

Cowan Jr./Sr. High School Choirs

Choir Handbook

2016-2017



Welcome to the 2016-2017 CHS Choirs!

Welcome back to Cowan after a hopefully restful summer! I am looking forward to meeting and teaching all of the choir students. I recently moved back to the Muncie area after teaching choir in northwestern Indiana, and I am very excited to be a part of your community. I have high expectations for this school year.

The focus of the choral program is to provide students the opportunity to learn a variety of musical concepts through the performance of a diverse selection of music. Students will learn and improve upon music literacy, vocal technique, and choral technique through creating, performing, and responding to music.

Musically yours,

Ms. Bohl

mbohl@cowan.k12.in.us

Daily Class Supplies

- Pencil
- Notebook paper
- Black music binder
- Planner

Classroom Expectations

- Students will be in assigned seats with class supplies and ready to rehearse when the bell rings.
- Students will have a pencil and music ready to use during rehearsal.
- Students will leave all food, drink, and gum outside the classroom except with administrative permission.
- Students will be respectful to the teacher, their peers, the classroom, and the subject matter.
- Restroom passes will only be given in case of an emergency.

Classroom Consequences

- Arriving late to rehearsal: school tardy policy will be observed.
- Unexcused absence from performance: Student will be given a 0% for the performance. Please see the CHS Choir Rubric for more details.
- Unengaged in rehearsal: After warning, weekly participation grade will be reduced by 1 point for each subsequent occurrence.
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum, or showing any form of disrespect (including interruptions):
 - 1st offence - Warning
 - 2nd offence - Complete action plan to be signed by student, teacher, and parent
 - 3rd offence - Parent/teacher phone call and/or meeting
 - 4th offence - Office referral
 - The teacher reserves the right to skip any of these steps if necessary

Performance Attire

Students are expected to wear the following attire for each performance unless informed otherwise by the teacher.

Students who fail to wear the proper attire will be sent home to retrieve proper clothes, and the performance grade will be affected according to the CHS Choir Rubric.

- Black “Cowan Choir” polo - Students who already have the polo are not required to buy another unless it does not fit properly. All new students to the choir program or students whose shirts no longer fit will be required to buy a new polo. Pricing information and money due date can be found on the contract page of the handbook.
- Black dress pants - Leggings, yoga pants, or jeans are not permitted.
- Black close-toed shoes
- Black socks

Grading Policy

In accordance with school policy, the final semester grade will be comprised of 40% quarter 1/3, 40% quarter 2/4, and 20% final exam.

Student quarterly grades will be made up of the following categories: performances, class work, tests, and skill mastery. The categories are weighted as follows:

	Performances	40%
	Class Work	25%
	Tests	20%
±	<u>Skill Mastery</u>	<u>15%</u>
	Total Quarter Grade	100%

Performances (40%)

- Students will be counted tardy to a performance if not dressed, in performance positions, and ready to sing at call time.
- An absence at a performance will result in a 0% for the performance. Please see the CHS Choir Rubric for details.
 - Note: In cases of *serious* illness, hospitalization, death of a loved one, or other *approved* reasons, an exception will be made.
- All scheduled performances, as well as those scheduled at least 3 weeks in advance, are considered required performances.
- In the event of an excused absence, make-up work will be allowed. Ms. Bohl needs to be informed of absence **verbally and in writing** 7 days in advance.
- *No make-up work* will be allowed for unexcused absences.

Class Work (25%)

Class work includes bell work, study guides, concert evaluations, etc.

Tests (20%)

- Repertoire tests will be over the pieces to be performed at an upcoming concert or event. The tests will require knowledge of terminology, musical items covered during rehearsals, and basic knowledge of the piece.
- Music literacy tests will measure the student's progress in regards to how well they are able to read music, as well as their abilities to dictate what they hear.

Skill Mastery (15%)

- Participation and proper preparation are required at all times during rehearsals and performances. Students must always come prepared with music and a pencil. If participation or preparation are lacking, one warning will be issued before the weekly grade will be deducted for each occurrence. See CHS Choir Rubric for more information.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential component of every music program. Students are expected to put forth an effort in raising money for the needs of the program. Fundraising opportunities will be announced at a later date.

Please note: All students will need to purchase a polo shirt for select performances.

Student Activity Conflicts

Although we try our best to avoid scheduling performances at the same time as other school related events, occasionally conflicts do arise. When a practice or rehearsal and an event (game, contest, and concert) are scheduled simultaneously, the **EVENT** takes precedent. For example, if someone has athletic practice on the night of a concert, they are required to come to the concert.

When two practices or rehearsals are scheduled simultaneously, the students may **SELECT** the event in which they will participate. **Students should make the decision, whenever possible, at least seven (7) days in advance.** **Students should advise those affected by the conflict immediately.** In the case of a disagreement among the parties concerned, the matter should be referred to the administration for a solution.

It is the student's responsibility to consult the schedules for all organizations in which they participate and notify directors and coaches as soon as possible should there be any conflicts.

Extra Choral Opportunities

Circle the State with Song

This is an honor choir available for students in grades 7 and 8. Students in this choir rehearse and perform advanced choir literature with selected students from other junior high schools in Indiana. A registration fee of \$27.00 and the cost of music is due to Ms. Bohl by November 18, 2016. Rehearsals will begin in January. The festival is expected to be February 25, 2017 in Anderson, IN. Attendance at all rehearsals and the festival is expected. More details can be found through contact with Ms. Bohl.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

Choir members who would like to perform a prepared solo or ensemble are strongly encouraged to participate in the ISSMA Piano/Vocal Solo and Ensemble Contest which is held at Muncie Southside Middle School on January 28, 2017. It is recommended that all soloists take private lessons or arrange a time to rehearse with Ms. Bohl. Registration is due November 18, 2016 to Ms. Bohl. ISSMA Solo and Ensemble fees: vocal group - \$7.00 per person; vocal solo - \$13.00 each.

CHS Choral Handbook Contract

By signing below, you are stating the following:

- You understand all requirements stated in the CHS Choral Handbook
- You agree to abide by all classroom rules and expectations
- You understand the importance of attending all performances
- You understand the grading policy

Photos and Web Coverage

Throughout the school year, there may be occasions where we would like to include photographs on the school web page to communicate the quality of Cowan Choirs. Please consider giving consent.

_____ Yes, photographs of my child may be posted to portray programs or events of the Cowan Choirs.

_____ No, photographs of my child may not be posted to portray programs or events of the Cowan Choirs.

Travel Consent Form

To avoid filling out a separate travel permit for each event on the performance calendar, I am asking that parents please choose to fill out the attached travel consent form. This would cover any mandatory performance event.

Choir Performance Polo

This polo is the same one that was used in the past, so if your student already has one that fits, that one will work perfectly. It is required for all members. Price - \$21.50

Size needed (Circle one):

Ladies - XS, S, M, L, XL

Regular - XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL (+\$1), XXL (+\$2)

Student Signature

Date

Print Student Name

Guardian Signature

Date

Print Guardian Name

Parent email _____

Handbook agreement and travel consent forms due Friday, August 12th.

Performance Polo money (\$21.50) due Friday, August 26th.

Additional information you want Ms. Bohl to know: (Optional)

