Highlands High School

HONORS CHOIR

SYLLABUS AND ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

2017 - 2018

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**Welcome to the Highlands High School Honors Choir**

Congratulations on being a part of the Highlands Choral Program. We are happy that you are here and look forward to each individual's contribution to the program. Our choral program consists of four performing ensembles: Concert Choir, Honors Choir, Variations (Show Choir), and the Musical Production. In addition, our choral program also consists of four music electives: Broadway and Beyond, Music Appreciation/Theater Production, Vocal Techniques, and Student Accompanist. Concert Choir and Honors Choir are credited courses, while Variations and Musical are extracurricular. Based upon audition quality and level of musicianship, each student will have the opportunity to become an active participant who is able to develop their creative performing side. The primary purpose of the Highlands High School Choral Program is to provide students with quality music education through rehearsals and performances.

In order to continue the high quality productions, all participants must adhere to the following requirements which are essential to creating an environment that is based on the “The Four Keys” of Success of any performing artist.

- **Safety**
  - 🎶 I practice safe behaviors in everything I do.
  - 🎶 I take action to always put safety first.
  - 🎶 I speak up to ensure the safety of others.

- **Courtesy**
  - 🎶 I project positive image and energy.
  - 🎶 I am courteous and respectful to all ensemble members, cast, crew, faculty, and staff.
  - 🎶 I go above and beyond to exceed expectations.

- **Show**
  - 🎶 I stay in character and perform my role in the show.
  - 🎶 I ensure my area is show-ready at all times.

- **Efficiency**
  - 🎶 I perform my role efficiently so my fellow ensemble members and audience get the most out of their experience.
  - 🎶 I use my time and resources wisely.
Honors Choir Syllabus

**Director:** MR. ZEILER  
**Course Schedule:** 7th Period (36 Weeks)  
**Email:** mzeiler@goldenrams.com  
**Contact Number:** (724) 226-1000 ext 5106

**Objectives:** Through rehearsal and performance of grade-level appropriate and ensemble-specific repertoire students will:

♫ Develop individual and ensemble singing skills.
♫ Perform advanced repertoire with technical skill, stylistic integrity, and musical expression.
♫ Improve music reading and sight-singing ability.
♫ Understand music within its historical and cultural context.
♫ Evaluate and reflect on musical performances and personal improvement.

**Expectations:** As a member of the Highlands High School Honors Choir students will be expected to:

♫ Be on time and prepared for all rehearsals and performances.
♫ Participate in the winter and spring choral concerts and dress rehearsals (which are held after school hours) as well as any additional performances scheduled by the director throughout the year (which may also be after school hours depending on district and community performances).
♫ Remain focused and perform to the best of their ability during all rehearsals and performances.
♫ Use materials, equipment, and facilities properly with care, respect, and pride.
♫ Work cooperatively and respectfully with peers and staff members.
♫ Be exemplary representatives within the Highlands School District for performance, behavior, and attitude.
♫ During musical season, some class time may be devoted to the overall success of our phenomenal district production that highlights so many of our talented students for our community. It would be expected and held in the highest respect if Honors Choir students participate or help out with the musical production.

**Assessments:** To demonstrate mastery of skills and identify further instructional needs students will be required to:

♫ Perform stylistically diverse repertoire in both rehearsal and concert settings.
♫ Perform a variety of musical exercises, both individually and with other singers.
♫ Complete written exercises and assessments on relevant musical skills.
♫ Reflect on personal improvement in performance skills and understanding of music.
♫ Complete individual and small-group singing assessments on rehearsed music.
Mandatory Performance Dates: Fall Semester

❖ Wednesday, October 18th (Honors Choir)
  = Dress Rehearsal Fall Follies from 6:00 – 9:00pm

❖ Thursday, October 19th (Honors Choir)
  = Fall Follies @ 7:00pm

❖ Friday, October 27th (Honors Choir)
  = Senior Night @ 6:30pm

❖ Tuesday, November 21st (Honors Choir / Concert Choir / Variations)
  = Dress Rehearsal Gold Card from 6:00 – 9:00pm

❖ Wednesday, November 22nd (Everyone!!!)
  = Gold Card Luncheon Performance @ 11:00am

❖ Wednesday, November 29th (Honors Choir / Concert Choir / Variations)
  = Dress Rehearsal @ 4:30pm
  = Rotary Choral Concert @ 7:00pm

❖ Friday, December 1st (Honors Choir / Variations)
  = Food Bank Charity Concert NHPC @ 7:00pm

