

Bethel Vocal Arts

Choir Syllabus 2019-2020

Mr. Daniel Lucas, Choral Conductor

Lucasd@bethel.k12.ok.us school number (405)273-0385 ext. 7199

Purpose of this class:

This class will teach you how to sing, read music, play the piano, learn music theory, and prepare you for a career in music and/or enjoy music in life. This will be accomplished through a variety of music, i.e. classical, musical theatre, jazz, Broadway and pop. You will also develop skills in sight-reading, basic dance steps, playing the piano, music history and music theory.

Rules and Grading

Lucas' Laws:

1. **Mr. Lucas is the Teacher**, follow his instructions, when he is talking **"Thou shalt NOT!!"**
2. **NO food or drink of any type shall ever be in the choir room.** The only exception is water in a sealable container in which you should bring every day and cough drops or Vitamin C drops. Tell Mr. Lucas first, before putting them in your mouth. No food unless Mr. Lucas gives you permission, i.e., new fundraiser or block snack break.
1. **All keyboards, pianos,** sound-systems and Mr. Lucas' desk are off-limits to all students. The only exceptions are those students who have been assigned to this equipment. We are blessed to have wonderful equipment and we want to keep it that way. If you tamper with these items, you will need to see Mr. Stewart immediately!
2. **Be positive and happy.** Have happy thoughts and say happy words! Remember we never criticize a choir person at all including Mr. Lucas. Leave your troubles outside the door.
3. **No wandering or movement** in the classroom except at Mr. Lucas' direction.
4. **No loud screaming, loud talking,** horseplay, bullying or any INAPPROPRIATE behaviors will be tolerated. Bad behavior/bad attitude is NOT tolerated here.

You are expected to participate in class at all times. If you can't or won't, you will need a doctor's note to explain.

We don't have time. Please save your drama for another place and another time.

5. Any problems, remember Rule #1.

Grading:

I grade over several different areas. Daily worksheets, weekly pop quizzes, weekly work, and concerts and extra performances. This is not a just sing only class. The only "group" grade that I give is for concerts as these are preparations for our contests, where we receive only a group grade. Each home concert is one half of your 9 weeks exam grade.

Daily grades (work, attitude, etc.) 30%

There is daily work in class and homework which is graded; theory sheets, score study (which requires pencil and highlighters), and sight reading exercises. I grade for singing rehearsal everyday as well. Points are given for excellent work in rehearsals and points are deducted for uncooperative work.

Pass Off's (method skills completion and choir songs) 20%

A Pass Off is a completion of a skill: For instance passing off the skill: being able to clap quarter notes correctly or singing pages 1-3 of your song correctly with correct rhythm, pitch and memory of song.

Testing Grades: 20%

Every week there will be a sight-singing, rhythm, solfege, ear training, and a singing quiz of your music. There will also be a music theory/history quiz every few weeks about subjects taught and discussed during the weeks. There are a few large exams during the semester covering all of the previously taught concepts and information.

Performance Grade: 30%

This grade is determined by your concert performances. All performances are graded **Concerts and prep rehearsals are mandatory. They are your 9 weeks exam.** There are no exceptions! Everyone is dependent on everyone else. If you must miss for a family emergency, your parent/guardian MUST contact me before hand, then you will need to do a written report. If you are in ISD, **you must attend, although you will not be able to perform.** That is the district wide school policy!!!

*******If you miss any MANDATORY extra prep pre-concert rehearsals, you will NOT be able to perform in the next concert!!!!*******

Attendance & Tardies:

There are no exceptions for concerts and performances.

THEY ARE MANDATORY!!!

If you are late to class, you must go to the tardy office to get permission to attend class.

CLASS PROCEDURES:

1. Positive Energy Always: leave your problems outside the door.
2. Be on time, this means; be in your chair, with your theory sheets, pencils, and choir folders **before the bell rings**. Do make-up and hair before school.
3. Be ready to work. Turn in your work when completed into your class's box.
4. Raise your hand for questions. Refrain from yelling out.
5. **Mr. Lucas starts and ends the class not the bell.**
6. Go potty before class.
7. Follow proper procedures for singing.
8. **There are to be NO cell phones out during class ever; unless** you are recording a part of your music or Mr. Lucas is giving you choir event updates so you can message your parents immediately with the newest information.

CHOIR MEMBER EXPECTATIONS:

Choir Members are **expected to:**

- ☺ Have happy attitudes and smiles in their faces. No statues or zombies.
- ☺ Work for excellence in your understanding of reading and singing music
- ☺ Learn a new level of professionalism as a singer/musician.
- ☺ Work when you walk into class, get your music ready.
- ☺ Do your homework when given and turn it in when due. **There are no past due acceptances. If you are absent, you have two school days to complete assignment.**

PERFORMANCES:

Home concerts, **which are mandatory**, are required as they are an end-of-section grade. We will have four (4) home concerts; one each 9 weeks. **Each concert will be preceded by a musical and technical rehearsal which are mandatory and for a grade.** Please see calendar for dates. Then there are several other opportunities for our students to leave campus and perform. Several are for contests and some are for great opportunities.

This year will be interesting as none of us knows the future and what lies beyond... So we will be FLEXIBLE and play it by ear and follow the orders of our Principals and Superintendent.

