT CHOIR: (1 Year -1 Credit) 5 periods/week.

Offered to: Grades 9-12. **Prerequisite:** An interest in singing.

This course is offered to any student who will be committed to attending daily choir rehearsals, weekly lessons, and performing at rehearsals and concerts. The entire high school choir performs at 2 concerts each year. In this class we will study correct breathing, voice production, and sight reading. Dress rehearsals are held before each concert. Attendance at extra rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Students are expected to attend group voice lessons every week.

Grading Criteria

Rehearsals: 40%

- You are expected to actively participate in choir rehearsals and lessons. Texting, talking, and refusal to sing results in the loss of points.
- You must demonstrate appropriate behavior during rehearsals. This includes watching your conductor, marking your music, and performing your very best every day.

Concerts and Performances: 20%

- Attendance is required at ALL performances. Concerts count as both your midterm and final.
- You may be excused from performance participation only in cases of severe illness or family emergency. I must be notified as soon as possible from your parent or guardian.
- Lack of transportation is NOT a valid excuse. Please let me know if you have transportation problems in advance.

Lessons /Tests/Assignments: 40%

- You are required to attend a lesson with your section each week of school.
- Lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis.
- Make-up lessons will be available during the day, as well as after school.
- You must be responsible with keeping track of your lesson attendance.
- You are responsible for making up all missed lessons regardless of the reason.
- If you have an unexcused absence from school/lesson period, you may have the opportunity to make up the lesson but will NOT be eligible to receive credit.
- You are responsible for making up the work you missed during the class that you missed while attending lessons.
- If you have a test that you cannot miss, you must make up the lesson.

Lessons are an opportunity to work with your section and experience musical growth. You are expected to participate (and will be evaluated) in all activities we do in lessons, which will include:

- Individual sight-reading exercises.

- Solo singing.
- Learning solo repertoire appropriate to your voice part, according to NYSSMA manual guidelines.
- Reinforcing and memorizing choir repertoire.

**If there are no Performances for a given marking period, the grading breakdown will be 50% Rehearsals and 50% Lessons/Tests.*

Attendance

The Huntington High School Attendance Policy is applied and followed in the Choral Program. Here are the guidelines to the Attendance Policy:

- Only excused absences from a performance, lesson and/or rehearsal will be eligible for make-up credit.
- All unexcused absences will result in an automatic ZERO for that day, regardless of the reason.
- For every four (4) excused absences, you must make up one rehearsal in order to receive credit. If not, you will receive a zero for those four (4) rehearsals.
- Every four (4) unexcused latenesses will equal one (1) unexcused absence.
- If abused, late passes to class will become unexcused latenesses and will not be accepted.
- A note must accompany any absence from a performance (refer to Grading Criteria, under Concerts and Performances). Only excused absences will be eligible for a make up assignment

Materials

Each member of both choirs will be supplied with a black folder in which to keep his or her music. **DO NOT LOSE THIS FOLDER!** It is where your music belongs, and is also the property of the school. Your folder will be checked frequently for a grade. If it is damaged or vandalized you will receive a 3 point deduction to your overall grade. Each choir member will be designated a spot to keep their folders. You must have a **PENCIL** in your folder at **ALL** times!

Concert Attire

Concert Choir: Please see concert attire below.

Chamber Choir: Please wear a combination of black and red for every performance involving just the Chamber Choir, unless otherwise directed.

Women:

Top: Modest black top (either short or long sleeved), no spaghetti straps.

Bottom: Black dress pants (this includes slacks, gaucho pants, etc). Jeans and leggings will not be permitted. A black skirt, the length must be below the knees or longer. If I can see your legs you must wear black tights or stockings. You may also wear a black dress if you like (same rules from the skirt length apply).

Shoes: Black dress shoes. Uggs, flip flops, and sneakers will not be permitted. I don't recommend wearing very high heels, as you will be standing on risers for an extended period of time.

Men:

Top: Black long sleeved button down dress shirt. No tie.

Bottom: Black slacks.

Shoes: Black dress shoes with black dress socks. Sneakers and boat shoes will not be permitted.

If any of this presents a problem please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tools for Reminders/Announcements

We will be utilizing the Remind app in this class. It is a great tool that we can use to communicate without exchanging phone numbers. You will receive text reminders about lessons, changes, and upcoming events.

