



Choir Handbook for 2023-2024

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- Period 0:** *Noteworthy* – Chamber Choir
Period 1: *Counterpoint* – Concert Choir
Period 2: Teacher Preparation
Period 3: AMS Choir
Period 4: AMS Choir
Period 5: *Grace Notes* – Women's Choir

DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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MISSION STATEMENT

Basha High School Choirs provide the instruction, resources and encouragement necessary for choral members to progress on their personal journey of developing into their vocal potential. This is accomplished through interaction with a variety of choral repertoire, music theory and the establishment of technique for healthy vocal production.

FUNDAMENTAL CLASSROOM BELIEFS

- ♪ We believe all choir skills are learnable and do not require an inherent talent.
- ♪ We value and celebrate the process of learning, growing and persevering.
- ♪ We accept that feedback fosters future success and is delivered free of judgment.
- ♪ We desire to actively work toward becoming our musical potential. *Diventeró!*

CHOIR CLASSES AT BHS

All choirs at BHS will explore a variety of choral repertoire and receive instruction in healthy vocal production, sight-reading, music theory skills and best performance practices. Each ensemble will perform a minimum of four times throughout the school year and may have the opportunity for additional performances locally and nationally. Choir members will also be eligible to audition for State events and festivals.

The Grace Notes: A non-auditioned ensemble for treble voices in grades 9-12.

Counterpoint: An auditioned mixed-voice ensemble (SATB) for students in grades 9-12.

Noteworthy: An auditioned chamber and jazz choir for mixed voices (SATB) in grades 9-12. Requires concurrent enrollment in *Counterpoint*.

GRADING POLICIES

SEMESTER GRADES:

The course semester grades are weighted as follows:

Quarter 1:	40%
Quarter 2:	40%
Final Exam:	20%

FINAL EXAM:

The Final Exam for choir will consist of a student project as assigned by Dr. Brooke.

QUARTER GRADES:

The individual quarter grades are weighted as follows:

Participation:	50%
Assignments + Quizzes + Tests:	20%
Performances:	30%

PARTICIPATION:

Active participation and professional behavior is both rewarded and reflected in your grade. A model student is on time and present, prepared, attentive to instruction and engaged in the rehearsal process.

Choir classes require active participation for group accomplishment. As such, daily attendance is vitally important and is reflected in the participation grade. If you need to miss a rehearsal (class period), please communicate with Dr. Brooke, preferably prior to missing the rehearsal. Further, to be on time and present is to be in your assigned seat with all materials by the last bell. Additionally, off-task behavior, lack of participation, tardies and being unprepared are also reflected in this grade.

Participation grades may only be made-up for excused absences. A hard copy of the Participation Make-Up Work worksheet will need to be submitted to Dr. Brooke within 3 school days of the absence. When absent, it is the student's responsibility to check with another student to receive any missed rehearsal notes.

ASSIGNMENTS + QUIZZES + TESTS:

Assignments, quizzes and tests will be administered throughout the quarter with Dr. Brooke ensuring each student is well-prepared for success. Grades will be posted in Infinite Campus following the due date.

PERFORMANCES:

Performances are a celebration of an ensemble's diligent work and accomplishments. As choir classes are performance-based, concert attendance is mandatory. There will be at least one performance opportunity and associated grade per semester, with the possibility of additional performances. Should a situation arise causing a student to miss a performance, accommodations may be made on a case-by-case basis. *However, accommodations will only be granted if communicated to Dr. Brooke PRIOR to the performance.*

MAKE-UP + LATE WORK:

Professionalism is constantly reflected through time-management skills and is why work is expected to be submitted on time. However, students will have the amount of time missed due to an *excused* absence to submit work for full credit. Partial credit *may* be granted for late work up to 3 school days following the due date.

Extra Credit:

For students in need of extra points, credit may be earned by attending a classical musical event (vocal recitals, ensemble concerts or a musical). To earn the credit, the student will need to submit a performance program signed by a parent/guardian.

AVERAGE	LETTER GRADE	PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR
90-100%	A	Exemplary mastery of concepts
80-89%	B	General mastery of concepts
70-79%	C	Progress toward mastery of concepts
60-69%	D	Difficulty with mastery of concepts
0-59%	F	Lack of mastery of concepts

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

As a community of singers, we are each responsible for contributing to a productive, safe and rewarding atmosphere.

