

Troy Buchanan High School Choirs

Freshman Choir

Women's Intermediate Choir

Concert Choir

Chamber Choir (Dodeca)

Handbook 2016-2017

Troy Buchanan High School

Choral Department

Troy, MO

Welcome to the TBHS Choirs! It is with great excitement and anticipation that we greet you at the beginning of this school year! As we reflect on the many outstanding experiences from last year, let us look forward together to many new and exciting things during this school year.

The purposes of the choir of which you are now a member:

1. To expand and increase your knowledge and use of vocal technique and tone production
2. To increase your knowledge in the realm of choral literature, its background, its preparation, and its performance
3. To advance in your facility in sight singing
4. To build and mold your choir into an outstanding choral group in performance
5. To help you develop maturity, responsibility, and teamwork skills
6. To help you develop lifelong friendships and social skills

If you are willing to put forth your time, talents, abilities, and efforts, the possibilities of performance with your choir are virtually limitless. **The limitations depend on your desire, determination, drive, dedication, and self-discipline.** We will take you as far as you will go musically. What you derive from your membership in this choir in the way of comradeship, musical knowledge, and musical and social experiences is directly proportionate to the talent and enthusiasm you pour into it.

As long as you are a member of any TBHS choir, your fellow members and we, your directors, will *expect* you to act as a **mature** high school young adult as befits a member of a TBHS choir.

As a member of a TBHS choir, you will be graded according to the following criteria: **ability, achievement, attitude, and attendance.**

TBHS choirs have a reputation of excellence both musically and in the attitude of their members. **It is up to you to be an example of what TBHS represents.** Your choir has no limit to the things that can be accomplished. TBHS has an enviable reputation that is continually growing on all levels: local, state, and national. **How can you help TBHS continue this reputation?** Each member of this choir *must* put forth the extra effort to be prepared musically and to add your personal drive to help your choir to even greater heights!

We look forward to working with all of you!

Traditional Choral Staff 2016-17

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Choral Department Course Offerings

Concert Choir: Grades 10-12. 1 unit of credit. **Prerequisites: Audition only and permission of instructor.** This course will focus on the performance of four-part mixed-voice music literature in various styles. The class will also study basic music fundamentals, such as note values, time signatures, pitch memory, sight reading, scales, key signatures, intervals, etc. All music will be memorized, and there will be at least four public performances per year. This choir will also perform at the Missouri State Music Festival during the spring semester. **Attendance and performance in all concerts is required. Extra rehearsal time outside of school may be required in order to bring performances to a quality level. Fee: \$20.00 garment fee**

Freshman Men's Choir: Grade 9. 1 unit of credit. **Prerequisites: Audition and permission of instructor.** This is the men's section of the freshman choir. While both the men and women's sections meet separately, both choirs will rehearse the same music and join to become one choir for the performance. Each choir may also rehearse at least one piece of music to perform separately. The music literature will be three and four part in various musical styles. The class will also study basic music fundamentals, such as note values, time signatures, pitch memory, sight reading, scales, key signatures, intervals, etc. All music will be memorized, and there will be at least four public performances per year. **Attendance and performance in all concerts is required. Extra rehearsal time outside of school may be required in order to bring performances to a quality level. Fee: \$20.00 garment fee**

Freshman Women's Choir: Grade 9. 1 unit of credit. **Prerequisites: Audition and permission of instructor.** This is the women's section of the freshman choir. While both the men and women's sections meet separately, both choirs will rehearse the same music and join to become one choir for the performance. Each choir may also rehearse at least one piece of music to perform separately. The music literature will be three and four part in various musical styles. The class will also study basic music fundamentals, such as note values, time signatures, pitch memory, sight reading, scales, key signatures, intervals, etc. All music will be memorized, and there will be at least four public performances per year. **Attendance and performance in all concerts is required. Extra rehearsal time outside of school may be required in order to bring performances to a quality level. Fee: \$20.00 garment fee**

Intermediate Women's Concert Choir: Grades 10-12. 1 unit of credit. **Prerequisites: Audition and permission of instructor.** This course will focus on the performance of three part music literature in various musical styles. The class will also study basic music fundamentals, such as note values, time signatures, pitch memory, sight reading, scales, key signatures, intervals, etc. All music will be memorized, and there will be at least four public performances per year. **Attendance and performance in all concerts is required. Extra rehearsal time outside of school may be required in order to bring performances to a quality level. Fee: \$20.00 garment fee**

Chamber Choir (A Cappella Women/Men): Grades 10-12. 1 unit of credit. **Prerequisites: Audition only and permission of instructor.** This course will focus on the performance of four-part mixed-voice music literature in various styles. The class will also study basic music fundamentals, such as note values, time signatures, pitch memory, sight reading, scales, key signatures, intervals, etc. All music will be memorized, and there will be at least four public performances per year. This choir will also perform at the Missouri State Music Festival during the spring semester. **Attendance and performance in all concerts is required. Extra rehearsal time outside of school may be required in order to bring performances to a quality level. Fee: \$20.00 garment fee**

