

Varsity Choir Information

Welcome to the Varsity Choir at Brainerd High School! I am very excited to welcome back many familiar faces, and to get to know all the new students in choir this year. I appreciate the time you will spend reading through this letter, as I have included important information about what is expected of students in Varsity Choir. I have also included the 2024-25 performance dates for all Varsity Choir students. You can also find this information in the Google Classrooms for Varsity Choir.

Choir is a unique class. Each student is responsible for contributing to the group's success. When every student is actively trying to contribute to the success of our group, we can become an accomplished ensemble. In choir, students build upon many skills, values, and talents beyond music. They learn about leadership, self-worth, communication, creativity, and focus, just to name a few. At Brainerd High School, we welcome singers of all experience and ability levels, and we look forward to working with our diverse ensembles.

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. 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 needs prior to the bell ringing! Only one student at a time can leave during class, and you must use our school-wide digital pass system to sign out. I will not stop class to help you with this, or issue a pass for you.

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. **No other food or beverages are permitted in the choir room, this includes GUM!!!**

REMIND: Text [@bhsvar2024](https://www.instagram.com/bhsvar2024) to the phone number **81010** to sign up for our Remind group. I will use this to send updates about concerts, events, and rehearsals throughout the school year.

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 2024-25 school year. All of the 9-12 grade choirs perform at each of our four main concerts. All of our concerts will take place in the Gichi-zibi Center for the Arts. **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, 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. If you are worried about getting proper performance clothes for your son/daughter, please reach out to me as I have resources to help with that.

Guys: Black pants, black button-up collared shirt and solid-colored 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 what is expected of students who are 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 throughout the year. Email is the best way to get a hold of me. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to getting to know you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

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