MODEL PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:

- ❖ Be on time, prepared and ready to learn
- ❖ Be engaged in the rehearsal process – actively listening + participating
- ❖ Be kind, respectful + supportive – we only succeed together
- ❖ Be open to vulnerability through new challenges + experiences
- ❖ Be in the moment – embrace what is happening now

CLASSROOM AGREEMENTS:

- ❖ Power Up! by powering down
- ❖ Enjoy gum + food prior to entering the classroom
- ❖ Take pride in ownership of your assigned seat
- ❖ Dress for success + the BHS dress code

DAILY PREPARATION:

- ❖ Pencil (lead-only) with eraser
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Choir folder
- ❖ Paper for notes (Lined, manuscript, etc.)
- ❖ Music

CONCERT ATTIRE + UNIFORMS

Each ensemble has its own concert attire to reflect our professionalism and unity. Proper attire is required for each performance. Some items will be checked-out to each singer once all fees have been paid. However, each singer will be responsible for supplying appropriate shoes. More information regarding exact concert attire will be forthcoming.

CONCERT DATES

We currently have 4 scheduled concerts. However, additional performances will be added throughout the year. Communication and notification about dates and times for future concerts will be made available to students, parents and guardians as early as possible. Thank you for your flexibility.

The dates for our scheduled concerts are:

- 21 September 2023 (Thursday)
- 14 December 2023 (Thursday)
- 7 March 2024 (Thursday)
- 1 May 2024 – Pops Concert (Wednesday)
- 16 May 2024 (Thursday)

Concerts will start at 7:00pm and call-time for all singers will be 6:00pm. Concerts will be held at the BHS Auditorium and admission is free. All concerts are open to the public.

The High School choirs are scheduled to sing at the following home varsity football games:

- 1 Sept 2023
- 28 Sept 2023
- 20 Oct 2023
- 27 Oct 2023
- 3 Nov 2023

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

The following performances have also been scheduled. Please note that these performances are choir-specific.

- 19 October 2023 | CGCC Choral Festival | 8:00am – 5:00pm | *Grace Notes*
- 25 October 2023 | CUSD Choral Festival | 9:00am – 1:00pm | AMS + HS
- 26 October 2023 | AMEA Fall Choral Festival | Time TBD | Counterpoint + Noteworthy
- 2 November 2023 | Community Service Singing | School hours | Counterpoint + Noteworthy
- 6 December 2023 | Choir Day with Payne + San Tan | School hours | All choirs (incl. AMS)
- 9-10 February 2024 | NAU Jazz/Mad Festival | Overnight trip | Noteworthy
- 2 April 2024 | Community Service Singing | School hours | Grace Notes + Noteworthy
- 17-21 April 2024 | Choir Tour | Counterpoint + Noteworthy
- 23 May 2024 | BHS Graduation | Counterpoint + Noteworthy

CHOIR TOUR

Counterpoint and Noteworthy will travel together for our choir tour this year. More detailed information will be distributed at the beginning of the year. However, for now, tour dates are set for 17-21 April 2024.

STUDENT FEES

Class fees should be attached to your student account and may be paid in the BHS Bookstore. The fees are used for repertoire, transportation, uniforms and other relevant materials. Thank you for promptly paying your student fees!

The Grace Notes: \$50.00

Counterpoint: \$75.00

Noteworthy: \$50.00

AMS: \$25.00

Additional fees may be assessed for choir tours, festivals and auditions. More information will be forthcoming.

FUNDRAISING

TAX CREDIT:

Tax Credit is an incredible way to fundraise!

Arizona law ARS 43-1089.01 enables taxpayers a tax credit contribution of up to \$400.00 per calendar year if filing status is Married, filing Joint Return; \$200.00 per calendar year if filing status is Single or Head of Household; and, \$200.00 per calendar year if filing status is Married filing separate return — for contributions that fund extracurricular activities in public schools. A tax credit is a full refund, not a deduction.

Please see <https://www.cusd80.com/TaxCredit>

FINE ARTS SEAL OF PROFICIENCY

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FINE ARTS SEAL OF PROFICIENCY:

Students wishing to participate may receive this honor for their HS diploma upon graduation. Please see link for more details.

<https://www.azed.gov/artseducation/arizona-state-seal-of-arts-proficiency>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Basha High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student's race, gender, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.