



Bernardo Heights Middle School Choirs 2018-2019

Mrs. Laura Miles, Director
lmiles@powayusd.com
Room 504
www.bhmschoirs.org

Welcome! I am thrilled to have you in choir class. I believe that music is a vital part of every student's well-rounded education. The experience and joy of music-making cannot be replicated! Through participation in choir, you will develop creativity, sensitivity, and self-confidence and learn to work as a team. Singers will learn to effectively express thoughts, values, and emotions that are sometimes difficult to express through words alone. I am excited to be starting my 4th year at Bernardo Heights Middle School and know that together we can make this a fantastic year.

Course Objectives (Based on the California Music Content Standards)

- *Artistic Perception:* Students will learn the language of music and be able to read and notate musical symbols as well as listen to, analyze, and describe music using the vocabulary specific to music. In addition, students will learn to sight-sing, or sing a written melody without first hearing it.
- *Creative Expression:* Students will use the body and voice as a means of expression as they understand the techniques and skills required for good singing. We will perform at several events throughout the year.
- *Historical and Cultural Context:* Students will be exposed to a variety of music styles and genres from around the world. They will perform the music of many different eras, composers, and cultures.
- *Aesthetic Valuing:* Students will be able to think about the quality and effectiveness of musical performances. They will be able to explain and demonstrate how music can convey images, feelings, or emotions.
- *Connections, Relationships, Applications:* Students will find ways to understand and communicate the connections they make between music and traditions, culture, history, and the joy of living.

Required Materials

Bring a pencil with an eraser, your singing voice, a water bottle, and a positive attitude with you each day! Students in Periods 2 and 6 will also need a composition notebook.

Choir music and folders will be provided; however, students are responsible for their keeping their music in good condition. Replacement fees for lost or damaged music will cost approximately \$2.00 per copy.

Mrs. Miles would appreciate donations of any of the following items: copy paper, hand sanitizer, No. 2 pencils, thin blue painter's tape, boxes of tissues, black Expo whiteboard markers. Thank you!

Student Expectations

Mutual Respect
Kindness

Attentive Listening
Best Effort

Students who choose to meet these expectations will:

1. Enjoy a sense of accomplishment in producing high quality music.
2. Receive verbal praise.
3. Earn a good grade.
4. Receive positive notes or phone calls home.
5. Have fun in choir!

Students who choose NOT to follow expectations may earn these consequences:

1. Warning
2. Loss of participation points
3. Conference with teacher and the opportunity to fix the problem
4. Detention and/or phone call home
5. Conference with teacher, parent(s), counselor to determine if removal from the elective class is necessary

Performance Attire

The following dress is required at all performances. We want to proudly represent our school and choir program by looking uniform and professional when we perform. The BHMS Choir Program stands ready to support anyone for whom the individual cost of these uniforms would pose a difficulty. Please inform Mrs. Miles at least 2 weeks prior to a performance so she can help you acquire the necessary items.

Casual Performance Dress:

- Students in all choir classes will need a choir t-shirt (see *T-Shirt Order Form*) for performances during the school day or to wear on field trips.

Concert Performance Dress:

- 6th Grade Choir (Period 1)
 - Top: **White** button-up dress shirt or sleeved blouse. No polos.
 - Bottom: Black dress pants or skirt (should be modest in length and allow for easy movement), black socks, and all black closed-toed shoes.
- Concert Choir (Periods 2 and 6)
 - Top: **White** button-up dress shirt or sleeved blouse. No polos.
 - Bottom: Black dress pants or skirt (should be modest in length and allow for easy movement), black socks, and all black closed-toed shoes. A red tie or scarf will be provided.
- Bobcat Singers (Period 5)
 - Choir Dress: Can be rented (must be dry-cleaned and returned at the end of the school year) or purchased (see *Bobcat Singers Dress Order Form*). Wear with black nylons and black closed-toed *dress* shoes. A red sash will be provided.
 - Shirt and Pants: Wear a **black** button-up dress shirt, black pants, black socks and black shoes. A red tie will be provided.

Travel

Throughout the year, the choir may attend field trips to participate in festivals and other musical events. Participation in these field trips is a privilege. Students who remain eligible by school standards and maintain an “O” or “G” in citizenship and a C or higher in choir will be invited to travel with us. Since our groups are representing BHMS, it is expected that student behavior is nothing short of excellent.

These trips will cost between \$80-150 per student to attend. Additional information for specific trips will be provided as the dates approach. The BHMS Choir Boosters will provide fundraising opportunities throughout the year to offset the costs of student transportation and travel. Scholarships will also be available.

Because the cost of field trips is based on the number of people participating and the number of buses we take, we are not able to refund the cost of the bus if you are not able to attend the field trip after you have paid. Refunds for other costs are dependent on the refund policy of the institution we attend (i.e., if we do not receive a refund for late cancellations, we will not be able to give you a refund).