❖ Tuesday, December 5th (Honors Choir / Concert Choir / Variations)
  = Dress Rehearsal for Winter Concert from 3:00 - 5:00pm

❖ (TBA) Tuesday, December 5th (Honors Choir / Variations)
  = VFW Lions Club Blind Society @ 6:30pm

❖ Wednesday, December 6th Honors Choir / Concert Choir / Variations)
  = Dress Rehearsal for Winter Concert from 6:00 - 9:00pm

❖ Thursday, December 7th (Honors Choir / Concert Choir / Variations)
  = Winter Choir Concert @ 7:00pm

❖ December (TBA) “Rotary Luncheon” (Honors Choir / Variations)

❖ December (TBA) Community Performances (Honors Choir / Variations)
Mandatory Performance Dates:
Spring Semester

♫ Tuesday, May 15th (Honors Choir)
   = Academic Awards Ceremony @ 6:00pm

♫ Monday, May 21st and Tuesday, May 22nd (Honors Choir / Concert Choir Variations)
   = Dress Rehearsal for Spring Concert from 6:00 – 9:00pm

♫ Wednesday, May 23rd (Everyone!!!)
   = Spring Choir Concert @ 7:00pm

♫ Sunday, June 3rd (Honors Choir)
   = Baccalaureate @ 7:00pm

♫ Friday, June 8th (Honors Choir)
   = Graduation @ 6:00pm

EMAIL: mzeiler@goldenrams.com

Communication is key! Always communicate through email, especially an absence. I am so happy and blessed there are over 100+ vocal music students, however this is an enormous number of students to remember events and situations. Please always communicate an absence through email.
**Performance Attendance:**

- All rehearsals and performance dates are mandatory. Our schedule is created a year in advance. Every student performer and vocalist is important to the overall development and success of the production!

- If any given dress rehearsal or performance is missed, please have the respect to communicate your absence immediately. Please communicate by emailing Mr. Zeiler at mzeiler@goldenrams.com.

- If a dress rehearsal or performance is missed with a legitimate excused absence, AND that absence has been communicated, make-up points will be granted.
  - With an excused absence, students will be able to receive full credit back by singing two songs independently, of their vocal line.
  - However if students choose not to sing two songs independently, only 80% of the performance points will be allowed to be earned back.

Please look over all “mandatory performance dates” listed above, and communicate any prescheduled commitments or “expected plans” by **Thursday, September 14, 2017**. Please communicate by emailing Mr. Zeiler at mzeiler@goldenrams.com. If there are no conflicts communicated with any of the following dates by **Thursday, September 14, 2017**, it will be assumed that each student will be present at every rehearsal / performance.

Unfortunately, life can throw us “curve-balls” with unexpected conflicts. If any situation arises please communicate the conflict immediately. **Communication is key! Always communicate through email.** I appreciate the mutual respect and honesty among students and parents. Again, please communicate any conflict or emergency immediately.
**Rules, Regulations, and Expectations**

1.) Students **MUST** attend all rehearsals for which they are scheduled! All students are expected to attend regularly and to be on time for class and practices in order to receive maximum benefit from the instructional practice time. It is important to develop habits of punctuality, self-discipline and responsibility.

**Unexcused absences include (but are not limited to):**

- Experiencing transportation problems to or from choral practice.
- Missing practice to complete school assignments.
- Missing practice without legitimate illness.
- Working at a job or babysitting during scheduled practices.
- Any recreational or social activities that should be arranged for after practice or on the weekends.

**Excused absences include:**

- Illness or injury documented by a physician’s note.
- Serious illness or death in the family.
- Funeral of a family member or relative.
- Religious holiday.
- Emergencies and other reasons deemed good and excusable by the principal.

2.) There will be a **MANDATORY** Dress Rehearsal for both winter and spring concerts. *(This should go without stating, but concerts are also mandatory.)* You are expected to be at both the dress rehearsals and concerts. *(If for any reason, there is a conflict with any of these dates, please be respectful and let Mr. Zeiler know NO LATER THAN Thursday, September 14, 2017.)*

3.) It is your responsibility to communicate with BOTH the choral director and your boss, coach, or activity sponsors about your schedule conflicts. Dress rehearsals and concerts are scheduled well in advance. Remember, choir is also a graded class that will affect your academics.