Other Vocal Music Opportunities

Students may elect to and be eligible to participate in the following activities:

- Musical:
 - Auditions: September 23-24 @ Bonfils Auditorium 3:00-5:00
- Northeast All-District Choir
 - Sign-up sheets will be posted at the beginning of 1st Semester
- Missouri All-State Choir
- SWACDA Honor Choirs
 - Sign-up sheets will be posted during 1st Semester
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
 - Sign-up sheets will be posted at the end of 1st Semester

- Miscellaneous concerts and music events

Choir Philosophy

The philosophy of the choral department is to provide its students with many opportunities for creativity, self-expression, and intellectual growth through the study of music and performance. These experiences allow aesthetic development, as well as an appreciation of music and the arts at the highest level possible through musical experience.

Choral Objectives

- To expand and increase student knowledge and use of vocal technique and tone production
- To increase student knowledge in the realm of choral literature, its background, its preparation, and its performance
- To advance student facility in sight singing and ear training
- To reinforce and increase student knowledge of basic music fundamentals
- To develop excellence in music understanding and performance
- To assist student development in maturity, responsibility, commitment, courtesy, creativity, punctuality, personal discipline, and teamwork skills
- To develop lifelong friendships and social skills

Students will be expected to participate in the following:

- Daily work and rehearsals
- Completing all assignments and exams
- Out of school preparation and practice
- Sectional rehearsals as deemed necessary by the director
- Out of school rehearsals as preparation for performance
- Out of school performances

Classroom Rules

1. **Attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances (during and after school) is MANDATORY.** Every person is a valuable link in the music process! Failure to show up at a performance will result in a lowered grade.
2. All choir members will have an assigned folder. It is your responsibility to have all music and a pencil in your folder at each rehearsal.
3. To be allowed to participate in the concerts, the \$20.00 garment fee must be paid and the required dress code must be met.
4. The choirs often travel off school grounds. If a choir student is found disobeying any school policy while on a field trip or at a concert, school policy shall be enforced.
5. No gum, candy, soda, or other food will be allowed in the choir room or the choir office. You may not bring food from the cafeteria. Water is allowed.
6. Swearing and other use of inappropriate language will not be tolerated. We need to uphold the choir as one of the finest groups in the school. Uphold the professional reputation that you have helped established.
7. As per school policy, no cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, and other electronic devices are allowed. Keep all electronic devices out of sight.
8. School equipment such as amps, drums, synthesizers, stereos, etc. is not to be used by students without permission from directors.
9. Be respectful, helpful, and polite to everyone in choir. We all need to work together and act as a group. If there is a problem, inform the directors.
10. Being in choir is a privilege – treat it as such!
11. Remember that the choirs represent our school and our music program. We are ambassadors with a mission of music. Always conduct yourself in an appropriate manner and take pride in being part of the TBHS Choral Program.

Concert Attire

All students are required to wear the following items as described below. Failure to meet the appropriate dress code will result in the student not being able to perform in the choir concert.

- Intermediate Choir, Women's Choir, or Freshman Choir

- Men must wear white long-sleeved collared dress shirt, dark-colored tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes. No tennis shoes or jeans allowed. (*Items must be purchased on own.*)
- Women must wear school-appropriated dress or skirt (length of dress or skirt should not exceed length of robe), nude hose, black-heeled pumps (closed-toe, closed-heel dress shoe). No jewelry allowed. (*Items must be purchased on own.*)
- All choir members will be issued a robe and stole to be worn over the above dress code during the concerts. Students must wear the robe number issued to them and will also have to share their robe with a student from another choir.
- Concert Choir
 - Concert Choir Men
 - Must wear black socks and black dress shoes. No tennis shoes allowed.
 - Will be issued tuxedo pants, tuxedo jacket, tuxedo shirt, button covers, cummerbund, bow tie, and garment bag. Students are responsible for all items. Any damage or loss of items may result in additional charges.
 - Concert Choir Women
 - Must wear nude hose and black-heeled pumps (closed-toe, closed-heel dress shoe). *Note: women may be required to purchase the same shoe*
 - Will be issued a concert dress, necklace, bracelet, earrings, and garment bag. No additional jewelry may be worn. Students are responsible for all items. Any damage to loss of items may result in additional charges.
- Chamber Choir attire is yet to be determined.

Fees

All students enrolled in Concert Choir, Intermediate Choir, Women's Choir, or Freshman Choir are required to pay a \$20.00 garment fee. The fee is used for robe cleaning and repairs, as well as concert garment cleaning and alterations. The garment fee is due before the first concert. Students who do not pay the fee without notifying the director's of extenuating circumstances will not be issued a robe or concert garment and therefore will not be allowed to participate in the concert. An alternative assignment will be given in lieu of the concert performance grade.

