

# Hamilton High School Choirs

2025-2026 School Year



## ACADEMIC GOALS

The HHS choral program is designed to help you:

1. **Become a lifelong music appreciator.**
2. **Develop your voice & skills as a musician to serve you the rest of your life.**
3. **Develop skills as a team member and as a socially responsible person.**
4. **Build knowledge of a variety of choral literature, history & vocabulary.**
5. **Be part of a positive, fun, and memorable musical experience!!**

## **REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS**

**Be on time and prepared.** Do not stop at your locker or socialize in the hallway – you will be late. . All students must be *in their seats* at the beginning of class or will be marked tardy with cell phones put away..

**Consistent and active participation from EVERY VOICE!!** In order for you to improve your singing skills and learn the repertoire, you must practice everyday. *Consistent participation is required from every voice.*

**Respect and support each other.** Rehearse with a sense of class and professionalism. Respect each others' ideas and contributions. Remember, the way you rehearse is the way you will perform.

**Be positive!!** The success of the choir depends on the individual contributions of its members. Positive contributions will advance our musicianship and the choir as a whole.

**No food, candy, gum, or beverages allowed in class or on stage.** Water bottles (with CLEAR WATER ONLY) can be brought to class, but are not allowed on stage.

## **BE AWARE OF THESE THINGS!**

**VOICE LESSONS.** ALL CHOIR MEMBERS are **required to complete at least 1 lesson with Ms. Plamann each semester.** Your first lesson MAY be with other students, but lessons after that will mostly be one-on-one.

- Your lesson will occur in a 20-minute time slot during advisement or prep period, or after school (if necessary). It IS up to you to be responsible for scheduling your lessons. The form for doing this will be shared in class. Check your schedule and **ASK YOUR TEACHERS FOR PERMISSION BEFORE** you sign up! If you must miss, RESCHEDULE ASAP!! If you take private lessons, please share that at your first lesson so we can make adjustments accordingly.
  - o ***If you miss a lesson, you have until the end of the Term to make it up, so be responsible!***

**SECTIONALS:** Due to a large program again this year, we may require a sectional rehearsal during advisement once in a while to make up for lost time. I will let you know in advance so you can plan accordingly.

## PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

**Students are REQUIRED to participate in all performances, including those outside of the school day.** The absence of even one choir member in concert adversely affects the performance and the morale of the choir as a whole. A calendar of events is attached.

- **Conflicts with work-schedules are NOT a valid reason for being absent.** Conflicts with other school activities will be handled on an individual basis. An unexcused absence at a concert may result in a failing grade. Out of respect for your fellow choir members, clear your schedules early to avoid conflicts with choral events!
- If a concert is missed with no prior conversation, the student has **3 days to provide a documented excuse**, otherwise the grade will be a zero.
- Any missed performance (that has been approved) will require a makeup assignment as provided. It is your responsibility to discuss this with me.

**Show professionalism always.** Concert etiquette and decorum are to be taken extremely seriously. Your behavior reflects your peers, your family, your school and your community. When you are onstage and in the audience, you are an ambassador to your school and your choral program – it is a privilege to perform as part of this choir, treat it that way!

**Be dressed in proper concert attire for all concerts.** Your attire is to consist of the following:

- **All Treble Voices** – concert black: dresses, skirts/tops, or dress pants/tops with black tights/pantyhose & black closed-toe dress shoes (NO high heels; avoid white/neon undergarments that may show due to sweetheart neckline)
- **All Bass Voices** – white, button down collared shirt (sometimes with a provided tie), plain black dress pants (NOT black jeans), black socks, ALL BLACK dress shoes.

**ABSOLUTELY NO** athletic shoes, denim pants, ripped clothing, or white socks to be worn in concert by any member of any choir. If you forget your attire or are dressed inappropriately, you will not be allowed to perform and will receive a zero for the concert. PLEASE be conscientious of how you present yourself and responsible for your concert attire.

**\*\*ALL choir students are required to purchase a Polo Shirt for some concerts & field trips: ~\$30**  
**Students have the OPTION to purchase other spirit wear – sweatshirts, T's, baseball shirts etc.**

## MATERIALS NEEDED

Students will be assigned a **FOLDER** with music for this class. If you take your folder home, you are expected to bring it back as you need it every day. Failure to return your folder/music or causing damage to music/folder will cost each student \$25.

