

# Centennial High School Choir Handbook 2007-2008

Director – Mr. Ryan Batcheller



Welcome to Centennial High School and to becoming a member of the Centennial High School Choral Program. Since our schools opening our choir has achieved a very high level of success through the members' commitment, pride, and hard work. By joining the choir you are entering a music program that will eventually give you the opportunity to perform in Concert Choir, Treble Choir, A Cappella Choir, Jazz Choir, and Straight Ahead. You can also take part in solos and ensembles, audition for the All-State High School Choir, ACDA Honor Choirs, participate in the State Solo Contest, and many other musical activities too numerous to mention. Several of our choir graduates are now pursuing careers in music, and many, many others are still actively involved in music either through singing in college, the service, or simply enjoying the memories of the time they spent in the choir. I wish you the best of luck as you enter high school and hope you truly enjoy your years in the Centennial High School Choir.

### ***Centennial High School Choir Room Policies***

1. Students will display ID Badges at all times when at school and will surrender them to any adult upon request. If a student does not have their ID badge displayed, I will send you to room #105 where the student will either be issued a temporary ID or will remain in ISS for the remainder for the day. If the student is issued a temporary ID, a tardy slip will be issued so student can be readmitted to class. Students will only be assigned lunch detention if this process results in the student being tardy to class.
2. Cell phones are not permitted in the school building from the hours of 6:30 AM to 3:30 PM. If a cell phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated. Parents will need to pick up your cell phone from your vice-principal in the main office.
3. Backpacks will NOT be allowed in the classroom, hallway or in the bathroom which includes all bags and purses.
4. All IPOD's, MP3 or other listening devices are not allowed in the school building between 6:30 am – 3:30 pm
5. Ear buds or headphones are not permitted during school hours.
6. No food or drink in the Choir Room during class. I encourage you have a water bottle with you so to keep hydrated and to avoid multiple trips to the water fountain.
7. Please set-up & stack the chairs after each class. They should be arranged so Mr. Batcheller doesn't need to go and position them.
8. Leave all school and personal property alone.
9. As far as illness in concerned, if you are well enough to be at school you are well enough to participate. I expect you to participate every day.

## ***Rehearsal Procedure***

1. Don't be tardy. You must be in the classroom with your music and pencil in hand before the bell rings. Students that are tardy will report to the security office and obtain an admit slip (next to main office). I will only admit students with an admit slip. I will then check the date on the admit slip and change the attendance to reflect a tardy rather than an absence. Parent notices will be generated and sent out from the security office and safe school office. Students that are tardy will automatically be assigned Lunch Detention (Served in the upper gym) the following day. (CHS School Policy)
2. Prior to the rehearsal, warm-up by doing some light humming and singing exercises. Don't start by singing your highest and loudest. It is your responsibility to warm up your voice.
3. The rehearsal begins when the conductor steps onto the podium or in front of the conductor's stand. At this point all previous activity should stop and all your attention should be given to the conductor.
4. Sit quietly throughout the period and give your complete attention to the rehearsal. Don't talk to those around you or try to read or study. Raise your hand if you need to leave your seat for any reason. Great choirs and great musicians are made in rehearsal.
5. When the rehearsal is finished you will be given time to put your materials and chairs away. The class will not be dismissed until the room is picked up and in order.

## ***The Importance of Discipline***

Because choir members are constantly on display, we must always be aware of the importance of good behavior. Each student should always remember that they represent their organization, school, and community whenever they perform or appear publicly. Any misconduct casts a direct reflection on our choir, school, and community and may well undo the hard work of hundreds of dedicated students. A good choir is built on discipline, but let us agree on the definition of discipline. Discipline is order. It is also many other things, but primarily, discipline is order. There is order in all things physical or material, as well as in all things spiritual and intellectual. With orderliness comes attainment of things worthwhile. Any choir that follows ideas of order and discipline lays the foundations for both good musicianship and good citizenship.

