

HHS



**CHORAL DEPARTMENT
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

www.highlandchoirs.com

**MR. ANDREW GIBB-CLARK
DIRECTOR**

Contact Information:

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Mission

The Mission of the Highland Choral Department is to create well-rounded student-musicians through an inclusive, comprehensive, and multifaceted choral program dedicated to achieving excellence.

HHS Choral Ensembles

A cappella Choir - A cappella Choir is an auditioned ensemble of 40-50 students. This ensemble performs at multiple concerts throughout the year. Every Spring they perform at IHSA Organizational Contest, receiving Division I ratings. Students in this ensemble also have the opportunity to audition and participate in the ILMEA District and All State Festivals.

Concert Attire: white and black dress clothes, choir robes for contest.

Madrigal Singers - Madrigal Singers is an auditioned ensemble of around 20 students. This ensemble performs at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival annually as well as at prestigious events in the St. Louis area, such as the Ameren Festival of Lights. The Madrigal Singers are an integral part of the HHS Madrigal Dinner each year. They also perform multiple times in the Highland Community.

Concert Attire: Madrigal Costumes, white and black dress clothes.

Chamber Singers - Chamber Singers is an auditioned ensemble of around 20 students. This ensemble performs at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival annually and is an integral part of the HHS Madrigal Dinner each year. They also perform out in the Highland Community.

Concert Attire: Madrigal Dinner costumes, white and black dress clothes.

Mixed Choir - Mixed Choir is open to all students at HHS and does not require an audition. This ensemble is currently around 30 students and performs at multiple concerts throughout the school year.

Concert Attire: white and black dress clothes.

Treble Choir - Treble Choir is open to all students at HHS and does not require an audition. This ensemble performs at multiple concerts throughout the school year.

Concert attire: white and black dress clothes.

Show Choir - Entitled "Dissonance" the Highland High School Show Choir is an auditioned ensemble that rehearses weekly after school. This newly formed ensemble consists of around 40 students and will perform and compete at concerts in Highland and travel to competitions.

Concert Attire: Show Choir Costumes (to be purchased by students)

Choral Department/ HHS Classroom Expectations

V.I.P

1. Responsibility
2. Courage
3. Respect
4. Service
5. Honesty
6. Caring
7. Fairness
8. Self-Control
9. Citizenship

Choir Room

1. Follow all student handbook rules
2. Treat teacher and all peers with respect
3. Follow directions the first time they are given
4. Do not chew gum, or consume food/drinks in the choir room
5. Be in place with appropriate materials when class begins
6. Show respect for all property
7. School Cell Phone policy will be followed and enforced

** Students in the choral program represent themselves, the program, the school, and the Highland Community. All students in the choral program will be held to a high standard of behavior and decision making. There is a zero tolerance policy for the use of E-Cigarettes/Tobacco, Alcohol, and any illegal drugs. Please refer to the Highland High School Code of Conduct. If drugs or alcohol are discovered on a trip the proper authorities will be notified and the student will be sent home on their own/parents expense.

Consequences

* If any of these expectations become an issue, the school disciplinary policy outlined in the HHS student handbook and HHS Code of Conduct will be followed.

Grading

Grades are figured using the following formula:

50% Daily Classroom

- Effort, Materials, Body Position, and Participation in class activities

30% Ensemble Performance

- Concerts (required)
 - Attendance
 - Performance
 - Proper concert etiquette
 - Appropriate concert attire

20% Individual Assessments

- Vocal Evaluations
- Small Group music checks
- Any written assignments

Concerts/Performances

Each ensemble will have multiple concerts or performances throughout the year. Performances are MANDATORY and a part of the students grade. A list of mandatory performances for each ensemble are included in the following attendance policy.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at after school rehearsals is required. Any conflicts must be communicated to Mr. Gibb-Clark (agibbclark@highlandcusd5.org) no less than 48 hours prior to the rehearsal. The schedule for the year was released last May and is on the choir website. Missing rehearsals or not communicating a conflict in time can result in a reduction of the students grade. Most conflicts can be worked out with proper notice.

Attendance at concerts and performances is required. The schedule for the year was announced last May and is on the choir website.

Required performances by ensemble:

A cappella Choir:

Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, HCPA Pancake Breakfast, Pops Concert, IHSA Contest, Spring Concert

Madrigal Singers:

Pre Ren Fest Concert, KCRF, Madrigal Dinner, Christmas Concert, HCPA Pancake Breakfast, Community Performances (These will be on the calendar by the 15th of the month prior to the performance. Attendance to these events is mandatory but absences may be worked out on an individual bases. Any absence for these performances must be communicated by the 20th of the month prior.)

Chamber Singers:

Pre Ren Fest Concert, KCRF, Madrigal Dinner, Christmas Concert, HCPA Pancake Breakfast, Community Performances (These will be on the calendar by the 15th of the month prior to the performance. Attendance to these events is mandatory but absences may be worked out on an individual bases. Any absence for these performances must be communicated by the 20th of the month prior.)

Mixed & Treble Choir:

Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, HCPA Pancake Breakfast, Pops Concert, Spring Concert

Excused Absences are...

1. An excused illness from school. A parent note, email, or voicemail is required, for performances, to insure that the director notes the excused absence.
2. A personal problem explained with a parental note and authorized by the director at least 48 hours prior to the event.
3. An emergency problem that cannot be addressed before the event. This must be explained with a parental note or email the day following the scheduled event.
4. Another school event that has been approved by Mr. Gibb-Clark at least a week prior to the performance.

Students with an excused absence from a performance will be given a short assignment to receive the points for their performance grade.

Unexcused Absences are...

1. Failure to attend a scheduled event with no explanation.
2. Non-school related activities, including work.
3. Family vacations or trips that are not an emergency.

These absences cannot be made up and the student will receive a 0 for the performance.

Concert Attire

A cappella Choir -

White and black dress clothes, choir robes for contest.

Madrigal Singers -

Madrigal Costumes, white and black dress clothes. (Most madrigal costumes are provided by the student. There are some that can be checked out from out costume closet. *All costumes must be approved!*)

Chamber Singers -

Madrigal Dinner costumes, white and black dress clothes. (Madrigal dinner costumes can be checked out from out costume closet or provided by the student. *All costumes must be approved!*)

Mixed Choir -

White and black dress clothes.

Treble Choir -

White and black dress clothes.

Show Choir -

Show Choir Costumes (show choir costumes will be purchased by the students. The cost will be kept as low as possible and each student will have the same costume fee.)

Student and Parent Signature

I have read, understand, and agree to follow all of the policies in the Highland Choirs student handbook.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____