

2019-2020 Handbook



PHS Choirs: Our Mission

Music education shapes the way our students understand themselves and the world around them. It allows for deep engagement for learning. It nurtures assets and skills that are critical for future success, including creativity, curiosity, determination, and motivation. In other words, music helps develop the student behind the score.

-National Association for Music Education, Broader Minded Movement

As the Perrysburg High School Choir Directors, we are called to provide each of our students with the best music education experience we possibly can. However, we believe our mission extends far beyond that. Unlike teachers in academic courses, we have the privilege of working with many of these students for four years. What an incredible opportunity to shape the lives of these young people who trust us with their music education; an opportunity we fully intend to capitalize on each and every day.

Our mission is to create a unique musical culture where every student feels empowered to reach his or her full potential as a musician, performer, and lifelong learner. Students involved in the PHS Choir Program will regularly perform, evaluate, respond to, analyze, and create music as individuals and with their peers. We want to prepare each student for any musical avenue they wish to pursue by building a strong foundation in music theory, history, and performance skills they can use beyond high school graduation. We wish to cultivate an informed and inquisitive mind in each student that will enable them to engage in fundamental music issues and make a valuable musical contribution to our society. Through our rehearsals and performance opportunities, we strive to provide all PHS Choir students with the highest quality music instruction so that they may become the most well-rounded PHS students, community members, and leaders they can possibly be.

PHS Choirs: Our Program

Perrysburg High School boasts five curricular choral ensembles; one entry-level ensemble, an upper-level mixed chorus, an audition-based mixed ensemble, and two show choirs. Women's Chorus is our non-auditioned choral ensemble. Chorale and A Cappella Choir are our auditioned choral ensembles. Women's Chorus, Chorale, and A Cappella Choir are featured in fall, winter, and spring concerts, Crystal Concert, community performances, school functions, and participate in the OMEA District 1 Large Group Choral Contest each year. Women's Select and Jazz Singers are two auditioned show choirs. All ensembles represent PHS not only at the high school, but out in the community as well. Whether it is Harrison Rally Days, business luncheons, or company holiday parties, these ensembles showcase the incredible talent we have at PHS. Our choir students consistently receive superior ratings at contest, perform all over the greater Toledo area, have been featured on NBC 24, and are some of the brightest and busiest students at Perrysburg High School. Many go on to pursue careers in Music Education, Music Performance, Music Media Production, and other performing arts areas.

PHS Choirs: Course Descriptions

The **PHS Chorale** is a select concert choir composed of men and women, who perform a wide variety of challenging, concert style music and a cappella music. Members are chosen according to ability level, prior experience, musical knowledge, and sight singing ability. Auditions are held in February. The Chorale is featured on at least four concerts each year, frequently collaborates with the instrumental program at PHS, and is asked to perform throughout the greater Toledo area (especially around the holidays). This ensemble also competes at the District I Large Group Choral Adjudicated Event each year.

Women's Chorus is our entry-level choir for beginning students grades nine through twelve. This ensemble sings a variety of repertoire appropriate for the beginning choral singer and features a wide variety of musical genres. Women's Chorus is featured in four concerts throughout the school year and also competes in the District 1 Large Group Choral Adjudicated Event each year.

Jazz Singers is our mixed show choir comprised of sophomore through senior men and women. This group performs on four concerts throughout the year and features soloists at various concerts as well. The Jazz Singers are frequently asked to perform around not only the Perrysburg community, but all over Northwest Ohio. They have performed on NBC 24 and other local news and radio stations.

Show Choir (Women's Select) is currently a group of sophomore through senior women, though we would like to expand to include men as well. This group performs on four concerts throughout the year and features soloists at various concerts as well. Women's Select is frequently asked to perform around not only the Perrysburg community, but all over Northwest Ohio. They have performed on NBC 24 and other local news and radio stations.

A Cappella Choir is the most select group of students in grades 10 through 12. This auditioned ensemble is reserved for the top vocal students at PHS who demonstrate superior theory, musicianship, performance, and aural skills. A Cappella Choir is featured on at least four PHS concerts throughout the year and is frequently booked to perform around the greater Toledo area.

PHS Choirs: Curricular Goals

We also focus our choral instruction around the Ohio Department of Education Music Standards for Grades 9 through 12. Those enduring understandings include:

1. Construct and solve problems of personal relevance and interest when expressing themselves through music.
2. Combine and apply artistic reasoning skills to imagine, create, realize, and refine musical works in conventional and innovative ways and to understand the works produced and performed by others.
3. Work individually and in groups to focus ideas, create and perform music to address genuine local and global community needs.
4. Become consumers, critics, and creators by evaluating and understanding visual and performing artworks and other text produced in the media forms of the day.

