

Concert Choir (PA 1000/1001)

A cappella Choir (PA1500)

GRADING POLICY & COURSE EXPECTATIONS

2016–2017

Dr. Michael Driscoll

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<http://michaeldriscollconductor.com/courses/concert-choir/>

<http://michaeldriscollconductor.com/courses/a-cappella-choir/>

CLASS GOALS

Welcome! The goal of chorus class is to help every student become a better singer and musician regardless of ability. There is room for everyone to improve on skills such as vocal technique, listening (aural) skills, sight-reading, knowledge of choral literature, and general musicianship. All of these skills will be emphasized in class. The best way to improve on these skills is to participate in everything we do in class. Most importantly, my goal is that we enjoy learning and singing together!

GENERAL RULES

Main expectations

1. Be on time
2. Have necessary materials and be ready to work without being asked
3. Strive for improvement
4. Be respectful of others
5. No gum, food or drinks (except water) in the classroom
6. No cell phones or other electronic devices except when given explicit approval to use them
7. Have proper concert attire (see below for details).

Be ready every day to take on new challenges.

Most of what you will learn in class will be because of your individual commitment to learning the work at hand. Testing and assignments will be given throughout the year and you will be expected to complete each one on the designated completion date. If you miss class, you are expected to learn all of the material missed, get any handouts given out, and check with Dr. Driscoll for important announcements that you may have missed.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Numbered music will be assigned to you. It is your responsibility to make sure that the music is returned at the end of the semester or year and that it is returned in good condition. You will be charged replacement cost for any lost or damaged music.
- Please write notes in your music with a **pencil**. NEVER use a pen or highlighter to mark your music! You will be charged for music that is returned with pen or highlighter markings.
- If you are unable to sing due to illness, please notify the director **before** class. You are expected to quietly sit in the back of the class and observe and note everything discussed and rehearsed in class. Dr. Driscoll may ask you to see the school nurse.
- Only one student at a time is allowed to go to the bathroom. If bathroom privileges are being abused or if a student asks too frequently to leave class to use the bathroom, Dr. Driscoll reserves the right to refuse.

GRADING & ATTENDANCE POLICY

Grades for chorus will be based on attitude, preparation, participation, attendance and quizzes/exams. Grades are based approximately on the following percentages:

25	Participation				
25	Attendance/Tardiness:	includes classes and performances			
20	Written work				
30	Exams/Quizzes/Projects				

Letter grades are assigned according to the BHS handbook:

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

Participation

The attitude you bring to the class affects not only your work, but the work of the whole class. We work as a group **always**. A large percent of your grade is based on attitude and participation in class. This is a very subjective grade, so it is important that you make a consistent effort to participate in all class activities. Disrupting class will adversely affect your participation grade. A rubric for participation will be handed out at a later date.

Please:

- No speaking or singing when Dr. Driscoll is speaking or conducting.
- No speaking or singing when another member is asking a question or addressing the class.

Attendance/Tardiness

Tardiness and Absences will affect your grade. You are expected to arrive for class **ON TIME**. The clock in the chorus room is the official clock! The following attendance policy will be strictly enforced.

- You are given **two “free” tardies** per quarter. Each tardy beyond the first two is a deduction of **2 points** from your quarter grade.
- You are given **four “free” absences** per quarter. Each absence beyond the first four absences (excused or unexcused) is a deduction of **5 points** from your quarter grade. You may make up absences beyond the 4 “free” absences - see Dr. Driscoll for ways to make up the missed time. It is your responsibility to keep track of the number of absences per quarter. If you are unsure of the number of absences, you should ask Dr. Driscoll.
- **All concerts are mandatory.**
 - An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a deduction of **10 points** from your quarter grade. Conflicts due to poor planning on the part of the student will not be excused.
 - Excused absences from a performance must be cleared with the director in writing as soon as the conflict arises.
 - Students who are ill (bedridden) on the day of a concert or who have a personal or family crisis should notify the director **prior** to the concert if at all possible. Excused absences will need to be made up – see Dr. Driscoll for ways to make up the missed concert.
 - **Students without proper concert attire** will lose **5 points** from the student’s quarter grade. In some cases, students will not be allowed to perform, resulting in a 10 point deduction rather than 5.