**BRING A PENCIL EVERYDAY** The only marks that should appear in the music are with **ERASABLE PENCIL** unless otherwise instructed by your director!

## GRADING

The choir grade is determined from an average of daily rehearsal, written work/skill development, and performance grades.

**Assignments:** You will be required to complete written and online assignments. These assignments will range from vocabulary tests, to journal entries, to sight-reading etc.

## RETAKE POLICY

Students may retake any summative assessment per HHS retake policy, but must make a remediation plan with the teacher which may include some or all of the following:

- Student meets with teacher to go over the original assessment and make corrections
- Student must show that book work is completed for unit

- Student completes additional practice problems until teacher sees that they have mastered the learning targets
- Student attends learning labs

After the student has successfully demonstrated that they have mastered the learning targets, the student is then eligible to retake the assessment for full credit.

## BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

Behaviors that interfere with others' right to learn are considered disruptive. Some examples of disruptions are: talking during class, annoying a neighboring student, **unapproved cell phone use in class**, horseplay, not participating, moving out of assigned seats without permission, back talk and failure to follow instructions.

## CLASSROOM PASS POLICY

**Please plan on filling water bottle, using bathroom, taking care of personal needs, etc before class begins.** If you need to use the bathroom during class, you can take a pass and go. Please be respectful of the shortened time we have together and plan accordingly.

## THE STUDY AND USE OF SACRED CHORAL MUSIC AT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

It is the intent of the Hamilton High School vocal music program to expose our students to the classroom study and performance of the highest caliber of choral literature, whether it to be from a sacred or secular tradition. This class will not, in any way, be an expression of faith or endorsement of any religious belief or doctrine, but a study of **music as a cultural, historical, theoretical, and performance based art**. It is our position that we study both sacred and secular choral literature for its inherent art and value to society throughout the ages; and through its public performance, understand its place and contribution to the aesthetic arts, which continue to inspire and elevate the human spirit in all times and places. Further, it is the goal of this choral music department to annually program a wide variety of sacred and secular works that provide a proper balance and appropriate proportion in our study and performance of choral music.

The classroom study and subsequent performance of sacred choral literature has been approved and protected by a series of decisions rendered by the United States Federal Court of Appeals; specifically in the Eighth Circuit case of *Floury vs. Sioux Falls (South Dakota) School District*, 1978; and in the Tenth Circuit case of *Bauchman vs. West High School (Salt Lake City, Utah)* 1995. These rulings guarantee that the performance of sacred choral music in the public schools does not violate the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, or the First Amendment, which provides for the separation of church and state.

In addition, position statements from two professional music education organizations advance the following: "It is the position of the Music Educators National Conference that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music curriculum. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience."

In selecting sacred choral music for classroom study, "*The Study of Music from A Sacred Tradition*," approved by the American Choral Directors Association, states the following: **"Any work of art, studied or performed, should be selected for its inherent beauty of structure and form...The study of such works of art can enhance one's understanding and appreciation of a cultural product which a particular tradition has fostered. Music should be selected on its own merits as an art form, and as a cultural object for study, which enhance the understanding of the cultural development of a particular movement in human civilization."**

## CONTACT INFORMATION & RESOURCES

- Ms. Plamann can be reached at HHS. She is at TMS in the morning and HHS beginning with 3rd block. **The best way to reach her is by email.**
  - All calendar information, syllabi, FAQs, and other answers to questions can be found on the choir's Google Site – please check it frequently as it will remain updated throughout the year. Link to the choir site is posted on Infinite Campus through your student's account.
  - Contact Info: Ms. Sarah Plamann                      Email: [plamsa@hamilton.k12.wi.us](mailto:plamsa@hamilton.k12.wi.us)
- 

**Parents/Guardians** – if you'd like to help out as chaperones for any trips taken, join the boosters, or be a helper for other events this year, please come to our **booster meetings!**

- **Mandatory Choir Family Meeting Tuesday, September 9th at 6:00 pm in the choir room!**
- Booster Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in Choir Room.
  - ONE HOUR, GUARANTEED!

***We need your help to keep this program strong!***

---