Step 1: Text the number 81010 with the password for your class:

Period 1 Password: @2017garbs

Period 5 Password: @garbs2017

Period 8 Password: @msgarbs8

Step 2: When prompted, please give your full name and text it back to that number. You will then be enrolled in the class within the app.

Practice

It is essential in choir to practice what you've learned in class on your own time. You will be learning many different styles of solo and ensemble repertoire, as well as learning how to sight read. Please use the practice rooms in the music wing to your advantage, and take some time every day to sing through repertoire or practice your sight reading at home. If you practice correctly (and I will show you how), you will see great improvement! It helps you to become a much more confident member of your ensemble, and a person!

Classroom Guidelines

- *Cell phones must not be seen or heard during class. Texting and talking on the phone is extremely rude and distracting, and will result in a 2 point deduction for the day.*
- *Talking will not be permitted during rehearsal! Please raise your hand to ask questions.*
- **NO GUM CHEWING OR EATING.**
- *Be positive, and always try your best!*
- *Demonstrate appropriate and professional behavior always.*
- *Be supportive of others- we are all working towards the same goal, which is to have fun and have wonderful experiences through singing together!*

Important Dates

(This list will most likely have some changes and additions as the year goes by!)

SEPTEMBER

- Monday, September 11th - Day of Remembrance (Chamber Choir only, end of Period 3)
- Board Meeting (Chamber Choir Only, 7:00 p.m. at STEM)

OCTOBER

- Friday, October 20th - HHS Pep Rally (Chamber Choir only, directly after 9th period)
- Tuesday, October 31st - HHS Safe Halloween - 4:00-6:00 p.m. (Tri-M members)

NOVEMBER

- Friday, November 3rd - 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 4th - 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. HHS Fall Drama
- Wednesday, November 8th - NYSCAME All-County Rehearsal at Connetquot HS 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 16th - NYSCAME All-County Rehearsal at Hauppauge HS - 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 17th - NYSCAME All-County Rehearsal at Hauppauge HS - 9:00 a.m. & concert at 7:30 pm (also at Hauppauge HS)
- Thursday, November 30th - Sunday, December 3rd - NYSSMA All-State Conference in Rochester

DECEMBER

- Monday, December 18th - Mandatory Winter Concert dress rehearsal (Concert and Chamber Choirs, 6:30-8:30 p.m.)
- Tuesday, December 19th - Mandatory HHS Orchestra & Chorus Winter Concert (7:30 p.m., call time 6:45 p.m.)

JANUARY

- Thursday, January 18th - Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction at 7:30 p.m. in HHS Room 140

MARCH

- Saturday, March 3rd - SCMEA All-County rehearsals (Time/location TBA)
- Friday, March 9th - SCMEA All-County rehearsals (Time/location TBA)
- Saturday, March 10th - SCMEA All-County rehearsals (Time/location TBA)
- Saturday, March 10th - SCMEA Division III Concert (Time/location TBA)
- Sunday, March 11th - SCMEA Division I and II Concerts (Time/location TBA)
- Friday, March 23rd - HS Musical - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 24th - HS Musical - 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

APRIL

- Wednesday, April 18th - HHS Honors Concert at 7:30 p.m. (A Cappella groups only - call time 6:45 p.m.)
- Monday, April 30th - NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Satellite Festival - 4:00-9:00 p.m. at HHS

MAY

- Friday, May 11th - NYSSMA All-State Solo Festival at Northport HS
- Saturday, May 12th - NYSSMA All-State Solo Festival at Northport HS
- Wednesday, May 23rd - HHS Spring Concert Part 1- 7:30 p.m. (Chamber Choir only- call time 7:00 p.m.)
- Date TBD - Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal - 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 31st - HHS Spring Concert Part II - 7:30 p.m. (Concert Choir & Chamber Choir- call time 7:00 p.m.)

JUNE

- Thursday, June 14th - HHS Senior Recital at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium

*Huntington High School
Choral Program
Student/Parent/Guardian Contract*

I, _____, have read the 2017-2018 HHS Choral Handbook, understand, and agree to uphold and follow the conditions and obligations stated in the Handbook.

Student Signature

Date

I have read the 2017-2018 HHS Choral Handbook, and understand the guidelines and conditions for my son/daughter to have a successful year. I will take responsibility to make sure that he or she is present at the performances listed. In the event of an emergency, where my child cannot participate, I will notify the director as soon as possible.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