Written work, exams, quizzes and projects

Tests, quizzes and written work will be given throughout the year. A concert review is due in the 4th quarter. Details of this assignment will be given at a later date. Late work is accepted but receives one letter grade lower for each day it is late. Assignments that are more than a week late will not be accepted and will be given a grade of zero. Arrangements may be made at Dr. Driscoll's discretion to resubmit assignments for the purpose of improving a grade.

Please Note: Teachers are not obligated to provide work in advance for planned absences or to provide individual instruction upon the student's return.

Concert Attire

Concert Choir

All black (black shirt, black pants/skirt*, black socks, black/dark dress shoes).

A cappella Choir

Solid, brightly colored shirt/top.

Black pants/skirt.*

Black/dark dress shoes.

*If wearing a skirt, the hem should fall *below* the knee and black nylons should be worn.
NO SNEAKERS, FLIP-FLOPS, BOOTS, ETC.

Concert Behavior

The BHS Performing Arts faculty expect that students who are not on stage will listen respectfully to their colleagues on stage. In addition to remaining quiet and seated during performances, students should refrain from all cell phone use including checking mail/text (the light of the screen is distracting to other audience members). Students who have difficulty resisting their cell phone's lure should lock their phones in their lockers during performances!

Concert Choir & A cappella Choir Rehearsal/Performance Dates (2016-2017)

Concert call times will be announced as the concert date approaches.

Please plan on being available from **6:30PM** until the concert times on all concert days.

Tech Rehearsal for Winter Concert (MANDATORY)

Thursday, December 15, 2016
3:00-5:30PM
BHS Auditorium

Winter Concert

Friday, December 16, 2016
7:30PM (6:30PM CALL)
BHS Auditorium

All-Town Chorus Festival (2 nights) (Concert Choir & Camerata only)

Tuesday, January 10, 2017
Wednesday, January 11, 2017
Thursday, January 12, 2017 (snow date)
7:00PM (5:45PM CALL)
BHS Auditorium

Acappellafest

(A cappella Choir & student-run groups only)
Friday, March 17, 2017 @ 7:30PM
Saturday, March 18, 2017 @ 6:00 & 7:30PM
BHS Dance Studio 1, Tappan Gym

Combined Ensemble Rehearsals

Thursday, April 27, 2017; X-block
Thursday, May 4, 2017; Z-block
Friday, May 12, 2017; Z-block
Thursday, May 18, 2017; X-block

Tech Rehearsal for Spring Music Festival (MANDATORY)

Wednesday, May 17, 2017
3:00-5:30PM BHS Auditorium

****Spring Music Festival**

Thursday, May 18, 2017
Friday, May 19, 2017
7:30PM (6:30PM CALL)
BHS Auditorium

****Perfect Pitch, Note-a-fy, Testostatoes Concert**

(Not a class performance; just an FYI.)
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
7:30PM
BHS Black Box Theater

Musica y Cultura

Friday, June 2, 2017
In-school performance
BHS Auditorium

District/All-State Festival Dates (Optional)

Eastern Senior District Festival Auditions

Saturday, November 19, 2016
TBA (8AM-2PM typically)
Milton High School

Eastern Senior District Festival

Friday & Saturday, January 6 & 7, 2017
(Snow date: January 8)
ALL DAY
Boston Latin School

All-State Auditions

Saturday, January 21, 2017 (Snow date: January 22)
Shrewsbury High School
Auditions begin at 1:45PM

Eastern Junior District Festival Auditions

Saturday, January 28, 2017 (Snow date: Jan. 29)
TBA (8AM-2PM typically)
Needham High School

Eastern Junior District Festival

Friday & Saturday, March 3 & 4, 2017
(Snow date: March 6)
ALL DAY
Lincoln-Sudbury High School

All-State Festival

Thursday-Saturday, March 9-11, 2017
ALL DAY
Boston Sheraton Hotel

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I have read, understand and agree to abide by the BHS Concert Choir and A cappella Choir Grading Policy and Course Expectations.

Student name (please print)

Student signature

I have read and agree to the BHS Concert Choir and A cappella Choir Grading Policy and Course Expectations for my child.

Parent signature

Date

Please list any conflicts you have with the 2016–2017 calendar:

Due by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY. Keep the other pages for your records.