The Ohio Department of Education also sets the following progress points for the high school music student:

- A. Develop vocal solo and ensemble performance skills to include performance through traditional classical and other notations.
- B. Articulate a personal philosophy of music including personal valuing, musical preferences, and involvement.
- C. Develop, analyze, and apply appropriate criteria to evaluating pieces of music and musical performances within and outside the classroom.
- D. Read, write, improvise, compose, and describe varied types of musical repertoire using vocabulary that demonstrates an understanding of the language of music appropriate to the genre and culture.
- E. Recognize the roles of vocational and avocational musicians in learning, creating, and performing across history and cultures, with focus on the function of music in society.
- F. Use multimedia including media arts and music technology to create, analyze, rehearse, present, record, and disseminate music of a variety of styles.
- G. Apply study, performance, and collaborative skills learned and used in music to other arts and non-arts subject areas.

ODE divides the high school choral experience into four levels: Beginning, Developing, Intermediate, and Mastery. Each level is then divided into cognitive and creative learning processes that include Perceiving/Knowing/Creating, Producing/Performing, and Responding/Reflecting. The goal of the high school choral program is to take students from the beginning level their freshman year, to the mastery level upon graduation.

PHS Choirs: Rehearsal Expectations

Be Responsible

- Turn in all assignments, forms, and projects on time.
- Plan ahead for extra-curricular rehearsals and performances.
- Submit excused absence forms at least two weeks in advance.
- Seek out extra musical opportunities that will count toward your two required enrichment credits each semester.
- Take responsibility for supporting your choral music education by participating in each fundraiser we run throughout the year.

Be Respectful

- of yourself, your classmates, your directors, and the choir equipment.
- Support your peers and the many talents they bring to the program.
- Respect other student programs and activities at Perrysburg High School.
- You often represent PHS and the entire school district in both our community and Northwest Ohio. We expect you will be ambassadors for our program, school, district, and community whenever we are performing or appearing in public events.
- Situations may arise in which the directors will not be teaching your group. Instead, substitute teachers, guest conductors, student leaders, and/or choreographers will be teaching. Please know these individuals are carefully chosen by your directors for good reason. Give them your undivided attention, as they have invaluable information and talent to share with you.
- *Posts to any social media platform are expected to be appropriate and supportive. Disparaging social media posts are considered cyberbullying, which is not tolerated at Perrysburg High School. Should the directors be alerted to any inappropriate social media posts disparaging the PHS Choral Program or any student participants of the PHS Choral Program, the student shall be disciplined according to the director's discretion and the PHS Student Code of Conduct. Disparaging social media posts will not be tolerated at any time during a student's tenure in the PHS Choir Program and could result in the student's dismissal from the PHS Choral Program.*

Be Ready

- Arrive to class, rehearsals, concerts, and performances early.
- Spit gum out before class begins.
- Bring a bottle of water, pencil, and your computer to class every day.
- Folders are kept in a storage cabinets; take your folder out of its slot and find your seat at the beginning of every class.
- Keep your uniform clean and organized for all concerts and performances.
- Be ready to break out of your comfort zone; try new things without holding back. It is the only way you will be able to discover your full talent and potential.

PHS Choirs: Grading Policy

- We utilize a weighted grading system.

Weekly Participation Grades (35%)

- 25 points per week/5 points per day
- Because the majority of class time in choir is spent singing, participation makes up the majority of your grade.
- Weekly grades are based on participation, attentiveness, preparedness, and upholding the rehearsal expectations above.
- Projects, in-class assignments, vocal demonstrations, and homework are worth anywhere from 10-100 points

Vocal/Progress Checks (20%)

- Students will record themselves singing their voice part on a selected piece of music from class
- Assessment will be conducted according to the rubric provided to the student.

Performance Grades (30%)

- 50-100 points each
- All performance grades are based on attendance, proper attire, and obeying the student code of conduct.
- All main concerts are mandatory and worth 100 points.
- Any other performances such as community performances, recordings, etc. are mandatory and worth 50 points

Enrichment Credit (15%)

- 50 points
- All Choir students are required to complete 1 enrichment credit each quarter.
- Options for enrichment credit include:
 - Participation in an Honors Choir (All-State, District, BGSU)
 - Participation in Solo and Ensemble
 - Participation at a vocal music camp over the summer, and immediate review upon return to school in the fall.
 - Participation in the Spring Musical in the cast or crew
 - Completing a review of a musical concert; preferably high school level or above (band, orchestra, choir, vocal recital) and the program must be signed by the director of the concert
 - Arranging a song for a small group to perform at a concert
 - Setting up and tearing down for concerts
 - Being a choir office aid
 - Auditioning for a collegiate school of music
 - Performing a Senior Recital
 - Completing a music technology project on programs such as GarageBand, Sibelius, Audacity, Noteflight, etc.

