

Monarch High School Performing Arts Department

CHOIR HANDBOOK



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Director of Choirs

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Welcome to the Monarch High School Choir!

The Monarch High School Choir Program offers students with a diverse selection of choral ensembles and musical experiences. Students participating in choir will learn ensemble and rehearsal skills, vocal pedagogy and techniques, sight-reading, music theory, music history and other musicianship skills. A variety of performance opportunities, including solo and small-ensemble performances, will be provided to students participating in choir. Students will also have the opportunity to attend festivals, tour regionally and domestically, and perform in diverse venues. All students participating in choir are required to participate in Monarch High School Choir Concerts (outside of the school day) as part of the course expectations.

Quick Facts

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[Monarch High School Choir Website](#)

[Monarch High School Instagram Page](#)

[Monarch High School Choirs Google Calendar](#)

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1. Monarch High School Choir Ensembles

Treble Choir

SSA Ensemble

Treble choir is an open ensemble for all treble voices which performs a variety of musical styles and genres. All freshmen treble voices will be placed in Treble Choir, unless an exception is granted by the director.

Concert Choir

SATB Ensemble

This mixed ensemble choir performs standard choral repertoire from all periods, styles and genres. This group will participate in district festivals and workshops throughout the year.

Chamber Choir*

SSAA Ensemble, audition required

This auditioned all-treble voice choir performs upper-level music from all periods, styles and genres. This group often participates in festivals, clinics and workshops throughout the year.

Madrigals*

SATB Ensemble, audition required

This auditioned mixed choir performs advanced music from all periods, styles and genres. This is Monarch's top choral group and frequently performs throughout the school year. This group will participate in festivals, clinics, and conferences throughout the year. Juniors and Seniors participating in this group are strongly encouraged to audition for Colorado All-State Choir.

Chaos

TTBB Ensemble, extracurricular

This tenor/bass group is open to all tenor and bass voices who want to sing a variety of popular and fun favorites! Attendance at all concerts and rehearsals is mandatory for participation in this ensemble.

**Chaos will hold virtual rehearsals on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month during Phase 1 learning.*

Apollo*

SATB Group, audition required

This is an auditioned mixed group of 12-16 singers that performs choral music (accompanied and unaccompanied) of all styles and genres focusing on music that is best suited for small ensembles. Attendance at all concerts and rehearsals is mandatory for participation in this ensemble. Apollo rehearses during 0 hour before school.

**Starred ensembles are eligible for Concurrent Enrollment Credit through Front Range Community College.*

2. Course Objectives & Standards

All Monarch Choirs aim to provide students with a comprehensive music education. Students will receive daily instruction in music literacy and sight-singing, vocal health and tone production, choral literature, styles of music, and music history. All content is aligned with the BVSD Curriculum Essentials Documents and Colorado State Standards for Music.

Click this link for the [BVSD Curriculum Essentials Documents](#).

Click this link for the [Colorado State Standards in Music](#).

BVSD Board Policy

Teaching About Religion and School Programs

The Boulder Valley School District endorses the study of religion in an objective, respectful, and cross-cultural manner and the study of the American tradition of religious liberty as an integral part of the educational program. It is essential that the teaching about and not of religion be conducted in an open, objective, and respectful manner and be timed to fit the educational objectives. Such studies should never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs.

The inclusion of religious music, symbols, art, or writings in school programs, performances, and celebrations may be permitted if the religious content has an independent educational purpose that contributes to the stated objectives of the approved curriculum, including exposure to and understanding of many cultures and religious expressions. Intent, effect, and timing should be considered when planning school performances and activities.

Official school groups will not perform at events of religious worship.

Information on our planned course of instruction and instructional materials will be kept in Schoology. Please review this resource regularly to stay up to date on repertoire and class content.

3. Behavior Expectations

All choir students are expected to abide by the expectations and guidelines established in the Monarch High School Student Handbook. In addition, students are expected to follow all BVSD guidelines for nondiscrimination. Violation of these policies will result in disciplinary action and/or conference with the student's parent(s) to resolve behavior issues.