Course Requirements and Grading

Grades will be updated regularly using **SYNERGY**.

Class Participation 40%

Because the preparation for concerts and festivals occurs in class, students are expected to be on time and in attendance each day. **Four points** will be given for each day the student is present. Since this is an activity-based class and we work as a group, there is no such thing as a make-up rehearsal. In addition to being in class, students are expected to actively participate in order to receive all **four** participation points.

Students who actively participate in class:

- Arrive early enough to pick up their music and begin working on their warm-up when the bell rings.
- Come to class with a pencil, water bottle, and their music each day.
- Contribute to a positive learning environment for all students by refraining from talking out of turn.
- Give their best effort to a successful rehearsal by staying on task and following directions.
- Respect the property, rights, and role of their fellow choir members and Mrs. Miles during and outside of class.
- Keep cell phones and all other electronic devices off and out of sight during class.
- Are prepared to sing by refraining from chewing gum or eating in class.
- Use the restroom or take care of other needs prior to class.

Performances 30%

Your enrollment in a BHMS Choir demonstrates your commitment to participate in all performances as part of an ensemble. Concerts are like final exams that provide meaningful opportunities to demonstrate your learning and acquired skills. Like any team, we rely on all the various parts and voices being in balance and working together. Unlike a sports team, we have no second-string players to take the place of a missing singer. Therefore, attendance at all scheduled concerts and performances is mandatory. Each performance is worth 100 points towards your total performance participation grade. (See *Performance Calendar* on page 5) In addition to being at the concert, students are expected to actively participate in order to receive the full 100 points.

Students who actively participate at performances:

- Arrive on time.
- Dress in concert attire and adhere to the BHMS Dress and Grooming Policy.
- Give their best effort to their own performance.
- Prepare for the performance by having all music and choreography memorized.
- Behave appropriately when in the audience, onstage, and backstage.

Students who may be absent from a performance in extreme circumstances should inform Mrs. Miles ASAP through a parent (either by e-mail or by turning in a signed *Concert Excuse Form*). The concert grade will then be made up through completion of a make-up assignment.

Unexcused absences (not showing up at a concert without informing Mrs. Miles) may not be made up; however, in extenuating circumstances, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Assignments, Quizzes and Exams 30%

Students in choir will receive regular assignments to complete in class or at home that support the course objectives stated above. Assignments missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up. Students who miss an assignment

due to an excused absence need to make arrangements with Mrs. Miles as soon as possible to complete the assignment. Unless prior arrangements have been made, late work will be marked down.

Assessments in choir may be written and/or sung and may cover music theory, history, sight singing, etc. A review will be held in class prior to exams.

The attached form (see *Syllabus Signature Page*) must be signed by both student and parent and turned in by Thursday, January 31. This is your first assignment and will be worth 20 points. The syllabus quiz on MyConnect is worth 10 points.

Connect with Us!



www.bhmschoirs.org



www.facebook.com/bhmschoir



Instagram

[@bhmschoir](https://www.instagram.com/bhmschoir)

Remind Codes:

To receive reminders via text message, students and parents can join the choir Remind classes. Simply text the code below to the number 81010.

6th Grade Choir (Period 1): @bhms6choir

Concert Choir (Period 2 and 6): @bhms26

Bobcat Singers (Period 5): @bhms5

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Semester 2 Performance Calendar

Period 1 – 6th Grade Choir Periods 2 & 6 – Concert Choir
 Period 5 – Bobcat Singers Bobcat Time – Treble Choir

*This calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated as soon as possible.
 All performances are mandatory unless otherwise indicated.*

Date	Time	Event	Choirs	Location
Thursday, February 14	During Class & Bobcat	Valentine's Day Singing Grams	Bobcat Singers	BHMS
Tuesday, March 19	Depart 4:45 PM Festival 6:30 PM Return 8:30 PM	CMEA Middle School Choral Festival	6th Grade Choir	Wangenheim Middle School Mira Mesa, CA
Thursday, March 21	Depart 8 AM Festival 10 AM Return 3 PM	SCVA Middle School Choral Festival	Treble Voices & Bobcat Singers	Shivela Middle School Murrieta, CA
March/April TBD	In Class	In-Class Performance	All BHMS Choirs	BHMS Choir Room
Saturday, April 6	All Day	Forum Festival & Disneyland Trip	Concert Choir & Bobcat Singers	Fullerton College Orange County, CA
Tuesday, April 23	Evening	Padres Spring Choir Night	All interested singers (optional)	Petco Park San Diego, CA
Wednesday, May 22	4:30 PM Rehearsal 7:00 PM Concert	Spring Choir Concert	All BHMS Choirs	Poway Center for Performing Arts
Thursday, May 23	7:00 PM Concert	RBHS Spring Choir Concert	Bobcat Singers	RBHS Performing Arts Center
Thursday, June 13	During School Hours	BHMS 8th Grade Promotion	All 8th Grade Choir Students	BHMS Quad