***HHS Choir Syllabus 2018-2019 Mr. Matthew Callaghan***

 ***Director of Choral Activities – Hastings HS***

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***Our Mission***

The educational objective of the HHS Choral Program is to enhance, through performance, knowledge of vocal technique, ear training (using solfege syllables), music literacy, ensemble skill (working as a team, choral tone, intonation, balance, and blend), musical expression, and performance skills. Students will be exposed to high quality, eclectic choral repertoire appropriate for various ensembles. The overarching goal is to experience with a developed sense of musicality, ensemble awareness, vocal confidence, and a desire to seek out artistic activities beyond the classroom.

***Grading***

The choral classroom is a performance-based class. This means that each student is responsible for performing at his or her highest level every day. The grading for choir will be based on these four key components.

* Daily Grades = 5pts Per Day (Approx. 425pts Per Semester)
	+ SKILLS regarding body alignment, vowel formation and music reading should be demonstrated continually.
	+ BEING PREPARED FOR CLASS means deadlines are met and pencils and folders are present every day – gum, being late to class, and not having music isn’t!
	+ PARTICIPATION– “for the good of the group.” Choir is an ensemble and all members of that ensemble need to be respectful and responsible towards other members, Mr. Callaghan, substitutes and other guests. Excessive talking, disruptions, and difficult attitudes will have a negative effect on the rehearsal and therefore, ONE’S GRADE.
* Quizzes, Test, Sectional Work and Assignments – 50pts Per Entry (Approx. 15 Per Year)
	+ This section may consist of all of the above items. Assignments, when assigned are due on the date given by Mr. Callaghan. For each day late, the assignment will lose one letter grade.
* Concert Performances = 200pts Per Concert (4 Concerts Per Year)
	+ Concerts are the most important assessment of our ensembles overall work. Conflicts must be worked out ahead of time. Please give the coaches, bosses and/or directors plenty of time to iron out conflicts.
	+ **Illness with a doctor’s note, family emergency or pre-planned conflicts (with a two week notification prior too absence) will be the only excused absences.**
	+ Absences from concerts that are excused in ADVANCE with the director can be made up in the following seminar or the following day after school as a test or alternate assignment. IT IS UP TO EACH STUDENT TO MAKE UP THEIR MISSED GRADE.
	+ Unexcused absences will not be allowed a make up.
* Final Exam = 200pts
	+ Written Final along with a final concert/graduation comprises your final exam. Graduation and the final concert are MANDATORY for all high school choir students.

Grades and assignments will be posted on PowerSchool and are updated regularly.

***Cell Phone and Mp3 Policy***

Cell phone and mp3 players are not allowed during class time. A student should have these devices off and put away during our choir rehearsals. Here is the policy for discipline for these devices;

***Devices if seen in use, are immediately taken from the student by the director or section leader and will be left in the office for pick up at the end of the day.***

***Materials and Music***

**Every day, students are to bring 4 required items to class and keep them out at all times:**

1. Music folder (for Beginning Women’s and Men’s Glee Club)
2. Assigned copies of semester music.
3. A pencil with eraser for marking music and writing assignments
4. Water Bottle (highly recommended)

Students will be assigned music and folders that are property of the Hastings Area School System.

***Concert Attire and Expense***

Purchased attire will be the student’s to keep, sell or donate after they leave the choral program.

**All Women**

* Gown/Dress (purchased by students or loaned by the choir dept. with a $15.00 maintenance fee for their career) = $50 if purchased
* Natural Color Nylons (purchased by student)
* Closed toe black dress shoes, medium heel or flats (provided by student)
* Hair pulled back, behind shoulders. No Necklaces, Bracelets, or excessive make up.
* ***Visible Body/Face Jewelry is not to be worn during a concert. It is the student’s responsibility to purchase clear “spacers” or remove the jewelry at concerts, community events and competitions.***

**All Men**

* White Dress Shirt (provided by student)
* Brown Dress Shoes and Socks (provided by student)
* Brown khaki slacks and jacket (provided by student)
* Blue Blazer and Tie (Provided by Choral Department)
* ***Visible Body/Face Jewelry is not to be worn during a concert. It is the student’s responsibility to purchase clear “spacers” or remove the jewelry at concerts, community events and competitions.***

If a student fails to wear the required attire at concerts, they will either be asked to go home and change or they will not perform at

the concert, thus receiving a failing grade. Please refer to the concert dates listed on the next page so that you and your child may

prepare accordingly.

**OTHER QUESTIONS CAN BE ANSWERED THROUGH THE CHORAL HANDBOOK, LOCATED AT OUR WEBSITE**

[**WWW.SAXONCHOIRS.WEEBLY.COM**](http://WWW.SAXONCHOIRS.WEEBLY.COM)

***2017-2018 Choral Contract***

***I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(your name) have read and understood our classroom expectations (found on the HHS Choir Webpage) and here by understand that I am responsible for my part in our choral journey and I accept the consequences for my mis-actions.***

***I will arrive at rehearsal on time with my music, a pencil and a good attitude. Gum chewing will NOT be allowed at any time in the choral music room during rehearsals.***

***It is my responsibility to leave my phone off and put away during class time.***

***It is my responsibility to have the proper attire for performances and festivals.***

***It is also my responsibility to keeping all dates as given to me by Mr. Callaghan open and clear of other responsibilities, unless I have already discussed in advance and absence with my Mr. Callaghan. If I am too sick to attend or there is a family emergency, I MUST contact my section leader at least ONE HOUR before the program to get the message to the director. I will also follow up with a note from my parents as soon as I return to class. I will have to make up the concert by singing the programmed music for Mr. Callaghan within 2 days upon my return to school.***

***I understand that my grade in choir will be determined by the following;***

1. ***Daily Participation***
2. ***Attendance and Behavior in any activity where I represent the choir***
3. ***Quizzes, Exams, Concerts, and Assignments***

***I will represent the traditions and ideals of the Hastings High School Choral Program to the highest standard at school, with my family and in the community.***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date***

***I have read and understood the choral contract for the 2017-2018 choral year.***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date***