

Varsity Choir Information

Welcome to Varsity Choir at Brainerd High School! The purpose of this letter is to provide both students and parents/guardians with important information about being involved in Varsity Choir at Brainerd High School. This letter will lay out the expectations for students who are in this class, and it will also explain how they are graded. This letter also includes the dates of our concerts for the 2019-20 school year.

Grading Policy

Although we spend a lot of time talking about and looking forward to the four concerts we will present throughout the school year, the most important aspect of being in this class is the work we put into our daily rehearsals. Our choir cannot be successful unless all members are trying to positively contribute to the success of these rehearsals! The largest part of a student's grade in Varsity Choir has to do with their level of participation on a daily basis. All Varsity Choir students will be assessed on the two areas noted below.

Participation- This includes daily participation in classroom activities, as well as, participation in our concerts. Students' participation will be assessed daily. Each rehearsal is worth 5 points. To earn all 5 points, students need to be on time for class with all of their materials, participate appropriately in all aspects of our rehearsal, and take care of their folder and music. I will update students' participation points weekly.

Sight-Reading/Fundamentals Assessments- Choir students will take sight reading and/or music fundamental assessments each grading period. They will be based on the skills we work on during our rehearsals. Some of these will be written quizzes and some will be performance based.

Important Housekeeping Information

Tardiness: All students need to grab their folder, put their electronic device(s), including their phone, in their folder slot, and be in their seat by the time the bell rings. Students who do not do this will be marked tardy. Tardies will be dealt with according to building policy.

Hall Passes: Students should take care of bathroom and locker needs prior to the bell ringing! No hall passes will be given during class.

Folders: Each student will be assigned a folder to use. The folder and music in it are the responsibility of the student. Fines will be issued for misuse or loss.

Food and Drink: All choir students are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle to class! Students must fill up their water bottle BEFORE class starts. I strongly discourage students sharing their water bottle. **No other food or beverages are permitted in class, this includes GUM!!!**

Cell Phones: Students who bring a cell phone and/or other electronic device to class should store that phone and/or device in their folder slot for the entire hour. No students should ever have that phone or device with them at their seat during rehearsal.

Concert Participation

CONCERT ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY! Attached to this letter you will find our concert dates for the 2019-20 school year. All of the 9-12 grade choirs perform at each of our four main concerts. All of our concerts take place in Tornstrom Auditorium at the Washington Educational Services Building. Tickets for the concerts are the same price as varsity sports, \$6 for adults, and \$4 for kids. Family/full-year passes are available for purchase from our activity office. **Please write our concert dates down on your calendar right away, and try to avoid any conflicts with them!** In the case of a missed concert or conflict with one of the dates, a parent or guardian must contact Mr. Aulie ASAP about them. If the absence from the concert is excused by Mr. Aulie, the make-up assignment for the concert must be completed within one week of the concert, or upon returning to school. If there is no parent contact and make-up assignment completed, the absence will be considered unexcused. **Unexcused absences from concerts will result in a full letter grade deduction!**

Concert Dress

The way a choir looks has a big effect on how they perform. Here is how all Varsity Choir members should plan to dress for each of our concerts. Please make good, appropriate choices with the clothes you wear to the concerts.

Guys: Black pants, black button-up collared shirt and warrior music tie, black dress socks, black dress shoes.

Girls: Black pants, black blouse with sleeves (no T-shirts), and dress shoes. I recommend that you wear flat bottom shoes, as we are walking up and down and standing on risers.

I hope this letter has answered a lot of your questions about participating in Varsity Choir. I know we have a very talented group of young singers this year, and I can't wait for us to get started!! Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have, and also please visit our music website at www.brainerdmusic.org for more information about Varsity Choir and our performances this year. **Parents/guardians, please fill out the bottom portion of the page attached to this letter with your son/daughter, and have them return it to me by Friday, September 13.** Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to getting to know you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Marcus Aulie, Varsity Choir Director
Office: (218) 454-6237
E-mail: marcus.aulie@isd181.org

Varsity Choir Performance Dates 2019-2020

Monday, October 28, 2019:	Fall Concert at Tornstrom Auditorium 6:00 p.m. - 5th Hour/ 7:30 p.m.- 6th Hour
Monday, December 9, 2019: Auditorium	Christmas Concert at Tornstrom 6:00 p.m. - 6th Hour/ 7:30 p.m. - 5th Hour
Monday, March 2, 2020: Auditorium	Winter Concert at Tornstrom 6:00 p.m.- 5th Hour/ 7:30 p.m.- 6th Hour
Wednesday, March 25, 2020:	Vocal Large Group Contest at Little Falls (Takes place during the school day)
Monday, May 18, 2020:	Spring Concert at Tornstrom Auditorium 6:00 p.m.- 6th Hour/ 7:30 p.m.- 5th Hour
May, 2020:	8th & 9th Grade Choir Valley Fair Trip

Remind: Please sign up for the Varsity Choir *Remind* group to get updates on things that our happening in class, and also for reminders about our concerts.

-text: @19-20vars to the phone number 81010

or

-smartphone push notifications: type rmd.at/19-20vars into your web browser and follow the instructions to sign up. You will be prompted to download the *Remind* app.

***Please return by Friday, September 13. Returning this form on time is worth 15 points!**

Student Name: _____

Yes, we have read the Varsity Choir Information Letter, and are aware of the expectations of being involved in this class. We also understand **all Varsity Choir students are required to attend every concert** listed on our performance calendar, and we have made note of them.

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____