

Platte County High School  
Choir Handbook  
2022-2023



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# 2022-2023 Choral Calendar

## **August**

- 1-6 Sound Express Camp
- 23 *First Day of School*
- 6 HS Choir Social BBQ

## **September**

- 10 Suggested ACT Date (registration date - August 5)
- 17 HS All-District Choir Auditions, MWSU

## **October**

- 3-7 *Homecoming Week*
- 12 HS Choir Fall Concert, 7:00pm
- 14 HS Choir Men Tour (during day)
- 22 Suggested ACT Date (registration date - September 16)
- 29 HS Choir All-District Clinic/Concert and All-State Auditions

## **November**

- 9,10,12 Fall Musical
- 23 PC Lighting Ceremony (Concert Choir only)

## **December**

- 2 HS Concert Choir Holiday Tour (during day)
- 10 Suggested ACT Date (registration date - November 4)
- 12 HS Choir Winter Concert, 7:00pm
- 20 Solo/Small Ensemble checkpoint #1
- 21 *Last Day of 1st Semester*

## **January**

- 2 *SE rehearsal (tentative)*
- 3 *First Day of 2nd Semester*
- 16 *SE rehearsal (tentative)*
- 21 Sound Express at Pleasant Hill competition
- 25-28 MMEA In-Service/Conference, Osage Beach

## **February**

- 6-10 CC 23-24 Voice Placements
- 11 Sound Express at NWMSU competition
- 13-16 SE 23-24 Auditions Prelims
- 18 Sound Express at Rock Bridge competition
- 21-23 Solo/Small Ensemble checkpoint #2
- 21-24 FHC 23-24 Voice Placements
- 23/24 SE 23-24 Auditions Workshop Session
- 25 Sound Express at Carthage competition
- 27/28 SE 23-24 Auditions Workshop Session

## **March**

- 2 SE Final Auditions (tentative)
- 4 Sound Express "Showcase of Excellence"
- 8 Solo/Small Ensemble Music Pre-Festival (after school)
- 16 HS Choir Large Group Pre-Festival Concert, 7:00pm
- 20-24 *Spring Break*

## **April**

- 1 MSHSAA District Solo/Small Ensemble Music Festival,  
St. Joseph
- 3-6 Host MSHSAA State Large Group Music Festival
- 6 MSHSAA State Large Group Music Festival - HS Choirs
- 15 ACT Date (registration deadline - March 10)
- 28-29 MSHSAA State Solo/Small Ensemble Music Festival,  
Columbia  
-Leave the 28th, stay overnight, perform the 29th

## **May**

- 1 HS Choirs Awards, 6:00pm
- 3 HS Choir Spring Concert, 7:00pm
- 10 HS Choir Senior Showcase, 7:00pm
- 21 Graduation (Concert Choir)
- 24 *Last Day of School*

2022-2023 Platte County Choir Syllabus  
Instructor: Mr. Brian von Glahn/Ms. Lily Fisher  
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### **Objectives of this course:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify musical symbols and read a musical score.
2. Understand the physical mechanisms involved with the singing voice
3. Improve his/her own vocal technique.
4. Explain the fundamentals of singing.
5. Comprehend the historical and aesthetic qualities of music.
6. Perform rehearsed music in concerts.

**SHEET MUSIC:** The sheet music provided is the property of Platte County High School and any damage or loss will require replacement at the student's cost.

**DRESS:** Most pieces of performance attire will be provided by the High School. These items should be properly maintained and returned at the conclusion of the school year. It is important that all performers keep in mind that they are not only representing themselves but their choir, school, and community at each performance. If other performance attire is required, students will be given ample time and specifications as to what is needed.

\*\*\*We do ask that all hair color remain some version of a natural hair color so that it does not distract from a performance. If you have any questions, contact Mr. von Glahn.

**CLASSROOM MATERIALS:** Students will need to supply a pencil, a folder, and a positive attitude for this class.

### **Classroom Expectations**

1. Follow the classroom guidelines.
2. Pay attention: We have a specific plan for each class period. If you are talking during class and not paying attention, you will miss out on important information. Paying attention affects your class participation grade.
3. Be professional: Musicians are professional performers. We will treat you professionally, and expect the same in return. *The Golden Rule: Being professional consists of excellent classroom behavior, sitting with good posture, being ready to start class when the bell rings and being a vital member by respecting others in the classroom.*
4. THIS IS TO BE AN ABSOLUTELY FOOD AND DRINK FREE CLASSROOM!!  
Personal water bottles will be allowed.
5. The choir is a team, and every member of the team is important to the success of the group. When you choose poor classroom behavior, you are not only letting yourself down, you are letting your fellow teammates down. Let us all choose excellence and find that success is the result.

### **Guidelines for the Classroom**

1. Be in your designated seats or placement on the risers with the proper materials and ready to work before the bell rings.
2. Always give your complete attention and have a positive attitude about the subject matter.
3. Be courteous to other singers when they are working on individual parts by refraining from talking.
4. This class focuses on music. Leave objects such as food, gum, homework, CELL PHONES, or anything else that does not associate with this class outside. Use of a cell phone in class must be approved by the instructor prior to its use.
5. If there are problems that need attention, be considerate by raising your hand and waiting to be called on.