4. Care of Equipment and Music

Music will be provided to all students in folders with an assigned folder number. Each student will maintain and utilize their own folder. For your own protection, never leave anything not related to choir in your folder. Fines may be assessed for:

- torn music (cost of replacement);
- any marking not made with pencil (cost of replacement);
- folded, rolled or stained music (cost of replacement);

- missing, lost or stolen music (a non-negotiable fine of \$25 will automatically be charged if a folder is lost and music not turned in; or the cost of replacement of music if the folder is returned empty).

5. Daily Rehearsal Expectations

In order to ensure a supportive, successful and positive learning environment, all students are expected to:

In-Person Expectations

- Be on time to class. We will begin instruction promptly at the bell.
- Be prepared: bring a pencil and your music folder
- Manage technology appropriately. Cell phones should be off and away unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Students may store their cell phones in their choir folder slot.
- **No food or gum** is allowed in rehearsal or performance.
- Give your best effort

6. Choir Fees*

The Choir Fee helps to offset the cost of music scores and rentals, accompanists, equipment, instruments and instrumentalists, transportation and festival fees, and instructional supplies. The BVSD Approved Fee total for choir is **\$10.**

Choir fees should be paid by check (payable to Monarch High School) or via Revtrak at the beginning of the academic school year. Fees for optional activities, as well as choir donations can be paid through RevTrak.

7. Choir Retreat

All singers in Madrigals and Chamber Choir are expected to participate in the Fall Retreat, if scheduled. Retreat dates will be communicated at the beginning of the academic year as part of the full choir calendar.

8. Concert Attire/Uniforms

Concert attire should be professional and polished. In order to meet the comfort and needs of all singers, Concert Black will be the standard expectation for all ensembles. All students are responsible for obtaining their own attire for performances. Assistance is available for families in need. Concert Black must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Shoulders, chest, and knees must be fully covered.
- No skin should be visible from the waist down. If a singer is wearing a skirt or dress, black, opaque tights must be worn.
- No athletic gear of any kind may be worn (this includes leggings and sneakers)
- No glitter or sequins are permitted
- Jewelry should be minimal and not reflective. White, gold or silver only.
- All singers are expected to wear closed-toe black shoes and black socks (when

appropriate)

****At the director's discretion, students that do not meet the expectations for professional dress may be prohibited from performing****

9. Concert and Dress Rehearsal Attendance

Performance Attendance Policy

All music students are expected to participate in evening concerts and dress rehearsals. ***Missed dress rehearsals or performances will result in the loss of points, negatively impacting a student's grade.*** Students are provided with a list of required dates at the beginning of each academic year and expected to communicate any known conflicts with their director by no later than September 1st so that solutions can be determined.

Excused Absences

Absences will only be excused in extreme or extenuating circumstances and must be communicated to the director as soon as possible. Any known conflict communicated with less than two weeks notice will be considered an unexcused absence. This includes conflicts for sports and other activities. In the event that a student misses a dress rehearsal or concert due to illness, a doctor's note must be provided to the director. Absences will be determined as excused or unexcused by the director based on the guidelines outlined here.

Make-Up Assignment

If an absence is determined to be excused, the student must attend a live classical or school music performance and complete a review of the performance. Sample concerts students can attend include performances at other BVSD schools, performances at CU Boulder, community choir or orchestra concerts, and Colorado Symphony Concerts. Many of these provide free and/or discounted tickets to students. Popular Music concerts are not eligible for the concert make-up assignment; however students enrolled in Jazz ensembles may attend jazz performances. To complete the assignment, students must:

1. Attend the concert
2. Write a one-page (500 word minimum) review of the concert. The review should include an analysis of the literature performed, performance by the musicians, and personal reflections on what was learned by watching a live ensemble perform.
3. Submit a copy of the program to their director.

The make-up assignment must be submitted by the final day of the nearest progress report or grading period in order to be included in a students' grade calculation.

