



HILLCREST CHOIRS

Hillcrest Choir Syllabus 2026-2027

Ms. Zoe Vorbach

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208-525-4429

Room 319

Course Outline

The purpose of this course is to gain an understanding of healthy vocal production and fundamentals of music literacy and performance. With a strong emphasis on performance based learning, students will have opportunities to learn about and perform a variety of choral literature. All music included in the curriculum is selected based on its educational content as it relates to vocal production, music literacy, and its place in music history. Many standard choral pieces are settings of religious texts, however, religious ideas are not taught in the classroom. Curriculum and repertoire selection is grounded in district and state music standards.

Classroom Expectations

- Be respectful. This means you will respect adults, classmates, and yourself through your actions and words.
- Arrive to rehearsal/class on time. This means you give yourself enough time to pick up all your music and any other materials you need and are in your assigned seat when the bell rings.
- No food or drink is allowed in the choir room during instructional time. The only exception is water in a closed container or bottle. This includes gum. Chewing gum or eating food during class will lead to loss of daily participation points.
- The choir room will be a red zone for cell phones almost all of the time. Cell phones should be turned into folder slots at the beginning of class and will be used to take attendance.
- If you need to use the bathroom during class, you are expected to sign out with the QR code near the entrance door and leave your phone in the classroom while you are out.

Grading

As musicians, we work to be musically literate, technically proficient, and critical of the music we learn and perform. To meet these goals, you will be graded and observed in three areas:

- Daily Work 50%
 - Students will be assessed on their daily preparation and effort. Daily work also includes assignments such as exit tickets, sightreading, and part checks.
- Performances 35%
 - Each choir performs at least four times per year. Dress rehearsals and performances are summaries of our in-class work.
- Reflective Work 15%
 - Regular reflective assessments will assess personal growth in music literacy and proficiency. Time will be given in class to work on these assignments, but students may need to finish them outside of class as homework.

Make Up Work: Students will have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Vorbach on Mondays to make up work for a daily absence or excused performance absence. Please email Ms. Vorbach with a description of what you missed, and a request to meet on a Monday. It is the student's job to check in with Ms. Vorbach to avoid point deductions. Make up work needs to be completed within one week of the absence.

Daily Participation

You will earn 5 points every day you come to class prepared and you participate fully in rehearsal. You may lose points if you are: absent for an unexcused reason, distracting other students, not appropriately participating, eating or drinking anything other than water, chewing gum, not sitting in your assigned seat, excessive talking, etc. If you feel unable to participate in the day's activities (due to illness, sore throat, etc.) you are expected to communicate with Ms. Vorbach before class begins. A make-up activity may be assigned at the teacher's discretion. Students are allowed a maximum of 5 non-singing days during the trimester unless a doctor's note or parent communication has been provided.

Concerts

Choir is a performance-based class, and concerts are treated like final exams are in other classes. Therefore, concert attendance is **MANDATORY**. If you do not attend the required concerts and dress rehearsals, it will severely affect your grade in this class. Extenuating circumstances such as illnesses and emergencies will be excused, and an alternative summative assignment will be created for students to complete. Call times for singers will be communicated to students and families as the concert approaches. Any anticipated conflicts with concert dates or times should be communicated with Ms. Vorbach as soon as you know about it.

Class Materials

Students are required to provide a .5 inch black binder and pencil as class materials. If financial assistance is required, please reach out to Ms. Vorbach. Music is owned by the Bonneville School District #93 Music Department and checked out via Ms. Vorbach.

Cost

Students will need to acquire their concert attire for the ensemble(s) they are participating in. Details about specific attire are attached. There are a few choir activities that have travel costs associated, such as clinics, festivals, and tour. In general, these activities are optional; however, those who commit to go are responsible for covering their own cost. If there are concerns regarding the costs associated with choir, please reach out to Ms. Vorbach to discuss financial assistance. Financial need will not prohibit a student from participating in a choir event. More information regarding fundraisers and other details will be shared at a later date.

Website/Social Media

Further information about Hillcrest Choirs can be found on our website and social media pages!

Website: hillcrestchoirs.com

Facebook: Hillcrest High School Choirs

Instagram: @hillcrestidahochoirs

Media Release Permission

By signing this syllabus, I grant permission for my child's photograph and/or video to be taken and used on the choir's website and other related social media for promotional and informational purposes. I understand that these images may be viewed publicly and will be used respectfully to showcase choir activities and achievements. If I do not wish for my child's images to be used, I will notify Ms. Vorbach.

Google Classroom Codes

Concert Choir (Men's Chorus/Women's Chorus): 4uqntp66

Jazz Choir: lqtmgmuq

Hillcrest Chorale (Advanced Mixed Choir): spsphgnx

Bella Voce (Advanced Women's Choir): vmjsmuz4

Knight Ringers (Handbell Choir): tobihw6h

Performance Attire

Performance attire for each ensemble is described below. Students are responsible for purchasing their own attire unless otherwise noted. If there are any financial concerns, please reach out to Ms. Vorbach. Further details about ordering will be shared during class.

- Jazz Choir Performance Attire
 - Option 1 - Tux shirt, Tux pants, Red vest (\$35) and bowtie, black dress shoes.
 - Option 2 - Black dress pants, black shoes, red glitter top (\$35).
- Hillcrest Chorale Performance Attire
 - Option 1 - Tuxedo. \$60 for rental for the year. \$40 for one time purchase of cummerbund, white tux shirt, and black bowtie. Black dress shoes, black dress socks.
 - Option 2 - Choir dress, \$60 for purchase. Black flats. No distracting jewelry.
- Bella Voce Performance Attire
 - Option 1 - Choir dress, \$60 for purchase. Black flats. No distracting jewelry.
 - Option 2 - Tuxedo. \$60 for rental for the year. \$40 for one time purchase of cummerbund, white tux shirt, and black bowtie. Black dress shoes, black dress socks.
- Concert Choir Performance Attire
 - Option 1 - Concert Black: All black dressy outfit. Options include: black dress, black shirt and skirt or pants, black flats or black dress shoes with black socks.
 - Option 2 - White shirt, black pants, provided red tie, black dress shoes, black dress socks.

(Cut off this portion to return to school)

I have read and understand the expectations of the Hillcrest High School Choir Program as outlined in the syllabus. I have reviewed and understand the Hillcrest High School Choir calendar of events.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date