

# **Parkland High School Chorus Handbook**

*Mixed Choir & Concert Choir*

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## **I. Goal Statement:**

The goal of the Parkland High School Choral Program is to enhance the music abilities and talents of the choral students in order to learn and perform music in varying styles and periods so they may:

1. Learn the disciplines of musicianship;
2. Personally enjoy and be able to perform many styles of music;
3. Promote live-music and culture to many people;
4. Perform as a member of a large group with the common goal of 100% success in performing quality repertoire.

## **II. Curriculum:**

The choral curriculum will focus on areas of tone development, articulation, style, written theory, aural theory, music history, timbre, tone color, elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, texture), forms of music, and the interpretation and discrimination of music through the learning and performance of high quality choral literature. Although each of these concepts will be touched on throughout the year, a few areas will be heavily emphasized as the music dictates.

	<b><i>Topics</i></b>	<b><i>Standards</i></b>
I.	Varied vocal repertoire	9.1.12
II.	Sight-singing	9.1.12
III.	Written theory	9.1.12
IV.	Ear-training exercises	9.3.12
V.	Vocal health	9.1.12
VI.	Performance skills	9.1.12; 9.4.12
VII.	Historical and cultural perspectives	9.2.12
VIII.	Critical listening	9.3.12

## **III. Grading:**

### **Marking Periods 1 & 3**

Class Participation – 30%

Punctuality/Prepared for class – 15%

Attitude – 15%

Written Work – 10%

Singing Check-Off – 30%

### **Marking Periods 2 & 4**

Class Participation – 25%

Punctuality/Prepared for class – 10%

Attitude – 10%

Written Work – 10%

Singing Check-Off – 20%

Performances/Rehearsals (Winter or Spring Concert) – 25%

#### ***A. Class Participation:***

14-15 pts. – Always participates during instruction and singing. Follows directions. Exhibits good posture at all times. Is attentive to conductor when starting and stopping.

11-13 pts. – Participates more than 85% of the time. Has lapses of listening and paying attention during instruction. Exhibits proper posture most of the time.

0-10 pts. – Lazy when singing. Poor posture. Doesn't listen or follow directions.

#### ***B. Punctuality/Prepared for class:***

14-15 pts. – Always on time, no more than one late. Responsible to get folder out and is seated when instruction begins. Always has a pencil to mark music. Never has gum.

11-13 pts. – Punctual 90% of the time. Always waits until the last second to be seated with music. Sometimes arrives without a pencil. Occasionally chews gum.

0-10 pts. – Tardy more than 80% of the time. Not prepared with music and/or pencil. Always chews gum.

*C. Attitude:*

14-15 pts. – Rarely or never talks during instruction. Does not disrupt other ensemble members. Respectful to teacher and students. Portrays a positive, serious attitude to the learning process.

11-13 pts. – Sometimes talks and disrupts students during instruction. Sometimes portrays a disrespectful attitude towards the teacher or fellow students and/or is verbally negative about the music.

0-10 pts. – Talks too much during class instruction. Disrupts the class and is warned by the teacher many times. Is often disrespectful to the teacher and/or students as well as negative about the music.

*D. Written work:*

Each written assignment will carry a certain amount of points. Assignments will include music check, quizzes, listening responses, theory assignments, etc. Each student is required to mark their music in PENCIL (not pen). Folders will be periodically collected and graded for making the correct markings during class instruction.

*E. Singing Check-Off:*

Aural examinations will be given frequently to assess students' progress on repertoire. Students will be asked to sing in small groups to reinforce and build aural skill, as well as vocal technique. Often these examinations will be announced and can be prepared for; however, unannounced examinations are also to be expected. [Sample rubric included in Appendix A.]

*F. Performances:*

Please be aware of the policy on performances: All students MUST participate in scheduled performances (Winter and Spring Concert). This is an important part of the choral music curriculum. A schedule of performances is in the Choral Activities Handbook. Excuses will be given for emergency situations ONLY. Family vacations, work, sports games/practices are NOT excuses for missing a performance. Any conflicts in the performance schedule should be given to Mr. Anonia in writing from a parent as soon as possible. Students who do not come to a scheduled performance will receive a "0%" which can not be made up. Students who are excused (with prior written permission) from a performance for a particular reason must complete an alternative assignment in order to fulfill the performance requirement.