Places to look for concerts to attend:

- <https://coloradosymphony.org/>
- <https://cupresents.org/>
- <https://museperformancespace.com/#/events>
- <https://nissis.com/>
- <https://bouldersymphony.org/>
- <https://boulderchorale.org/>
- Other BVSD elementary, middle and high schools
- <https://www.coalcreekmusic.com/>

Unexcused Absences

If a student has not communicated an absence within a sufficient time frame or the reason for the absence is determined by the director to be unexcused, the student will receive a zero for the rehearsal and/or performance grade. This will negatively impact the student's overall grade in the course.

10. Lettering

Lettering in choir requires students go above and beyond the daily expectations of choir. Students can earn points toward lettering through leadership, participation in honor and all-state choirs, participation in the musical, Tri-M, and private voice study, among other things. Students will be provided with the Lettering Points Sheet at the beginning of the academic year.

[Choir Lettering Sheet](#)

11. All-State Choir & Honor Choirs

Colorado All-State Choir is an opportunity for *juniors and seniors* to audition for a three-day festival and concert with select high school singers from across Colorado. It is strongly encouraged that all junior and senior students in Madrigals participate in All-State auditions.

Resources will be provided in class to prepare for All-State auditions; however, students are strongly encouraged to seek private instruction to prepare for auditions. More than 3,000 students audition for Colorado All State each year, and roughly 500 are selected to participate. Full information about auditions, schedules, fees, and requirements can be found on the Colorado All State Website: www.aschoir.com

Additional honor choir opportunities will be communicated to families and eligible participants as they become available. Students are highly encouraged to participate in honor choirs and festivals.

12. Communications

Weekly updates are sent every Monday as the "Choir Notes." Choir Notes are sent using School Messenger to the emails listed in Infinite Campus for each choir student. Parents and Singers are expected to read the Choir Notes each week for important announcements, celebrations and updates.

All singers and family members are highly encouraged to subscribe to the Monarch High School Choirs Google Calendar.

13. Parent Involvement and Support

Parent involvement is key to building a successful choir program. All Choir Parents are invited to serve on the Choir Parent Council (CPC). The CPC will meet once per month to discuss choir offerings, fundraising, and concerts, among other topics. A full calendar of CPC meetings will be distributed at the beginning of the academic year.

14. Evaluation/Assessment/Grading

The goal of evaluation and assessment is to support student growth. Students are responsible for contacting the director to make up work if they miss a class. Per school policy, students will have four days to complete missed work.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Class Participation: 10%

- Including Music Returns, Weekly Rehearsal Scores, Attendance at Required Concert Events, and other participation-based class activities and assignments

Literacy and Notation: 40%

- Sight Reading Assignments and practice time, interval identification, dictation, theory quizzes and assignments

Performance: 40%

- Part checks, concert performance and rehearsal, scale and triad quizzes

Listening and Responding: 10%

- Critical Listening assignments, concert reflections, written music critics, aural recall

Grading System

- A 90% or above
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 59% or less

Learning Platforms

In order to ensure the highest level of online instruction possible, the following learning platforms will be used as part of instruction in choir:

- **Schoology**- Schoology is a learning management system maintained by BVSD.
- **Flat.io**- Flat.io is a cloud-based music notation program that allows students to notate and receive assignments in musical notation. It is used with integration through schoology.
- **Sight Reading Factory**- Sight Reading Factory is the best online platform available to help students practice their sight reading skills. Students do need to create their own account to use Sight Reading Factory, and therefore parents are asked to provide consent for students to use this platform.
- **Soundtrap**- Soundtrap is an online music collaboration software that will allow us to record tracks together throughout the school year. This software integrates with students bvsd accounts.

**Other platforms will be used to provide instruction that do not require student accounts.*

Calendar

All Choir rehearsals, events, and concerts are available on the [Monarch High School Choirs Google Calendar](#).

The Choir Dates for 2024-2025 school year can be found here: [2025-2026 Choir Dates](#)