4.) As per past practice, students are encouraged to share or split their time so they do not miss too much practice time from any school activity. Your presence at each rehearsal is required for at least half the time if you are involved in another activity. Please be sure to communicate with both the choral director AND your coach to avoid any conflicting issues with your afterschool activities. These arrangements must be made with the director in advance. If you miss a rehearsal due to a game or meet, the absence will be counted as an excused absence.
5.) Students are expected to be on their best behavior in class, rehearsals and performances, and must treat all staff and other students with respect. Failure to do so will result in removal from the program.

6.) Students will be responsible for their own materials and school-owned equipment. Students will be issued school-owned folders and original score/sheet music. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of their folder and/or music if it is lost or returned in poor condition.

7.) Honors Choir and Concert Choir will be issued school-owned uniforms that must maintain their good condition. Any damage of material or uniform items beyond normal use or wear will result in the assessment of financial obligations.

**Grading Policy:**
Honors Choir and Concert Choir are graded and credited courses. Every effort is made to ensure that the students’ grades are accurate and meaningful assessments to their current progress in developing musical understanding and performance skills. Assessments are designed to allow all students who actively and appropriately participate in rehearsal to receive an “A” for the nine week grading period; however, they are also designed to challenge students to put forth EXTRA effort to earn grades in the 98-100% range. Likewise, students who are negligent in their responsibilities or disruptive to the rehearsal will also receive grades that reflect their contributions to the ensemble. Extra credit activities and assignments are available to students each grading period by request.

**Nine-Week Grading Components:**
- Ensemble Skills
- Musical Literacy
- Ensemble Singing
- Individual Voice Test
- Theory Assignments
- Application of Concepts/Skills
- Rehearsal Etiquette
- Performance Etiquette
- Concert Performance

**Student Discipline:**
Highlands High School Choral Members are representatives of our school and community. Students are expected to behave appropriately and professionally. You are young musicians, embrace that title. All students are required to follow the rules and expectations set forth by the Choral Program, the High School, and Highlands School District. Students will be held accountable to these three authorities as the situation dictates.

**These rules and regulations are very basic. Although we do not foresee any problems we want to make sure everyone is on the same page. The choral program is a very positive experience for many students and we want to make sure it continues to be in the future! Thank you for sharing your talents with us! Together we have built a very successful program.**
HHS CHOIR VOICE LESSONS

Expectations of Each HHS Choir Member:
♫ Each nine weeks, all choir members will be required to attend one voice lesson privately with Mr. Zeiler. Each lesson will last a half hour.
♫ Voice lessons will be held 8th Period, and have been approved by the High School Principals for each member to attend lessons during the school day.
♫ If a student cannot schedule a half hour lesson time during the school day, and is unable to fulfill this requirement by the end of a nine week grading period, students are welcome to schedule a half hour time slot immediately after school.
♫ Voice lessons will be worth 30pts for each nine weeks and will be evaluated on the following:
   • Participation
   • Properly Demonstrating Vocal Technique
   • Performing Your Vocal Part
♫ Failure to show up for a lesson or communicate a reason for an absence will result in a zero.

Why was an individual voice lesson time slot created?
♫ To help the singer (YOU) IMPROVE and GROW as a performer!
♫ To help the singer:
   • Evaluate their own voice
   • Understand vocal techniques
   • Learn, review, and perform vocal parts
   • Become more comfortable singing independently
   • Help commit a song to memory
   • Rehearse challenging vocal parts

What is a voice lesson time slot NOT meant for?
• Degrading your own voice
• Trying to highlight faults of your technique
• Thinking you sound bad and cannot improve
• Study hall time or leisure time
• Skipping class

When to schedule a lesson time?
A blank calendar will hang in the classroom spanning a month’s time frame and a new week will be added when one week has been completed.

Please write your full name on a blank date and period that works for your availability. Remember, voice lesson opportunities will be offered twice throughout the school day.

Please make sure to receive a pass from Mr. Zeiler first, before attending your lesson. Your classroom teacher will need to sign this pass for you to leave their class.

ALWAYS check-in with your regularly scheduled classroom teacher first.

ALWAYS make sure to check-in with your teacher for any missed assignments for work. Please do not schedule a lesson on days you have a presentation, project, lab, test, etc.

**Voice Lesson Nine Week Objectives:**

1st Nine Weeks = Evaluation of Voice Parts and Technique. One student per lesson time slot.

2nd Nine Weeks = Winter Concert Repertoire, Variations Repertoire, or Musical Repertoire. Two students permitted per lesson time slot.

3rd Nine Weeks = Spring Concert Repertoire, Variations Repertoire, or Musical Repertoire. Two students permitted per lesson time slot.