If you have other activities that you think might be an approved Enrichment Credit, please ask Miss Spadafore or Mr. Vandock.

PHS Choirs: Attendance Policies

Absences

- Absences from a performance are detrimental to any of the performing groups. Every effort and sacrifice should be made to be there because the whole choir is counting on you!
- Attendance at performances is mandatory for all students and is a factor in the student's quarter grade.
- Performances include concerts, contests, and community events.
- Personal illness, death in the family, wedding or religious ceremony (immediate family only), or a family emergency are excusable performance absences. Under one of these circumstances the student must bring a doctor's note or parent-signed note to the director immediately upon the student's return to school.
- Whenever possible, please e-mail both nspadafore@perrysburgschools.net and kvandock@perrysburgschools.net in regards to a last-minute emergency. You may also leave a voicemail on our office phone at (419) 874-3181 ext. 5103.
- Outside Performances- No more than two people per voice part will be excused from one performance. If large numbers of people will be missing performance due to another activity (such as cheerleading) they need to notify the director immediately so that the performance can be cancelled or given to another group.

Absences will be categorized in the following way:

- Excused: An excused absence form was filled out and turned in at least 2 weeks before the performance because of one of the excused absence reasons listed above. A 0/100 or 0/50 will be given until the points are made up.
- Excused but late: An excuse form was turned in less than 2 weeks before the performance. It is counted as excused, but because it is late, you may only make up 75% of the points.
- Unexcused: You filled out an excuse form, and the director decided that it is not an acceptable reason to miss a concert. You will receive a 0 and will have the opportunity to make up 50% of the points.
- No-show: You did not fill out an excuse form but missed the performance for a reason other than an emergency or illness. You will NOT be given the opportunity to make up the lost points. This is non-negotiable.

The theory behind this is that if you miss a math test because of illness or early vacation, the math teacher will still require you to take the test at some point. We prepare consistently through the year for these performances, and if you are going to be gone, you need to take responsibility for that and communicate it to us. In addition, there is no way to truly recreate the performance experience because we cannot get the entire ensemble together again if you were absent.

Tardies

In order to be considered on time to class, you must be inside the classroom when the bell rings, preferably already in your seat with your music. This is due to the fact that getting music and finding your spot on the risers takes time, and this will ensure that we have sufficient time for warm ups, rehearsal, and whatever other activities we have planned for that day. We understand that walking from the other side of the school takes time, as our classroom is situated on the far side of the school, but you should always try to get here on time by walking fast!

PHS Choirs: Concert Procedures

- Directors will verbally and electronically remind students of concert dates/times/locations at least one month in advance so students can plan accordingly. Students will be told what time they need to report to the performance venue prior to the concert.
- Absence requests must be submitted according to the policies listed above.
- On the day of the concert, students are to report to the performance venue at the time the directors announce.
- Upon arrival, students will check in with a parent or staff supervisor by signing in on the attendance roster.
- After checking in, students will report to the auditorium; groups that are rehearsing will report to the stage, while groups that are waiting will report to the upper level seating section.
- When not performing, students will remain in the upper level seating section waiting quietly.
- Students will leave the seating area and report backstage during the performing group immediately before their group.
- Directors will bring the next group onstage for their performance and will escort them backstage when they are finished.
- After their performing group is finished onstage, students will report back to the upper level seating area.
- There will always be a parent or staff chaperone supervising the seating area, the choir room, and the backstage area.
- Students are to remain at the performance venue for the entirety of the concert so they can watch and support their fellow choir peers.
- Once the entire concert is finished, students must sign out on the same attendance roster they used to check in and are free to leave.

PHS Choirs: Uniform Procedures

The idea behind having uniforms is to look “uniform” thus promoting our identity as a whole rather than individuals. While not in use, the uniforms are to be kept in a zippered garment bag. While in your uniform, proper hygiene should be a consideration. You are performing quite close at times. Deodorant is a must, but do not wear excessive perfume or cologne. You may not eat in your uniform! You may not wear large jewelry with your uniform. Hairstyles or color should not be a distraction. It should be neat and well groomed, out of the face. Not following rules regarding appearance could mandate a loss in grade points, or removal from a performance. All students are required to purchase the PHS Choirs t-shirt.