**IV. Performances/Dress Rehearsals:**

Information is posted on bulletin boards in the choral room, as well as verbally announced and handed out in the form of a calendar or flyer. There are many activities, therefore students must learn to be organized and aware. Here is a listing of the required performances and dress rehearsals for the 2007-2008 school year:

Dress Rehearsal #1 – Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – 6:00p.m.-9:00p.m. [Concert Choir & Chorale]  
Winter Concert #1 – Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30p.m. Concert (Report at 6:45p.m.)

Dress Rehearsal #2 – Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:00p.m.-9:00p.m. [Mixed Chorus & Women's Ensemble]  
Winter Concert #2 – Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:30p.m. Concert (Report at 6:45p.m.)

Dress Rehearsal – Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - 6:00p.m.-9:00p.m. [Mixed Chorus & Concert Choir]  
Spring Concert – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> - 7:30p.m. Concert (Report at 6:45p.m.)

## V. Attire:

In keeping with traditional, conservative concert attire, all students are expected to dress for a concert as follows:

Men: white long sleeved dress shirt, long necktie, black dress pants, black belt, black socks and black dress shoes.

*NO dark T-shirts under dress shirt. NO white socks. NO sneakers or sandals. NO wrinkled clothes.*

Women: white blouse/top, black LONG (mid-calf or below) skirt or wide leg dress pants, clear or black stockings, black dress shoes. When making a shoe choice please keep in mind you will be standing for a majority of the concert. Please think about comfort and safety before personal style.

*NO low-cut pants, skirts, or blouses. NO flip-flop style shoes. NO short or tight skirts.*

## VI. Trips:

This year the Music Department (band, orchestra, and chorus) will be taking a major trip to Disney World in March. This trip is optional and open to any student in a musical ensemble. More information will be given ASAP. There may be additional trips (locally) throughout the year. Such events will be announced as needed. Parents are invited to chaperone music department trips.

## VII. Fundraisers:

Several fundraisers involving the band, orchestra, and chorus are available to raise money for the music trips. Students have individual accounts in the Music Trip Account and monies earned can be used until graduation. The chorus typically holds a citrus sale. Students may also participate in the orchestra's pizza and pretzel sale and/or the band's cheesecake/pie sale. All fundraising information will be posted on the large department bulletin board in the A wing hallway.

## VIII. County Chorus:

Lehigh County Chorus is a festival held in January and/or February of each school year comprising of the 11 high schools in the county. Each high school director selects the students for this festival. There is a quota given to each high school based on the stage size and required balance for the hosting school. Each high school director conducts one or two selections during the concert. This festival is a great way to meet other students and to work under other high school directors. This year's festival is being hosted by Northwestern Lehigh High School. The dates of this year's festival is as follows:

Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – 8:30a.m. – 1:30p.m.

Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – 5:30p.m. – 9:30p.m.

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – 8:30a.m. – 4:30p.m.

Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8:30a.m. (Rehearsal & Banquet); 2:00p.m. Concert

Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> – SNOW DATE

Students who wish to participate in the 2008 Lehigh County Chorus Festival should see Mr. Anonia when materials are made available in early November.

## IX. PMEA District Chorus, Region-State Chorus, All State-Chorus:

The Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association divides the state geographically into a sequence of 12 districts which pair up to form 6 regions and finally to form the all-state ensembles. Each district and region forms a highly selective, auditioned band, choir, and orchestra. District 10 comprises all school districts in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill counties.

The audition process is rigorous and competitive. Typically over 1000 students audition for membership in District 10 Chorus. The audition consists of a prepared piece of music and sight-singing. This year's prepared selection is "Achieved is the Glorious Work" by Franz Joseph Haydn. Students who qualify for the District 10

Chorus attend a 3-day festival in January or February where they re-audition for a spot in the Region V Chorus. Likewise, students who qualify for the Region V Chorus audition during that festival for a spot in the All-State Chorus.

All of these ensembles are a tremendous honor for a student and for the Parkland School District. *It is the goal of the music department to qualify as many students as possible for each festival.* Audition information and forms are available from Mr. Anonia in the choral room. Please see Mr. Anonia for additional details.