Fund Raisers

Each year, Encore Music Boosters undertakes fundraising events to supplement the department budget. This money goes directly to the students for festival fees, travel expenses, scholarships, and equipment. It is imperative that every student participates.

Awards

- American Choral Director's Award: awarded to the top two seniors who have accumulated the highest number of points during their four years of high school
- American School Choral Award: awarded to the two seniors who have accumulated the third and fourth highest number of points during their four years of high school
- Encore Senior Scholarship: awarded to the two senior recipients of the American Choral Director's Award

Choir Trips

On all choir trips, school rules apply. Chaperones are to be treated with respect, and any infraction of rules in this regard will be dealt with as if the incident occurred with a faculty member. **Choir trips are a privilege, not a right! Disciplinary problems may result in loss of travel privileges.**

Grading System

Grades will be based upon the following criteria:

- Rehearsal Participation (Attitude & Musicianship): 5 points per day (Appx. 200 per quarter)
 - Rehearsals during school and after school hours are required
 - Note: Grades will not be based upon which voices are “better” – rather, it will be on how each individual student progresses within their own personal voice.
 - Excused absences will be exempt from the daily participation points
 - Unexcused absences will receive 0 points per rehearsal
- Signed handbook form – 50 points per quarter
 - **Signed form is due Friday, August 19th, 2016**
 - Once form is turned in, student automatically receive points for each quarter
 - If the form is not turned in, student will receive 0 points for each quarter
- Attendance at all performances – 100 points per concert performance
 - All performances are required (see dates for each choir below)
 - Tardiness to rehearsals or performances will result a 10 point deduction
 - Student must remain for the entire concert, not just his/her portion of the concert
 - Leaving early from a concert will result in a 20 point deduction
 - Absences
 - Directors must notified of any absence by you or your parents *before* the performance
 - An absence from a performance without prior notification is considered unexcused
 - Unexcused absences include but are not limited to work, babysitting, watching siblings, lack of transportation, OSS, etc.
 - Unexcused absences also include any absence in which the directors were not notified *prior to* the performance
 - Excused absences must be discussed with the directors *prior to* the performance
 - Excused absences: extreme illness (with doctor’s note or permission of director), death in the family, ISS, sports game, etc.
 - Alternative Assignment
 - School-Sponsored Sporting Game Conflict
 - Students must make all possible attempts to arrive at the concert as soon as possible and remain for the remainder of the concert(s). Students present at the conclusion of the final concert segment will receive full credit.
 - If students miss the concert completely, choose one of the following:
 - Record yourself singing your part for all concert pieces
 - Attend another school concert (in which you are not performing) & turn in a program signed by the director
 - Sports practices are not excused
 - Excused Absence (notified director prior to performance)
 - Sing your part memorized with accompanist upon return.
 - Grade will be assessed based on the accuracy of your performance recording; each incorrect note and/or rhythm will deduct points
 - Unexcused Absence
 - Sing your part memorized with accompanist upon return.
 - Grade will be assessed based on the accuracy of your performance; each incorrect note and/or rhythm will deduct points and student will receive half credit.
 - Other assignments may be assigned as deemed necessary by the directors

***Grading system and point values are subject to change at directors’ discretion.

Required Rehearsals & Performances (not during the school day)

Please see attached Department Calendar

Note: Dates and time are subject to change. Additional rehearsals or performances may be added if necessary. Students will be notified in advance of any changes. All updates will be posted online at www.troymusic.com

Choir Officers

President: The president is responsible for taking attendance at concerts and during rehearsals. The president will also oversee the organization of music for their choir. Music organization duties include: filing any music left on pianos or risers into the music rack, overseeing the emptying of folders after each concert, filing original music in the music library after each concert, and discarding photocopied music after each concert. The president will also be responsible for writing thank-you cards as needed throughout the year.

Vice President: The vice-president will oversee the president's duties when the president is absent. The vice-president will also assist the president in taking attendance. The vice-president is responsible for overseeing robe personnel. This job is **EXTREMELY** important since we have thousands of dollars worth of equipment and robes. After each concert, the vice-president is responsible for making sure all robes are put away properly and that all robes have been returned.

Robe Personnel: Robe personnel will assist the vice-president in keeping the robes clean and organized. Robe personnel will have to arrive early to each concert and help issue robes to students. After each concert, the robe personnel will need to make sure all robes are returned, hung properly, hung in order, and returned to the storage room. We must take care of all our equipment!

Section Leaders: The directors will appoint section leaders for each choir. Section leaders are responsible for overseeing the musical aspects of their section, as well as helping other students in their section. Any musical or non-music related problems within their section should be reported to the directors. Section leaders are also responsible for making sure that all members of their section have their music and a pencil at each rehearsal. They are to report any unprepared students to the directors.

