



## *Muhlenberg High School Music Department*

Sharp Avenue & Frances Street, Laureldale, PA 19605 610-921-8078, ext. 4239

### Choral Ensembles Responsibilities

1. All members need to attend all concerts and rehearsals to attain credit for the courses and to maintain membership. See the schedule for details.
2. Non-emergency cancellations of rehearsals will be given at least one week in advance. Additional rehearsals will be announced at least 2 weeks in advance. Changes due to school closings will be announced in a timely manner.
3. Guidelines for Success and Happiness
  - a. Be prompt for all activities. The announced times are start times, so be a few minutes early.
  - b. Rehearsal etiquette
    - i. Bring your music and a pencil
    - ii. No gum
    - iii. Use good posture
    - iv. Focus on the director – save conversations for appropriate times
    - v. Strive to be better
  - c. Concert etiquette
    - i. Be appropriately dressed – there are required standard uniforms for both the Mixed Chorus and Concert Chorus. Details will follow.
    - ii. Be on time
    - iii. When listening to other performances, don't talk or leave the auditorium
    - iv. No candy, gum or drinks (other than water)
    - v. Enthusiastically support the other performers; do not publicly criticize someone's performance.
  - d. **Concert Attendance** – generally, almost everyone in the ensemble is present at all performances; however, sometimes there are absences. Here are some examples (but it is not an all-inclusive list)
    - i. Excused absences: if you are absent from school and it is an excused absence, you will be excused from the concert; you become suddenly ill with a high fever or are vomiting; there is a school sport event scheduled at the same time
    - ii. Unexcused absences: if you are absent from school and it is unexcused; you are scheduled to work; there is a club sport event scheduled at the same time; it is your birthday and your family wants to take you to dinner (this actually happened)
    - iii. **BOTTOM LINE:** Talk to me well before any performance if you think there may be a conflict so we can keep the lines of communication open
  - e. Learn your music – ask me for help if you are having problems!
  - f. If you lose your music and/or your folder, you will pay to replace it!
  - g. If you discover a conflict with any of the scheduled concerts or rehearsals, please indicate this on the **Code of Conduct** form below your and your parents' signatures. Being absent from school is automatically excused. Do not attend rehearsals in this case unless the main office has cleared you. If you are sick, but not absent from school, please call me at school at 610-921-8078, ext. 4239 or e-mail me at [snellingb@muhlsdk12.org](mailto:snellingb@muhlsdk12.org). If you have an emergency, don't worry; I will understand.
  - h. Conduct yourself in a manner that is consistent with the school code of conduct, this code of responsibility you will sign and basic common sense.



# Muhlenberg High School Vocal Music

## 2019-2020 MIXED CHORUS GRADING POLICY

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40%	Performances and Dress Rehearsals	<p>All listed rehearsals and performances are required. An <u>unexcused absence</u> from any major performance, including the Winter Concert, Music Festival and Spring Concert will earn a 0. Activities beyond the scope of the school (such as work, community theatrical productions and club sports) need to be worked around choral concerts and rehearsals.</p> <p>If a student has an excused absence from a concert, he or she will need to perform the concert for the director within a week of their return to school in order to earn a concert performance grade; this will not need to be a public performance!</p>
60%	Sectional & Morning Rehearsals or Performance Evaluations	<p>Full credit in this component will include three sectional rehearsals during different cycles as well as any scheduled morning rehearsals. If you choose this option, you <u>must</u> attend the sectionals; you cannot replace them with alternative options.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Prepare two songs to sing for the director, one at the mid-point of the marking period and one at the end of the marking period.</p>

## 2019-2020 CONCERT CHORUS GRADING POLICY

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40%	Performances and Dress Rehearsals	<p>All listed rehearsals and performances are required. An <u>unexcused absence</u> from any major performance, including the Winter Concert, Music Festival and Spring Concert will earn a 0. Activities beyond the scope of the school (such as work, community theatrical productions and club sports) need to be worked around choral concerts and rehearsals.</p> <p>If a student has an excused absence from a concert, he or she will need to perform the concert for the director within a week of their return to school in order to earn a concert performance grade; this will not need to be a public performance!</p>
30%	Sectional & Evening Rehearsals	<p>Full credit in this component will include four sectional rehearsals during different cycles as well as any scheduled evening rehearsals. Refer to the Sectional Rehearsal Suggestions and Alternatives guide for help in this area.</p>
30%	Performance Evaluations	<p>Each Concert Chorus member will prepare four songs to sing (or play in the case of accompanists) for the director, two at the mid-point of the marking period and two at the end of the marking period. There will be no alternate assignment for these evaluations.</p>

## SECTIONAL REHEARSAL SUGGESTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

Every year, several students will approach me near the end of a marking period and plead for understanding because they could not figure out how to get to sectional rehearsals. Other students will tell me at the end of the marking period that they thought they had more sectional rehearsals than I have recorded. I would like to avoid these problems by providing to all of you my suggestions for getting to all of your rehearsals.