*Success is always built on a solid foundation of SELF-DISCIPLINE – the ability to direct our skills and talents toward the assigned goal and to stay on task until we achieve this end.*

## ***The Importance of Being a Centennial High School Choir Member***

Being a member of the Centennial High School Choral Program is a special and unique opportunity. Always remember this: Whenever you are with the choir you have a large responsibility. Your words, actions, and behavior have a direct reflection on yourself, your choir, and your school. Be it a concert, festival, rehearsal, or home practice, do it with pride knowing that anyone who sees you will view you with respect.

## ***Classroom Management***

As stated earlier, a good choir is built on discipline and order. Choir members will be expected to participate every day. The following steps will be taken, if necessary, to maintain that standard.

- First offense: Verbal warning. Lunch detention may be assigned.
- Second offense: Individual conference with the instructor where the student will sign and be placed on ***Step One of the CHS Referral Form***. The problem is stated and a summary of conference is communicated with the student. Lunch detention may be assigned.
- Third offense: Student is placed on ***Step 2 of the Referral Form***. This will result in parent/guardian notification. Lunch detention may be assigned.
- Fourth offense: Student is placed on ***Step 3 of the Referral Form***. Parent notification, conference with assistant principal, and “Behavioral Agreement” established.
- Fifth offense: Student is removed from class for the remainder of the semester. The student will be enrolled in study hall or alternative class. Student will receive an F.

Students will remain on the same level of a reasonable length of time. Students will not go on to level two if it has been 6 months since having their first offense. On the other hand they will not “start over” every day or every week.

## **Concerts & Performance Schedule**

Thursday February 14, 2008

Boise State University Vocal Jazz Festival  
Boise, ID  
All Day!  
Jazz Choir/Straight Ahead

Thursday February 28, 2008

Voice Recital (For all students participating at Solo/Ensemble)  
Choir Room  
7:00 PM

Monday March 3, 2008

Solo/Ensemble Festival  
Northwest Nazarine University  
All Day for participating students

**March 4-7, 2008**

**Auditions for CHS Choirs 2008-2009**  
**Treble Choir (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**  
**A cappella Choir (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)**  
**Lasting Impressions (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and required dual enrollment in A cappella Choir)**

Monday March 17, 2008

Pre-Festival Choir Concert  
Centennial High School  
Performing Arts Center  
Concert Choir, Man Choir, A cappella/Treble Choir and Chamber Choir  
Dr. Gary Wiedenaar, Guest Clinician

Tuesday March 18, 2008

District III Choral Festival Day 1  
Mt. View High School  
All Day!  
Concert Choir, Man Choir, Chamber Choir

Wednesday March 19, 2008

District III Choral Festival Day 2  
Mt. View High School  
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
A cappella/Treble Choir only

Tuesday May 21, 2008

Spring Choir Concert  
Centennial High School  
Performing Arts Center  
7:00 PM  
All choirs!

Monday June 3, 2008

Centennial High School Graduation  
Taco Bell Arena  
7:00 PM  
All Choirs!

## Concert Dress

Ladies:

- White Blouse (not sleeveless)
- Floor – length black skirt, if it has a slit, it must be toward the back and knee length when you sit.
- Black shoes
- Black nylons

Gentlemen:

- White Dress Shirt
- Black dress pants
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks
- All black tie (no design, etc.)

Attendance at concerts is mandatory for choir students at Centennial High School. Concerts are very important to the development and musical growth of the students. The concerts benefit the choir as a whole by giving them the opportunity to show how much they have learned. Unlike most classes, a performing arts class affords the parents an opportunity to see student progress as they develop musically.

In case of an extreme illness or other emergency, parents should contact Mr. Batcheller prior to concert time. Common colds, scraped knees, etc. are not acceptable excuses. If a true emergency arises however, parents should E-mail Mr. Batcheller at [batcheller.ryan@meridianschools.org](mailto:batcheller.ryan@meridianschools.org) or call the school at 855-4250 x1402 for voice. If you are unable to reach me directly, please leave a message.

Part of the music education received at a concert is that of hearing other groups perform, learning good concert etiquette, and learning how to be a good listener as well as being a good performer. Concerts, therefore, hold additional benefits to the students and they will be expected to be present for the entire concert, regardless of when they perform, in order to get full credit for it. Finally, I would like to ask all parents, family members, friends, and relatives to make a special effort to attend these choir concerts. The choir members put forth a lot of time and effort to prepare the music and they very much appreciate seeing you at the concerts.