Symphonic Chorale

- Women: Black/Gold Sequin Floor-Length Dress, Pearls and Garment Bag
 - *You are responsible for providing your own black tights/knee highs and black shoes.
 - **Replacement fee is \$100.00 for lost or damaged dresses.
- Men: Tuxedo Ensemble (jacket, pants, white button-down, vest, bowtie)
 - *You are responsible for providing your own black socks and black shoes
 - **Replacement fee is \$140.00 for lost or damaged tux ensembles.

Women’s Chorus: Black Floor-Length Dress, Pearls and Garment Bag

- *You are responsible for providing your own black tights/knee highs and black shoes.
- **Replacement fee is \$100.00 for lost or damaged dresses.

A Cappella Choir:

- Women: Black Lace Floor-Length Dress, Pearls and Garment Bag
 - *You are responsible for providing your own black tights/knee highs and black shoes.
 - **Replacement fee is \$100.00 for lost or damaged dresses.
- Men: Tuxedo Ensemble (jacket, pants, white button-down, vest, bowtie)
 - *You are responsible for providing your own black socks and black shoes
 - **Replacement fee is \$140.00 for lost or damaged tux ensembles.

Women’s Select: Black/Gold Sequin Dress \$126.50 new or purchase from previous member used.

- *You are responsible for providing your own nude dance tights, black briefs, and character shoes

Jazz Singers

- Women: Black Sequin Tunic \$126.50 new or purchase from previous member used
 - *You are responsible for providing your own nude dance tights, black briefs and character shoes
- Men: Suit Ensemble (pants, jacket, bow tie, necktie, suspenders) \$126.50 new or purchase from a previous member used
 - *You are responsible for providing your own white button-down shirt, black shoes, and black socks

PHS Choirs: Performances

- The director reserves the right to use any or all members for performances. If the director deems that a particular student is not working to level of expectation, or is for whatever reason, not contributing to the well being of the group, that student may be asked to sit out from performances and/or rehearsals. This could result in a loss of grade points.
- No member, regardless of grade level, should expect preferential staging or solo opportunities. All creative decisions are made by the director or qualified personnel.
- When granted an opportunity for a solo or small group performance (mostly decided by audition) it is your own responsibility to learn the music and have it ready to perform before the concert. If this means you need to rehearse or plan outside of school, do so. You will only be permitted to work on a solo during choir period if you are working with a director. Also, make sure to provide the directors with accompaniment, whether that is a CD or printed music for your song as soon as you find out that you will be singing a solo.

Extracurricular Performances

- All members must have a current Emergency Medical Forms on file with the director in order to travel outside of school.
- All students will ride to and from a function on the bus when it is provided. It is school policy that no students are to be allowed to drive. Exceptions may be on an as needed basis with contact made by the parent regarding this. Performances in Perrysburg will require no bus (unless during school time) and it is the responsibility of the student to find transportation.

Performance Procedures (same as concert procedures above)

- Directors will verbally and electronically remind students of concert dates/times/locations at least one month in advance so students can plan accordingly. Students will be told what time they need to report to the performance venue prior to the concert.
- Absence requests must be submitted according to the policies listed above.
- On the day of the concert, students are to report to the performance venue at the time the directors announce.
- Upon arrival, students will check in with a parent or staff supervisor by signing in on the attendance roster.
- After checking in, students will report to the auditorium; groups that are rehearsing will report to the stage, while groups that are waiting will report to the upper level seating section.
- When not performing, students will remain in the upper level seating section.
- Students will leave the seating area and report backstage during the performing group immediately before their group.
- Directors will bring the next group onstage for their performance and will escort them backstage when they are finished.
- After their performing group is finished onstage, students will report back to the upper level seating area.
- There will always be a parent or staff chaperone supervising the seating area, the choir room, and the backstage area.
- Students are to remain at the performance venue for the entirety of the concert so they can watch and support their fellow choir peers.
- Once the entire concert is finished, students must sign out on the same attendance roster they used to check in and are free to leave.

