

Camerata (PA 1200)
GRADING POLICY & COURSE EXPECTATIONS
2016–2017

Dr. Michael Driscoll

mike_driscoll@psbma.org
<http://michaeldriscollconductor.com/courses/camerata/>

617-713-5322 (office)

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION & GOALS

Camerata is an advanced honor-level choir that gives you the opportunity to improve your musicianship, increase your proficiency in sight singing, and deepen and widen your knowledge, understanding and experience with music. Frequent performances and special projects are included in the year's schedule of events. Because Camerata is a team effort and we rely on every team member in order to sound our best, all members are expected to attend all performances.

It is my desire to make the Camerata as best it can be. A strong choir depends on each individual member making a commitment to the group. It is extremely important that everyone be present for every class. If you are not able to sing due to illness you should still come to class (unless you are bedridden) so that you can follow along and know what was covered in class. When singers are absent, it means that we have to review the music they have missed at the next class. This slows down the amount of music we learn and prevents us from reaching our maximum potential.

The following policies and expectations will help our choral team strive toward its goal of excellence.

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 (concert attire will be described at a later date).

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 the 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.
- You are responsible for your Camerata folder and music. Do NOT leave your Camerata folder in the choir room. **If your folder is left in the classroom it can (and often is) mistakenly taken by other individuals or lost.**
- 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 observe the class and fill out a rehearsal observation sheet and turn it in at the end of 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 Camerata will be based on attitude, preparation, participation, attendance and quizzes/exams. Grades are based approximately on the following percentages:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 35 | Participation |
| 35 | Attendance/Tardiness: includes classes and performances |
| 15 | Written work |
| 15 | 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 participation in class. This is a very subjective grade, so it is extremely 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 adversely 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 (**Evening rehearsals count as 2 absences.**) 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 fourth 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

Students in Camerata are provided with formal concert attire free of charge. It is the student’s responsibility to take care of the attire and wear it to performances. Students will be charged for lost or damaged attire.

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!

Camerata 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.

Camerata Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

6:30-8:15PM

(This takes the place of the Oct 25 rehearsal, which is National Honor Society Inductions.)

Camerata-Orchestra Dress Rehearsal

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

6:30-8:30PM (extended length)

BHS Auditorium

(This is a day off from school for teacher workshops, but we will still have Camerata class.)

Camerata-Orchestra Concert

Thursday, November 10, 2016

7:30PM (6:30PM call)

BHS Auditorium

Brookline First Light

Thursday, December 1, 2016

6:00PM (5:45PM CALL)

Coolidge Corner Arcade Building

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

Faculty Breakfast/Holiday Carols

Friday, December 23, 2016

AM Class Period

BHS Atrium

All-Town Chorus Festival (2 nights)

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Thursday, January 12, 2017 (snow date)

7:00PM (5:45PM CALL)

BHS Auditorium

Spain Performance Tour!

February 17-24, 2017

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

Masterwork Concert Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

6:30-8:30PM (extended time)

BHS Atrium

Masterwork Concert

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

6:30-8:30PM

BHS Atrium

Performance with Dublin, Ireland HS Choir

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

7:30pm (6:00PM CALL)

BHS Atrium

Camerata Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

6:30-8:15PM

(This takes the place of the April 25 rehearsal, which is Awards Night.)

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 performance for Camerata)

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

7:30PM

BHS Black Box Theater

Musica y Cultura

Friday, June 2, 2017

In-school performance

BHS Auditorium

Graduation

Sunday, June 4, 2017

12:00-3:00PM

BHS

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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CLASS MEETING TIMES – PLEASE NOTE!

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesdays PM | 6:30-8:15pm (105 min) |
| Thursdays AM | 7:25-8:15am (50 min) |
| Fridays AM | 7:25-8:15am (50 min) |

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the BHS Camerata Grading Policy and Course Expectations.

Student name (please print)

Student signature

I have read and agree to the BHS Camerata 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.