4th Nine Weeks = Re-evaluation of Voice Parts and Technique, plus Spring Concert Repertoire or Variations Repertoire. One student per lesson time slot.

**What if Mr. Zeiler is absent from school for the day and the student was scheduled for a voice lesson?**

Please be understanding and flexible if this situation occurs. All voice lessons will be canceled that specific day, and the student will need to reschedule a time before the end of the nine weeks. Make-up lessons will be offered during a scheduled rotation, after school and/or by appointment.

**What if the student is absent from school for the day and scheduled a voice lesson?**

Please be understanding and flexible if this situation occurs. Students will be given the opportunity to make-up a lesson. The student will need to reschedule a time before the end of the nine weeks. Make-up lessons will be offered during a scheduled rotation, after school and/or by appointment.
The Choral Environment

All Highlands students are expected to be Respectful, Accountable, Motivated, and Safe. We strive to create an environment that interlinks these values. Being a performing artist requires much discipline, dedication, focus, and overall passion. Please take initiative in the following:

- **Being Ready and Responsible**
  - Attend all rehearsals. Please pay attention to your calendar of events.
  - Arrive on time and prepared with all materials.
  - Every voice is important towards the ensemble.
  - Proper “vocal health” is essential to your development as a singer.
  - Do NOT use cell phones or iPods. You cannot effectively “create” music by being distracted.

- **Interaction and Participation**
  - Lead by example and become a good role model.
  - Set high performance goals for yourself and the ensemble.
  - Developing singing techniques takes effort and practice.
  - Communication, cooperation, and teamwork are key factors towards any successful ensemble.
  - Develop a good sense of professionalism and musicianship among fellow students and staff.
  - Respect and care for the choral classroom, materials, equipment, and stage. It is up to you to treat our environment “golden.”

- **Be Positive and Supportive**
  - Give your best attitude and effort at all times.
  - Do not allow your attitude or actions to prevent the choir from having a productive rehearsal or a good performance.
  - Take pride and respect in being a part of something great!
  - Be proud of your performance. Our performances are a reflection of your time, your talents, and your energy.
  - Embrace the fact that each one of you is unique and irreplaceable. Your contribution towards the ensemble is incredibly impactful.

**Helpful Hints to being an Amazing Performer!**

- Concentrate on “Proper Singing Technique!”
- Practice like you will perform!
- Be animated and have expression!
- Be larger than life on stage!
- Make the audience believe the lyrics to your song!
- Have passion in your heart and a beat in your soul!
ATTENTION

HONORS CHOIR, CONCERT CHOIR, VARIATIONS,
AND MUSICAL CAST MEMBERS:

Please LIKE our "HHS Golden Stars: Mr. Z’s Choral World Cyber Classroom" Facebook Page which is intended to keep all Honors Choir, Concert Choir, Variations, and Musical Cast Members linked together. The goal is to share creative ideas, performance pictures, announcements, upcoming events, and updates.

All posts must be appropriate and have a high level of professionalism. Please include only appropriate and mature comments or photos so this can be a positive cyber experience for everyone. Fellow teachers and parents will be monitoring this page, and will be able to be viewed publicly.

Additionally, please make sure to favorite on your internet browser www.hhsgoldenstars.weebly.com. This website is designed to have all documents, calendars, fundraisers, and other vocal music related information available to students and parents. Information pertaining to Choir, Variations, and Musical will be uploaded and safely stored on this website. Please LIKE our Facebook page and favorite our Weebly website.

I am very proud of all your hard work, dedication and passion. This is a great way to share our experiences and talents. We have had a lot of “magical moments” that will last a lifetime. I hope to continue that environment and have us grow together even that much more!

Thank you,
Mr. Zeiler
mzeiler@goldenrams.com
https://www.facebook.com/ChoralWorldCyberClassroom
http://hhsgoldenstars.weebly.com
Download the app “Remind”, enter a txt code to receive reminders and announcements!

**Honors Choir**
Enter this number 81010
Text this message @hhshon

**Variations**
Enter this number 81010
Text this message @h2aa

**Concert Choir**
Enter this number 81010
Text this message @2d98g

**HHS Musical Productions**
Enter this number 81010
Text this message @hhsmusi
**Please complete the following information. Detach and return this completed student information page Thursday, September 14, 2017.**

**By signing this form, we acknowledge that we have read the above rules, regulations, and expectations regarding Honors Choir and agree to abide by them. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Zeiler.**

**I am truly looking forward to a year full of excitement, high energy, and enthusiasm. These are some of the best years of your life! Make every musical moment count! 😊**