Letter System

Choir letters are awarded to students to accumulate a total 150 points. A bar is awarded for each additional 150 points accumulated. Points are cumulative from year to year and may be earned within the areas specified below.

Concert Choir Member	25 (max.)
Intermediate Choir Member	25 (max.)
Women's Choir Member	25 (max.)
Freshman Choir Member	25 (max.)
Express Show Choir Member	55
Soundwave Show Choir Member	55
Show Choir Crew (for both groups)	55
Show Choir Band (for both groups)	75
Show Choir Member & Band/Crew	110
Dodecaphonics/Chamber Choir	25
All-District Choir Member	20
All-State Choir Member	20
All-State Show Choir Member	20
SWACDA/ACDA Honor Choir Member	20
European Honor Choir	20
Summer Camp: Choir or Show Choir	20
District Contest Solo/Ensemble Rating I	15 (per event)
District Contest Solo/Ensemble Rating II	10 (per event)
District Contest Solo/Ensemble Rating III	5 (per event)
State Contest Solo/Ensemble Rating I	15 (per event)
State Contest Solo/Ensemble Rating II	10 (per event)
State Contest Solo/Ensemble Rating III	5 (per event)
Choir Officer	10-20 points (depending on work load)
Student Choreographer	25 (max.)
Student Arranger	25 (max.)
Student Accompanist	25 (max.)
Musical Cast, Crew, Pit	25-75 (depending upon role)

*Point values and categories are subject to change and are awarded at the discretion of the directors.

Touring Code of Conduct

General Rules:

1. Through the trip, **be prompt**. Keep track of time.
2. Absolutely no possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, tobacco, or illegal substances at any time
3. No Public Displays of Affection (PDA)
4. Keep track of valuables, especially wallets and purses. *You* are responsible for them.

Travel Rules:

1. Carry your own luggage
2. Be in your assigned seats for roll call at departures
3. Be considerate of your companions on the bus: bring headphones for iPods or mp3 players or recreation items (books, magazines, etc.) if desired
4. Be pleasant and courteous
5. Respect your chaperones
6. Once assigned to a bus, do not change before or during the trip
7. Do not leave the bus at any time without permission from the director or chaperones
8. Do not use the back door for entering or exiting the bus.
9. Do not extend or throw anything out of the windows
10. When departing the bus, any and all trash should be placed in the trash receptacle. Damage to the bus may result in additional charges.
11. Remain in your seats while the bus is in transit **and** also upon arrival until further directions
12. Food and/or drinks are only brought on the trip if agreed upon in advance with the directors
13. Remember that individual students are responsible for their own equipment & personal items
14. Written request from a parent or guardian must be brought to the director prior to leaving on the trip if you wish to ride home with an adult who is not your parent or legal guardian

Performance/Rehearsal Rules:

1. Come prepared to do your best
2. Respect the facilities
3. Respect the directors
4. Respect each other
5. Respect students from other schools
6. Respect performances of other groups
7. Listen to instructions
8. **Do your best!**

Lodging Rules

1. No boys in girls' rooms or vice versa after room check or with the door closed. Until room check, you may gather in each other's rooms as long as the door remains open and you remain respectful of other guests.
2. Room checks **will** be made and parents will monitor halls throughout the night.
3. Do not make unnecessary noise. No horseplay or pranks. Others may be staying in the hotel.
4. Do not use room phones to make local or long distance calls. All people in a room will be responsible for paying their phone charges or any other charges they incur before departure.
5. Do not take "souvenirs" from the hotel
6. Be considerate of your roommates and other hotel guests
7. Be certain your room is locked when leaving (usually the locks are automatic)
8. Avoid the use of room service; it is **very** expensive
9. Any damage or missing items may result in additional charges
10. Curfew means **in your room for the rest of the night**

City/Tourist Attractions/Public Rules:

1. Use good common sense and act with maturity and responsibility
2. Do not be loud or in any other way distracting
3. No horseplay
4. Always travel in assigned groups
5. Always be professional and remember you are representing your school, choir, and community.
6. Use good common sense. You are an ambassador of TBHS. TBHS students have always received compliments for their attitude and behavior on choir trips.

ALL SCHOOL RULES AND POLICIES APPLY AND WILL BE ENFORCED!

**Troy Buchanan High School
Choral Department
Troy, MO**

I, _____, have read and understand the responsibilities set forth in the choral handbook and agree to pay the \$20.00 garment fee by October, 19th 2016

Checks should be made payable to Lincoln Co. R-3.

No Cash can be accepted!!!

All payments must be turned into the locked boxes at NGC, TBHS, and Bonfils choral offices.

Signed _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Parent's Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Signed handbook form due August 19th, 2016.
\$20.00 garment fee due October 19th, 2016.