## Grading System

Grades for Choir are derived from a weighted point system as follows:

90-100% of points possible = A

80-89% of points possible = B

70-79% of points possible = C

60-69% of points possible = D

Below 60% = failing grade

### *Requirements for grade:*

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| (25%) Class Participation | A regularly scheduled assessment of a student's participation in class, to include effort, behavior, attentiveness, progress, and cooperation. Each class is worth 5 participation points. Tardy = -2 point  |
| (20%) Quartet Quizzes     | Musical selections chosen from our method books or music we are preparing.   |
| (15%) Quiz/Assignments    | Quizzes, daily work on a variety of topics. You will need a black 3-ringed notebook and a composition notebook for all of your music, handouts, and journal entries.   |
| (30%) Performances        | All performances are mandatory. Depending on the circumstances, all unexcused absences at the dress rehearsals and concert will result in the lowering of the student's final grade. Each concert/performance will be worth the maximum of 100 pts |
| (10%) Final Examination   | At the end of the term there will be a written and a sight-singing examination representing the knowledge and material covered in the class.   |

Extra Credit: (may only raise a final grade one grade level)

Solos or ensembles: 5-10 points depending on performance (festival, church, class)

Outside Concert: 5 points, professional concert approved by instructor.

A copy of the program or a parent note is required along with a one-page review.

Televised or videotaped concerts: 2 points for report signed by parent or teacher

Private Lessons: 2 point per lesson, note required from parent or teacher

Volunteer help: To be determined by nature of job

Musical projects To be determined by nature of project (compositions, etc.)

Loss of Credit:

Forgetting music: 5 points

Specific instances of misconduct or irresponsibility: 1-5 points

## Choir Letter Requirements

In order to letter in choir you must receive at least 15 points from the following choral activities:  
(Students must pay \$5 for their actual choir letter)

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Festival/choir Trip Participation                                    | 1 point each                    |
| Choir Officer  | 1 point                         |
| Out of class sectional participation                                 | ½ point per meeting             |
| Voice Lesson Participation   | 1 point per semester            |
| All State/Northwest Choir Audition                                   | 2 point                         |
| Acceptance and Participation   | 4 points                        |
| CHS Musical Audition   | 1 point                         |
| Major Role   | 2 points                        |
| Minor Role   | 1 point                         |
| Participation in Solo/Ensemble Contest                               | 2 point                         |
| State Solo Participant   | 4 point                         |
| Outside of school solo or choir participation                        | 1 point                         |
| Non-CHS Choir Concert Attendance<br>(With program & Concert Review)  | 1 point                         |
| Recruiting New Choir Members   | 1 point                         |
| National Anthem Performance at<br>CHS athletic event (Max. 3 points) | 1 point<br>½ point for Ensemble |

## Travel Regulations and Expenses

*Why do the CHS choirs travel?*

The CHS choirs travel a few times a year to various festivals to have the opportunity to work with the top music educators in the Northwest and United States, experience nationally-renowned artists and groups, and listen to and evaluate other high school choruses.

*How often do they travel?*

Traditionally, the Jazz Choir, A cappella Choir, and Treble Choir will travel 2-4 times a year.

*How are these paid for?*

These trips are paid for by the students. Multiple fundraising opportunities are provided throughout the year

*When do the trip fees have to be paid in full?*

Approximately two weeks before each trip, a deadline is set for all fees to be received and a final decision from each student as to their participation in the trip. During the fall, trip estimates will be available. A final decision is required from each student two weeks ahead of the trip to be sure the trip costs are distributed equally among the students. ***If a student decides to not go on the trip after the deadline, the student will be responsible for their portion of the trip expenses.*** When students drop out of a trip after the deadline, the food has often already been purchased, the lodging has been secured and paid for, the bus costs have been secured and paid for and the festival registration fees have been paid for. After the trip, the director will re-examine the costs and determine if any charges or reimbursements will be made.

### ***Private Lessons***

Private lessons are certainly encouraged for all students. