

Homer High School Concert Choir Handbook

The Homer High School Concert Choir has established a reputation for a very high standard of excellence. Each choir member accepts responsibility for striving to maintain and build upon that reputation.

PROFESSIONALISM:

In all activities we will strive to maintain the highest standards of professionalism.

TEAMWORK:

A successful choir must function as a team. To this end always be supportive of each other in our efforts to sing more beautifully.

Work together, help each other, accept responsibilities graciously, and be kind.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS: BE POSITIVE, ATTENTIVE, AND RESPONSIVE (see grading policy below)

CONCERTS:

Attend all after school rehearsals and concerts. These are mandatory.

Come to concerts prepared

Wear appropriate concert attire at all concerts

Exhibit the highest standards of behavior when representing Homer High school in public.

CONCERT ATTIRE:

"SEVENTY PERCENT OF WHAT THE AUDIENCE HEARS IS WHAT IT SEES."

All choir members are required to purchase their own outfit. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.

Men: Tux Pants, Tux Shirt, Tux Jacket, Cummerbund, Button Cover, Black dress shoes / socks)

Women: Formal Choir Dress black dress shoes (prefer flats or low heels).

Both: Do not wear cologne or perfume and keep hair spray to a minimum (fainting singers make the audience uncomfortable).

SPECIAL EVENTS:

MUSICAL: In keeping with past tradition, the HHS Choir will present a full Broadway style musical in March. All students in the choir program will be expected to participate.

HONOR CHOIR: Homer High Students are eligible to audition for the Borough Honor Choir, All-State Honor Choir, and in odd years, the All-Northwest Honor Choir. These are very select groups and participants will have been invited after a rigorous taped audition process. It is a great honor to be in one of these groups and those selected will be expected to prepare the music after school. Students will have to pay their way if selected.

MASS CHOIR: Each February the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District presents a combined choir festival for all the choral students in the district. A guest conductor of world-class caliber is hired and the choirs join together as one. Additionally each choir performs individually and this is an important opportunity to share with each other and show off the fine program we have established here at Homer High. Attendance is required for all eligible students.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL: In the spring, individuals may prepare a classical solo for presentation before a judge at the boro solo/ensemble festival. If they receive a superior rating they become eligible for the state solo/ensemble festival.

AWARDS:

Choir students may earn the following awards:

- 2 yr pin: for two full years of choir participation
- 3 yr guard: for three full years of choir participation
- 4 yr medal: for four full years of choir participation

The "National School Choral Award" is given to the outstanding vocal student in the program. This award is based on performance, awards/honors, attitude, and leadership.

The "Janae Williams Director's Award" goes to the student who displays outstanding attitude and leadership in Swing Choir.

LETTERS:

The Homer High Concert Choir has a letter program to recognize those individuals who make the extra commitment and effort in the program. The criteria for receiving a letter are:

- 1) One full year in the choir program.
- 2) Audition for boro and state honor choirs. Participate if selected.
- 3) Participation in boro solo/ensemble contest
- 4) An average grade of 3.5 for all music classes.
- 5) Attendance at all concerts
- 6) High standards of behavior and professionalism

Two, three, and four-year bars will be awarded for each additional year that the above criteria have been maintained.

To Letter **"WITH HONOR"** You must be selected for any 3 of the following:

Borough Honor Choir, All-State Honor Choir, Superior Rating at Borough or State Solo Contest, Lead Role in the Musical (One with speaking and singing solos), Pops Concert Solo

CLASS FEE:

Class Fee for choir is \$50.00 per year, payable at the beginning of the year. This helps pay for the Festivals, awards, accompanist, equipment, music, and transportation. For new students, buying an outfit, the class fee will be reduced to \$25.00. Outfits will cost \$75.00 for girls and \$85.00 for boys and may be kept for future years. Students may use the Frozen Food fundraiser in the fall to help offset this expense.

GRADES:

Grades are based upon the following criteria:

1) Rehearsal Professionalism: This includes such skills as:

- readiness:** (punctuality, being in proper seat at beginning of rehearsal, gum gone before bell, folder, pencil, etc.)
- focus:** (ability to stay on task, listen to and follow instructions, contribute without disrupting others, marks score,)
- technique:** (proper posture for singing, open mouths, bright eyes, expressive face, watches director)
- attendance:** (being consistently present for rehearsals)

2) Listening Assignments: Choir students are expected to listen to practice tracks (outside of class) every week in preparation for rehearsal. This will be a significant portion of the grade.

3) Performance Professionalism: Students will demonstrate performance professionalism at each concert via the following:

- On time for warm-ups
- Complete/correct concert attire
- Professional demeanor onstage and backstage
- Preparation as demonstrated in performance
- Expressiveness in performance

4) Skill/Knowledge: Students will demonstrate learning through occasional written and performance tests

*As the Homer High School Concert Choir is a performing organization, **performance attendance is mandatory**. Only serious illness or family emergency will be excused with a note from parents. In either case, every effort should be made to notify the director as soon as possible.*