**Make your musical experience a successful one  
by abiding by these guidelines!**

### **Electronics Policy**

#### **Rationale:**

For the past few years, we have seen the use of smartphones (and other similar devices such as smartwatches or earbuds) become more and more of a distraction to what we are trying to accomplish in our classroom. After trying a variety of strategies to prevent this, and after discussing the matter with the rest of the Fine Arts Department, we have decided to implement the following policy below.

#### **Electronics Policy :**

*Per the school policy, students will not be allowed to use these devices during learning time in class.*

While in a choir class, phones and earbuds need to stay away in their bags and on silent. Please do not contact your student by facetime, text, or phone calls during instructional class time. If you need to contact your student, please contact the office or email your student if it is an emergency.

## Grading

**\*\*\*Daily grades (In-person)** – You may receive up to 5 points per rehearsal. Grade points may be deducted for any of the following:

1. Unexcused absences and tardies.
2. Forgetting music, notebook (when needed), or pencil.
3. Talking in class during rehearsal time or defined discussion.
4. Losing music – whether in the classroom or another’s folder or wherever because it takes additional class time to get additional copies or to find misplaced music.
5. Bad manners or attitude toward staff, students or in reference to the music. Bad manners include talking back, arguing, inappropriate language, pushing, “bothering” others, etc.
6. Not progressing as expected – i.e. lack of effort.
7. Poor posture.
8. Choosing not to participate.

This is not an all-inclusive list! Just because we may not remember to write some transgression down here doesn’t mean it won’t be upheld.

**\*\*\*Virtual Participation/Assignments** - Any assignments or tasks setup for a virtual day need to be completed by the assigned deadline. These will be an important part of the progress we make this year. If there are questions about an assignment or a task, email your director and they will respond to you in a timely manner based on availability.

**\*\*\*Part Checks** will be given periodically. This will include the student recording themselves singing an assigned portion of our repertoire, while listening to a recording of the other voice parts. This will allow a more specific assessment of individual accountability and to monitor the growth of the student and class as a whole.

**\*\*\*Performances** will be graded on the following (worth 100 points in total).

Stage presence, performance quality, concert and audience etiquette, preparation and promptness.

## **Performance Absence Procedures**

If you absolutely must be absent from a performance, the director must be notified as far in advance as possible. A calendar of the choir's major performances is provided to assist in preventing conflicts. The director reserves the right to determine what constitutes an excused absence from a performance. Please keep in mind that in order for an excused performance absence to be allowed to be made up through the means of an alternate assignment, WRITTEN notification by a parent or guardian is necessary. Unless this is obtained by the director, no make-up assignment will be offered.

MISSING A CONCERT BECAUSE OF A JOB IS NOT EXCUSED AND WILL RESULT IN NO GRADE POINTS! So, plan ahead and notify any employer of performance dates!

## **Make up policies and absences:**

**Daily Class Absence** - Health and safety is of paramount importance to us. Make-up assignments will be given upon return of the student or virtually. Communication is the most important part of an absence. Please communicate or have your parent/guardian contact us in regards to your absence and we will be flexible based on the circumstances.

**Performances** – If you should miss due to an illness, injury, or emergency, a Parent or Guardian must notify the director 72 hours in advance (if possible) by phone, email or note. Please keep in mind that in order for an excused performance absence to be allowed to be made up through the means of an alternate assignment, WRITTEN notification by a parent or guardian is necessary within a week of the missed performance. Unless this is obtained by the director, no make-up assignment will be offered. If you qualify to make up credit for a performance, you may do so by turning in a 3-4 page, typed report on a music topic chosen by the director. The director reserves the right to determine what constitutes an excused absence from a performance.

## **Festival Eligibility Policy**

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) requires that any student participating in a MSHSAA sponsored activity where there are ratings or competition to be academically eligible. This affects many of the most important events in our Choir calendar, the District and State Festivals. *Be on top of your grades at all times!*

Any student found academically ineligible according to MSHSAA standards at the conclusion of a semester will not be permitted to enroll for any of the auditioned choirs for the upcoming semester.



# **CHOIR SYLLABUS CONTRACT**

## **Must be signed and returned to Mr. von Glahn or Ms. Fisher**

Please sign and return the following release AFTER reading all the information about choir, including grading procedures, performances, and policies. Signing this infers that all policies are understood and that the student and parent will follow all guidelines, rules, and regulations dealing with the Vocal Music Program at Platte County High School.

The return of this letter by September 6th is worth 25 points. If it is returned before September 13th, only 15 points will be given. After that date, NO POINTS will be given, even though this sheet MUST be returned for documentation purposes.

Thank you,

Mr. Brian von Glahn  
Director

Ms. Lily Fisher  
Assistant Director

I have read and understand the Course Outline for Choir at Platte County High School. I agree to abide by its rules, grading, and policies.

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

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

I have read and understand the Course Outline for Choir at Platte County High School. I will help uphold the enforcement of its rules, grading, and policies. I also grant permission for my child to travel as needed when part of this performing group. (Information about each trip will come in advance of the trip by at least a week)

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_