PHS Choirs 2019-2020 Schedule of Events

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT	ENSEMBLES
8/20/2019	5:00 - 8:00 PM	Choir Room	Uniform Fittings	All PHS Choirs
8/22/2019	5:00 - 8:00 PM	Choir Room	Uniform Fittings	All PHS Choirs
9/21/2019	1:30 PM	Downtown	Harrison Rally Days	Jazz and Select
9/16/2019	3:30-5:30 PM	Choir Room	Fall Concert Rehearsal	All PHS Choirs
9/23/2019	3:30-5:30 PM	Choir Room	Fall Concert Rehearsal	All PHS Choirs
9/30/2019	3:30-5:30 PM	Choir Room	Fall Concert Rehearsal with Orchestra	All PHS Choirs
10/7/2019	3:30-5:30 PM	Choir Room	Fall Concert Rehearsal with Orchestra	All PHS Choirs
10/10/2019	7:00 PM	St. John XXIII Church	Fall Concert with Orchestra	All PHS Choirs
10/11/2019	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Choir Room	Solo & Ensemble Registration	All PHS Choirs
11/15/2019	6:00 PM	Hilton Garden Inn, Levis	Dueling Pianos Fundraiser Performance	Jazz and Select
11/25 & 11/26	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Choir Room	OMEA District I Honors Choir Auditions	All PHS Choirs
Nov. & Dec.	TBD	TBD	Community Holiday Performances	Jazz, Select, Chorale, A Cappella
12/9/2019	6:00 PM	Auditorium	Crystal Concert Dress Rehearsal	All PHS Choirs
12/10/2019	6:00 & 8:00 PM	Auditorium	Crystal Concert Night 1	All PHS Choirs
12/11/2019	8:00 PM	Auditorium	Crystal Concert Night 2	All PHS Choirs
2/8/2020	8:00-5:00	PHS	Solo & Ensemble	Any PHS Choir Student
3/2/2020	3:30-5:30 PM	Auditorium	Contest Concert Dress Rehearsal	Women, Chorale, A Cappella
3/9/2020	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Contest Preview Concert	Women, Chorale, A Cappella
3/13/20 & 3/14/20	TBD	PHS	OMEA Large Group District Contest	Women, Chorale, A Cappella
3/12/2020	3:30-5:30 PM	Auditorium	Spring Cabaret Dress Rehearsal	Jazz and Select
3/14/2020	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Spring Cabaret	Jazz and Select
3/23-26, 2020	TBD	Auditorium	Spring Musical	Any PHS Student
5/1/20 or 5/2/20	TBD	Van Buren HS	State Choir Contest	Women, Chorale, A Cappella
5/4/2020	3:30-5:30 PM	Auditorium	Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal	All PHS Choirs
5/5/2020	7:00 PM	Auditorium	Spring Concert and Awards Ceremony	All PHS Choirs

Attendance at each of these concerts, events, performances, and rehearsals is mandatory for students in the ensembles indicated. Absence requests must be submitted electronically at least two weeks in advance of the absence in order to be considered excused. For more information, please e-mail nspadafore@perrysburgschools.net and kvandock@perrysburgschools.net.

PHS | CHOIRS

2019-2020 PHS CHOIR STUDENT CONTRACT

*Read the PHS Choir Handbook and this contract in its entirety BEFORE signing.
The completed contract is a requirement for enrollment in the PHS Choir Program.*

In accepting a position in the PHS Choir Program, I agree to abide by the following provisions:

1. I understand that one of the standard PHS Choir classes must fit into my daily class schedule (Women's Chorus, Chorale, A Cappella, Women's Select, or Jazz Singers).
2. I understand attendance at all rehearsals (whether during or outside the school day) are mandatory.
3. I understand all concerts (Fall, Holiday, Mid-Winter, Contest, and Spring) are graded and mandatory.
4. I understand that all additional community performances are mandatory.
5. I agree to respect my fellow choir members, choreographers, student leaders, and the directors. Showing respect includes not only my behavior at rehearsals/performances, but also learning music and/or choreography by due dates and being prompt to rehearsals. Failure to show respect to others involved in the choir program will result in my replacement and may influence future audition decisions.
6. I understand that when personnel and vocal/dance solo performance decisions are made, the directors will take into account prior rehearsal etiquette, prior concert/performance attendance, and director recommendations.
7. I agree to submit a uniform fee of \$40.00 to Perrysburg Vocal Music Boosters in order to offset uniform cleaning, alterations, and general upkeep of the uniforms. (Applicable only to Women's Chorus, Symphonic Chorale, and A Cappella Choir) I also agree to purchase the PHS Choirs t-shirt.
8. I understand that I am financially responsible for any lost or damaged uniform items that I have been issued or purchased.
9. I understand that I am responsible for providing my own performance footwear. Men need black dress shoes and socks. Women in Chorale, A Cappella, and Women's Chorus need black flats, while women in show choirs need nude colored t-strap character shoes. Women in Chorale, A Cappella, and Women's Chorus must wear black tights or knee highs. Women in show choirs must wear nude dance tights and black briefs.
10. I understand that the PHS Choir Handbook is in effect at all times throughout the year. I agree to abide by the policies, procedures, expectations, and rules set forth in the PHS Choir Handbook at all times.
11. I am aware that my participation in these ensembles are covered by the regulations of the PHS Student Code of Conduct.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____