



U-High Chorus Calendar 2024-25

Required Performances:

- Friday, **September 20**: Homecoming Football Game (*Concert Choir only*)
- Sunday, **October 13**: Illinois State University Treble Choir Concert 6:00 PM (*Concert Choir Only*)
 - Warm-Up at 5:00 PM in the ISU CPA
- Thursday, **October 24**: Fall Chorus and Orchestra Concert, 7:00 PM
- Monday, **December 16**: Holiday Chorus Concert, 7 PM
- Thursday, **February 20**: Winter Chorus Concert, 7:30 PM
 - Yearbook photos will be taken prior to the Winter Concert, starting at 6pm*
- Tuesday, **May 6**: Spring Chorus Concert and Awards Night, 7 PM
 - There will be a required Spring Concert Rehearsal at UHS on **Monday, May 5**, 6-9 PM

Other Dates (Optional or Co-Curricular):

- UHS Fall Co-Curricular Ensembles
 - Madrigal Singers & Court Singers
 - Dinners will be on Saturday, **November 30** & Sunday, **December 1**
 - A Cappella Ensembles
 - Fall A Cappella night- Date TBD
- ILMEA Choral Ensembles
 - ILMEA Auditions will be held virtually this year
 - Sat., Nov. 2 – ILMEA District Jazz Festival at Olivet Nazarene University
 - Sat., Nov. 9 – ILMEA Concert Festival at Olivet Nazarene University
 - Thurs.- Sat., Jan. 30- Feb 1 – ILMEA All-State Festival in Peoria
(*Students are selected for the ILMEA District and State ensembles based on their virtual auditions*)
- IHSA Solo & Ensemble Contest – Sat., March 8 at NCHS
- Spring Break Trip- New Orleans!
- UHS Spring Co-Curricular Jazz Choir
 - Auditions in January
 - Thursday, March 6 – U-High Jazz Night
- UHS Spring Musical – Fri.-Sun., April 11-13

Fund-Raisers

All funds raised will be applied to individual student travel accounts.

Previous trips have included New York, Orlando, New Orleans, Toronto and Boston. The choirs have traveled every other year, with plans to travel again in spring of 2025. All fund raising and travel is optional, and is not part of the students' choir grade or requirements.

U-High Chorus Syllabus and Grading Policy

We will be doing the following:

Developing vocal technique and performance skills through Choral Music
Developing music reading skills through Choral Music
Developing music Sight Reading skills through vocal music
Listening, Responding, and Analyzing music, with a focus on Choral Music

In addition to classroom instruction, we will be using the following platforms:

Sight Reading Factory
Musictheory.net
Google Classroom

Students will be assessed on:

- I. Rehearsal Participation and Etiquette
- II. Performance Participation and Etiquette
- III. Performance Skill Development
- IV. Music Reading Skill Development

I. Rehearsal Participation, Etiquette and Responsibility

Based on the following expectations:

- Arrive to class on time, sit immediately in your assigned seat in order to begin promptly.
- Bring your music and a *pencil* every day.
- *Actively* participate in all class activities.
- Sing with energy and good posture. (If you have a *very* sore throat or are unable to sing, you must let me know *before* class begins. You will then follow the rehearsal, but do mental practice.)
- Always keep focused on the music and the rehearsal
- When other sections are rehearsing, stay quiet, notice what is being rehearsed, and do mental practice on your own part.
- **Always make sure you are doing something to *help* the rehearsal process.**
- Take responsibility for learning your music.
- At any time, you may schedule individual practices outside of class with Mr. Provis
- Take responsibility for following dynamic markings, phrasing, etc. to the best of your ability.
- Be attentive to the director, including guest/student directors, with your eyes and ears.
- Show respect to other students, director and all materials/equipment belonging to the U-High Music Department and its members.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude toward the choir and its activities. Remember, this is an *elective*.
- Do not chew gum, or bring food or drink in the rehearsal room. (Water is OK)
- Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and completely out of sight in the rehearsal room, unless being used for a group activity.
- Give your best to make this chorus an outstanding ensemble that we can all be proud of!
- Because this is a performance based ensemble, your attendance is extremely important.