*Also, it is important to note that Parkland High School hosts the District 10 Chorus auditions each fall. This is a very cumbersome task. Over 100 student volunteers will be needed to help coordinate the auditions. More information to follow, however, please mark your calendars now.*

PMEA Dates for the 2007-2008 School Year:

District 10 Chorus Auditions (at Parkland High School): Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>

District 10 Chorus – February 7-9

Region V Chorus – March 27-29

PMEA All-State Chorus – April 16-19

**X. Practice Rooms:**

There are a number practice rooms available for individual/small group rehearsals. They are available for use provided you have permission from Mr. Anonia or another music department staff member. Each room is equipped with a piano and music stands. The guidelines for the practice room are:

1. Any student currently enrolled in one or more of the Parkland High School Music Department performing ensembles may use a practice room. Students enrolled in other music classes and those participating in the Theatre Department may use the practice room at the discretion of one of the Music Department faculty.
2. Practice rooms will remain locked during the day. Any student wishing to use a practice room should find one of the Music Department faculty who will open a room for the student.
3. Students using a practice room must be practicing an instrument or vocal part. No studying shall be permitted in a practice room. Multiple students may practice together, provided that each student has an instrument out and is playing. Students are not permitted to “sit in and listen” to another student. If a student wishes to study another subject, he or she may do so in one of the large rehearsal rooms under the supervision of a music teacher.
4. Practice room lights are to be on at all times while occupied.
5. Students are to sign in on the sheet posted on the practice room door, including a specific description of the work being done.
6. Upon leaving the practice room, students are asked to turn off the lights and close the door behind them.
7. Failure to comply with the rules for the practice rooms will result in the student being sent back to his or her scheduled study hall for the remainder of the semester.

Please report any damage to a practice room or its contents to a music teacher IMMEDIATELY.

**XI. Extracurricular Ensembles: Chorale & Women’s Ensemble:**

The Parkland Chorale is a select vocal ensemble of 34 mixed voices chosen from the ranks of the Vocal Music Department at Parkland High School. This group meets after school to prepare music to present to the school and community as representatives of Parkland High School. Vocal repertoire ranges from Renaissance to Jazz; from Classical to Broadway. This group is required to practice approximately 5 hours a week after school. Students audition and are selected for this group in the spring of the preceding year. This is one of Parkland’s oldest traditions and it is an honor to be a member.

The Women’s Ensemble is a select ensemble that performs music specifically for the upper voice in two part (SA), three part (SSA), or four part (SSAA) form. This group rehearses one day a week after school. Any female student is eligible to perform in the group provided they are enrolled in a curricular choir.

APPENDIX A  
Parkland High School Music Department  
Chorus Assessment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student performance will be evaluated in the following categories:

     **I. Tone Quality**

5. Tone is full, relaxed and open and well supported throughout the voice range
4. Tone is relaxed, open and supported throughout most of the range
3. Tone is moderately relaxed, with open throat but with some minor tension apparent
2. Tone is somewhat breathy or pinched with some tension and/or insufficient support
1. Tone is harsh or breathy with apparent tension and/or lack of support

     **II. Diction**

5. All consonants are clearly articulated
4. Unvoiced consonants are consistently distinct - voiced consonants are usually articulated
3. Unvoiced consonants are usually articulated - voiced consonants are sometimes muffled
2. Unvoiced consonants are sometimes articulated - voiced consonants are often muffled
1. All consonants are muffled or inaudible

     **III. Pronunciation**

5. All consonants and all vowels are properly pronounced with proper inflection
4. All consonants and all vowels are properly pronounced with some incorrect inflection
3. Some consonants are mispronounced, vowels are correct form with incorrect inflection
2. Some consonants and vowels are mispronounced
1. Consonants and vowels are consistently mispronounced

     **IV. Note Accuracy**

5. All notes are correct pitch and duration
4. Most notes are correct pitch and duration
3. Most notes are correct but some pitch and/ or duration discrepancies occur
2. Many incorrect pitches, or some singing the wrong part
1. Mostly incorrect pitches, or often singing the wrong part

     **V. Intonation**

5. All notes are in tune
4. Most notes are in tune
3. Many notes are in tune
2. Some notes are in tune
1. Few notes are in tune

     **VI. Phrasing/Breath Control**

5. All phrases are properly shaped (dynamics) and breaths are taken quietly, and at appropriate times
4. Most phrases are properly shaped (dynamics) and breaths are taken at appropriate times
3. Some phrases are properly shaped (dynamics) but some breaths are taken at inappropriate times
2. Few phrases are properly shaped (dynamics) and many breaths are taken at inappropriate times
1. Phrases are not shaped and breathing is erratic

     **VII. Ensemble**

5. All attacks and cut-offs are accurate
4. Attacks are consistently accurate but some final consonants are slightly early or late
3. Attacks are consistently accurate but many final consonants are early or late
2. Many attacks are accurate but cut-offs are consistently early or late
1. Attacks and Cut-offs are consistently inaccurate