### Study Halls!

If you have a study hall during a scheduled sectional rehearsal, you will go to that sectional rehearsal. Problem solved!

### No Study Halls?

If you have no corresponding study halls, there are two options available to you.

**Rotation:** You will miss a different class for each cycle you attend. For example, during the first cycle, come to a sectional rehearsal on day 1, period 1. During the next cycle, go to the day 2 period 3 sectional rehearsals, and so on. By doing this, you will miss a class only once in a marking period.

**Early mornings:** If you feel you cannot miss any of your classes, I run sectional rehearsals before school on Tuesdays, starting at 7:00 am. They alternate between Mixed Chorus and Concert Chorus. I post a schedule for each marking period on the bulletin board in front of my room. There is one drawback to this option – if you are absent on a Tuesday, I am absent on a Tuesday or inclement weather causes a delay or cancellation, you may need to attend a sectional rehearsal during school. I generally cannot add more early morning rehearsals.

### Keeping Track

**Check the bulletin board:** I maintain a running tally of each individual's sectional rehearsal attendance record and post it at the beginning of each six day cycle. Look there and make certain it is accurate.

**Maintain a record:** When you attend a sectional rehearsal, write it down in your planner or whatever you use to keep organized.

### Alternatives to Sectionals

**Auditions:** Auditioning for ensembles including County Chorus and District Chorus will earn two sectionals.

**Other Ensembles:** Participating in related groups such as County Chorus, PMEA ensembles, etc., will earn two sectionals.

**2019-2020 Chorus Sectional Rehearsal Schedule**

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Period 1	CC Sectional		CC Sectional		MC Sectional	
Period 2	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	MC Sectional	MC Sectional
Muhltime*						MC Sectional
Period 4	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	MC Sectional	MC Sectional
Period 6-7	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	MC Sectional	MC Sectional
Period 11						MC Sectional
Period 12	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	CC Sectional	MC Sectional	MC Sectional

\*there will be a variety of rehearsals scheduled during Muhltime, depending upon upcoming events. There will be occasions when chorus sectionals will be scheduled and announced in advance.

# CALENDAR

## CHORAL CONCERTS

### **Winter Concert Dates:**

Dress Rehearsal: 12/4/19 from 7 pm to 10 pm

Casual clothing, not concert attire!

Concert: 12/8/19

2:00 pm report

Start time 3:00 pm

School Assembly: 12/11/19

7:15 am report

### **Music Festival: 3/7/20**

Report time is 6:30 pm

### **Spring Concert Dates:**

Dress Rehearsal: 5/13/20 from 7 pm to 10 pm

Casual clothing, not concert attire!

Concert: 5/18/20

6:15 pm report

Start time 7:00 pm

## CONCERT CHORUS REHEARSALS

Evening Rehearsals: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

- Thu., 9/12/19
- Thu., 9/19/19
- Tue., 9/24/19
- Thu., 10/3/19
- Tue., 10/8/19
- Tue., 10/29/19
- Thu., 11/7/19
- Tue., 11/12/19

## FESTIVALS:

### **Auditions**

- Senior County Chorus 10/15/19 @Gov. Mifflin HS
- District Chorus 10/21/19 @Parkland HS

### **Senior County Music Festival 1/25/20**

@Conrad Weiser HS

### **District Chorus Festival 2/7-9/20**

@Boyertown HS

### **Region Chorus Festival 3/21-23/20**

@Eastern York HS

## OTHER MUHLENBERG MUSIC EVENTS

These are not required events

- 12/16/19 C.E. Cole Winter Concert, 7:00 PM, MHS Auditorium
- 12/19/19 MMS Winter Concert, 7:00 PM, MMS Auditorium
- 1/29/20 MEC "My First Concert", 7:00 PM, MEC Cafeteria
- 1/31/20 Faculty Revue, 7:00 PM, MMS Auditorium
- 3/19/20 Spring Musical, Sr Citizens Performance, 7:00 PM, MHS Auditorium
- 3/20,21/20 Spring Musical, 7:30 PM, MHS Auditorium
- 4/3/20 Henry "Hank" Hoffman Jazz Festival, 7:00 PM, MHS Auditorium
- 5/7/20 MHS Spring Instrumental Concert, 7:00 PM, MHS Auditorium
- 5/12/20 MEC/C.E. Cole Festival of the Arts, 7 pm
- 5/14/20 MMS Spring Concert, 7:00 PM, MMS Auditorium
- 5/20/20 C.E. Cole Spring Concert, 7:00 PM, MHS Auditorium