II. Performance Participation and Etiquette

Attendance at all performances is required

Required Performances:

- Friday, September 20 – Homecoming Football Game – **Concert Choir Only**
- Sunday, October 13: Illinois State University Treble Choir Concert 6:00 PM (Concert Choir Only)
 - Warm-Up at 5:00 PM in the ISU CPA
 - We have also been invited to attend ISU’s performance of Mozart’s Requiem at 3PM that day- more details to follow.
- Thursday, October 24 – Fall Chorus and Orchestra Concert, 7:00 PM
- Monday, December 16 – Holiday Chorus Concert, 7 PM
- Thursday, February 20 – Winter Chorus Concert, 7:30 PM
Yearbook photos will be taken prior to the Winter Concert, starting @ 6 PM
- Tuesday, May 6 – Spring Chorus Concert & Awards Night, 7 PM
 - There will be a required Spring Concert rehearsal at UHS Monday, May 5, 6-9 PM

Excused Absences will require a make-up assignment that will consist of both writing and performing

- Illness – Please contact me (309-438-8052, djprovi@ilstu.edu), or via remind *prior* to the event.
- Conflicting *school* activity or *major* family event (i.e. wedding) – please notify me at least a month prior to the event.
- UHS Athletic Events – Because choir is a curricular activity, students may not miss a concert because of an extra-curricular *practice*. In the case of an actual game or meet that conflicts with a concert, Mr. Provis and the coaches will work together to find a solution that is best for the student, team and choir. If a student should miss a concert for a U-High athletic event, the absence will be excused, and the student will be required to complete a make-up assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to notify coaches and Mr. Provis immediately of any conflicts with games and concerts so that we may find solutions as soon as possible.
- PLEASE make note of all concert dates immediately and try to avoid conflicts. Our group is not the same without you!

Unexcused Absences will receive *no credit*

- Unexcused absences include work, transportation conflicts, birthdays, *most non-school activities*.
- An unexcused absence will result in the student’s quarter grade being lowered significantly
- *Make-up assignments will not be given for unexcused absences.*
- Please put all concert dates on your calendar!

Student’s performance assessment will be based upon:

- Arriving on time
- Being dressed appropriately (see concert dress)
- Being focused and attentive during warm-up and performance
- Actual concert performance (demonstration of skills and techniques rehearsed)
- Being a supportive audience for other concert participants by demonstrating proper concert etiquette
- Caring for robe and/or equipment and materials properly

Concert Dress – Chorus I

Option 1 – Black Dress Pants (no jeans), Black Socks, Black Dress Shoes (no athletic shoes or sandals), White long-sleeved button-down dress shirt, *Solid* black bow tie. Parents should contact Mr. Provis as soon as possible if they are unable to provide a bow tie.

Option 2 – *Solid* black outfit, including shoes, of your choice. Dress up. Black dresses, skirts and blouses, or pants and blouses are all acceptable. No jeans, shorts, flip flops or athletic shoes.

For Example:

Performing Standard 3 would address vocal performance skills and techniques such as Breath Control, Posture, Embouchure and Tone Production

Rehearsal etiquette and participation, including preparedness, responsibility and ensemble contributions, is considered part of Performing Standard 1.

Music Literacy, including Note and Rhythm Reading, Sight Reading, Expression and Interpretation would fall under Performing Standard 2, as well as Responding Standards 1 and 2.

Assessment Scale:

The following scale will be used when evaluating the students' mastery of these standards:

- 5 = Exceeds/Applies
- 4 = Proficient
- 3 = Approaching Standard
- 2 = Significant Gaps
- 1 = Emerging Understanding
- 0 = No Evidence

This scale does *not* correspond with the letter grade and is not averaged into a grade percentage.

The standards are simply a way to specifically communicate students' strengths, as well as areas that may need improvement.

E-learning Expectations:

In the event of an e-learning day due to a necessary school closure, plans for our class period will be posted in google classroom by 9 am. We will follow schedule A. These plans could be asynchronous and the assignment must be completed by 3 pm in order to be marked present, or synchronous and you will be marked present if you join the zoom meeting during our designated class time.

Parents: Please go to the U-High web page and subscribe to the Chorus Parent e-mail list serve in order to receive important information and updates regarding chorus activities. If you subscribed to the list serve last year *and your email address has not changed*, you do not need to re-subscribe. If your address has changed, you will need to subscribe again.

To subscribe:

- On the UHS home page, scroll down and Click on "Chorus" (under "Activities")
- Click on "Parent List Serve" and follow directions on this page.
- Once you have entered your information, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. You must respond to this e-mail to complete the enrollment.