Competitions and Off Campus Events are a privilege for those students who choose to work hard, have all obligations paid and are eligible academically and musically ready. We follow the school/district rule for academic eligibility standards.

Each off-campus trip will have requirements to attend; which will not be limited to: complete uniform, grades/eligibility, attitude, music learned, and participation. Obviously if you have 2 or more Lunch Detentions in my class you will not be able to go.

Optional Other Items:

As a choir teacher, **I try to give my students as many performing opportunities as possible as well as audition opportunities.** The professional life of a singer is constantly auditioning so I believe that it's important to audition and work your hardest for every opportunity as possible. **So I will be giving your children opportunities to audition for as many honor choirs, solos/small ensembles as they can handle.** All contests will have some cost to audition but the public performance times are free of course and hopefully a fundraiser for them/choir. **Of course, it expected that to have a chance in an honor choir, a singer must be a dedicated singer/worker and have their music well prepared, far in advance, before the audition.**

Honor Choirs: Please see honor choir info sheet

ECOCDA (East Central Oklahoma Choral Director's Association) Honor Choir
OCDA (Oklahoma Choral Director's Association) 9th grade All-State"
Honor choir

OMEA (Oklahoma Music Educators Association) "All State" 10-12 grade
High School Honor choir

NACDA (National) SWACDA (Southwest American Choral Director's Association), Jr. High and High School.

International Honor Choir; Carnegie Hall (NYC, NY) and/or Sydney Opera House, Australia (This one will probably not be available per Chinese Flu issues).

This is an amazing opportunity. It is costly and will prohibit some students, but with planning it is really an incredible experience. If selected, you are able to attend either, the New York City, Carnegie Hall or Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia. (Mr. Lucas has sung at the Sydney Opera House but never on stage at Carnegie Hall). This is a great opportunity.

Aloha National Honor Choir: in Hawaii

This is one more amazing opportunity for our singers to experience. You must make high school all state honor choir to be eligible.

Master Class for solos/ensembles: One of my favorites for preparation for solo/ensemble contest is a master class with a fabulous singer/director. Then we will also have a pre-contest recital which is always exciting and helps to get better scores for our singers.

\$ FEES/UNIFORMS/FUNDRAISERS:

Class Supplies for choir:

Each student will need to bring a journal and a pencil to class every day. In addition, they will need to also bring several highlighter pens, please label these. They will need a yellow, blue, red, orange and green. These will stay in the choir folders.

Choir dues:

Each choir member is required to pay a \$50.00 fee. We are including many items for the students including the drug testing (\$25), that is mandatory for all extracurricular students. This fee is due by August 28, 2020. (If you need an extra week or so and need to make payments please just let me know. This will also cover binders for choir and a few other items for choir members.

Fundraisers:

EVERYONE is required to help with the fundraisers. There are no free rides. I try every way to keep costs at an absolute minimum but, fees-busses etc just cost money. Every choir member will be required to raise money individually **through the fundraisers.** This money simply pays for the transportation and fees for contest etc. Our school budget covers music, and basic supplies. If your parent's do not wish for you to participate in the sales fundraising, they may pay and you will not need to work the sale item fundraisers. Fundraising helps us as a team and it helps you to appreciate the hard work, rewards and teaches accountability. We will have several fundraisers throughout the year. It's one for all and all for one.

Uniforms:

We have two uniforms; 1: Casual: a polo style choir shirt with nice no hole jeans and 2:Formal and the same shirt with black dress slacks. **The polo shirts need to be paid by Thursday Sept. 3, 2020. The high school Dri-fit cost is only \$33.00.**

For the formal style: please wear black dress slacks or ladies may wear a black skirt. Dress slacks or pants are NOT yoga pants, gaucho pants, tights, jeggings, leggings or anything else.

Everyone will need to wear black socks and comfortable black closed-toe dress shoes.

Remember the correct uniform is required to perform!!!

No jewelry: (rings: ear, eyebrow, lip, cheek, nose bridge, nose, finger etc., watches, bracelets, or necklaces of any type or hair bows, ribbons etc.!!!! NONE!!! Nada!!! Zilch!

***Please keep the above white pages for your information.
Return all of the parent information/permission sheets by Friday,
August 28, 2020, please and thank you.***

AGREEMENT FORM

Please read this Bethel High School Choir Handbook thoroughly and return this page to Mr. Lucas. This agreement form will be kept on file all year in the choir office. Please keep the handbook as a reference of current choir policies and procedures.

I (student's legible printed name) _____ have read the choir handbook stating the policies and procedures of the Bethel High School Choir Program. I fully understand my responsibilities as a member of the choir program, and will do my best to uphold all stated standards and expectations.

Student's signature _____

Date _____

I have read the choir handbook stating the policies and procedures of the Bethel High School Choir Program. I fully understand my student's responsibilities as a member of the choir program, and will do my best to assist my student in upholding all stated standards and expectations.

Parent's signature _____

Date _____

Current Address _____

City _____ OK zip _____

Best phone number to receive a call _____

Or _____

Best email address _____

Student's actual t-shirt size: youth or adult

Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large XXX-Large 4XL

Yes I'm willing to assist the choir.

ride the bus and monitor contests

help with dance concessions/money takers for concerts

decorate stage for Christmas, take ticket money

whatever you need just give me a call

organize the parent booster sanctioning

volunteer to sub whilst Mr. Lucas out with students

Whatever is needed _____