



Chorus Handbook

2026-2027

Choral Director: Mrs. Christie

Student Name: _____

Welcome Letter

Dear Parents and Students,

Date: August 26, 2026

I am delighted and honored to enter my fourth year as the Choral Director at Hinesburg Community School. Whether your child has never sung before or they sing all the time, I will aim to create an environment that will help all feel comfortable to experiment with their voice and be expressive in their singing.

As we begin the new school year, this handbook will assist you and your child in various areas. It is intended to provide you with important information regarding the organization and expectations of the HCS Choral Program. Please refer back to it during the school year for clarification and review. Each chorus member has the responsibility of becoming familiar with the policies stated in this handbook, as well as following them throughout the year. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at: cchristie@cvsdvt.org

In Chorus, students will participate in a variety of musical activities. We will strive to develop our musical skills and our voice, as well as studying and appreciating many styles of music. Participation is crucial each day and is a primary learning target.

Performing in a choral ensemble provides students with so much beyond a musical training; students learn cooperation and teamwork, commitment and responsibility, as well as perseverance and self-discipline. Students who participate in a choir are shown to perform better in their studies; they also exhibit improved confidence and self-esteem.

I am excited to begin this school year & I look forward to what it may bring! After both you and your child have become familiar with the policies & expectations included in this handbook, **please fill out the Chorus Enrollment Form by Friday, September 4th.**

Thank you in advance for your involvement & support of our Choral Program at Hinesburg Community School.

Musically Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Courtney Christie".

Courtney Christie

Expectations

Our Choral Philosophy:

“Pride in Excellence!”

We can achieve excellence, when students follow what is expected.

Chorus students will be expected to be:

- **Punctual & Prepared.** Arrive on time, prepared to work and learn.
- **Present.** Attend all rehearsals and performances, unless excused ahead of time.
- **Respectful.** Follow directions the first time.
- **Responsible.** Take responsibility for your actions & your materials.
- **Disciplined.** Try your best by singing and listening appropriately.
- **Open-Minded.** Be willing to try new things.
- **Positive.** Bring a positive attitude & show support to everyone.

***No food, drink, or gum.** (Water is acceptable).

Behavior Consequences

Responsibility to the group is essential to the Hinesburg Community School Choral Program. An individual's behavior can have a major impact on the other members of the Chorus and the safe classroom environment we are trying to achieve.

Consequences for behavioral infractions will be handled on an individual basis and are based on a continuum ranging in severity. The consequence(s) will depend on the severity and frequency. (Steps in the continuum may be skipped based on severity).

HCS Behavioral Continuum:

- Verbal Warning
- Take a Break
- Meet & Plan with Student
- Communication Home
- Parent-Teacher Conference
- Dropping Chorus

Procedures

***5/6 Chorus** will meet TWICE a week on **Wednesdays & Thursdays from 7:50-8:25.**

***7/8 Chorus** will meet TWICE a week on **Tuesdays & Fridays from 7:50-8:25.**

Materials Provided:

- Choral Folder
- Sheet Music
- Pencils

Materials Needed:

- Singing Voice 😊

During rehearsals, all choral students will receive vocal instruction, learn how to read music, work in a choral setting, prepare for performances and explore the many connections between choral literature and the world. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and should be ready to begin at the start of class.

Performance ensembles are unique among classes in that everyone's progress and learning is interdependent on each other; with that being said, every member's **attendance is critical.** For the same reason, we ask that students commit to being in chorus for the duration of the concert season in which they are enrolled.

UPDATE: Consequences for Unexcused Absences!

1. **First unexcused absence:** *Reminder from the director.*
2. **Second unexcused absence:** *Director contacts parent/guardian.*
3. **Third unexcused absence:** *Student will be dropped from the ensemble for the semester. They may rejoin in the next semester if they wish.*

Learning Targets

These are the learning targets I will address and report on.

Shaded portions reflect meeting the learning target.

Participation & Conduct	I am working on participating appropriately in Chorus activities.	With support, I participate appropriately in Chorus activities.	I participate appropriately and respectfully in all Chorus activities.	I participate appropriately in all Chorus activities and show leadership.
Responsibility	I am working on strategies to help me be musically prepared, have essential materials, and arrive at a reasonable time.	With support, I take responsibility by being musically prepared, having essential materials, and arriving at a reasonable time.	I take responsibility by being musically prepared, having essential materials, and arriving at a reasonable time.	I consistently arrive punctually, independently and with all materials. I display leadership.
Analyze	I am working to analyze the structure, intent, and/or context of varied musical works.	I can, with guidance, analyze the structure, intent, and/or context of varied musical works.	I can analyze the structure, intent, and/or context of varied musical works.	I can analyze the structure, intent, and/or context of varied musical works using discipline-specific vocabulary and connecting to prior knowledge.
Reflection	I am working to evaluate and reflect upon performances and/or musical ideas.	I can, with guidance, evaluate and reflect upon performances and/or musical ideas,	I can evaluate and reflect upon performances and/or musical ideas.	I take initiative or show leadership when evaluating and reflecting upon performances and/or musical ideas.

Concerts

Concerts are the opportunity for us to share our learning with you and are in themselves a critical component of being in a performing arts ensemble.

ATTENDANCE AT CONCERTS IS REQUIRED when a student's ensemble is performing.

Please look at the concert schedule below and reserve the dates for these events.

HCS Choral Program - Concert Schedule 26-27:

Winter Concert:

5-8 Choral Groups | Tuesday, January 19th @ 6:30PM | Cafeteria/Flex Space

Spring Concert:

5-8 Choral Groups | Thursday, May 18th @ 6:30PM | Cafeteria/Flex Space

All students are expected to be ready for warm-ups, referred to as CALL TIME, usually 15 minutes prior to the concert. Great concerts require careful warm-up, preparation and focus. Plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to concert time.

CVSD Attendance Policy:

As outlined in the [district policy](#), students are expected to attend school on the day of an evening event. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis with permission by a principal. Please contact Mrs. Christie if an absence is unavoidable.

*Following our Winter Concert, there will be an add/drop period for Chorus **(01/26/27-02/19/27).**

Concert Attire

Singers and choral groups strive to present a complete artistic experience for their audiences. This includes their visual presentation.

Winter Concert:

Theme: light-colored top, dark bottoms

Spring Concert:

Theme: pastel, bright, floral

Notes:

Bottoms: dress pants, skirt

Tops: dress, blouse, collared shirts, tie (optional)

Dress shoes

No writing or logo on clothing

No hats or hoods

Light jewelry is okay

HCS Dress Code:

As outlined in the [school dress code policy](#): "items of clothing **should not display messages that depict, or symbolize, sexual references, drugs/alcohol/tobacco, weapons, harassing references** (targeting based on race, color, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability)...All clothing should **cover the belly or midriff, rear, and chest**, and **should not be transparent** (see-through). Undergarments (not including straps) should also **not be exposed or revealed.**"

**The HCS Chorus Handbook can be
viewed at the following link
(under the Chorus tab):**

<https://sites.google.com/cvsdvt.org/hcs-music-christie?usp=sharing>



**It is highly recommended that you keep
this handbook for reference &
clarification throughout the school year!**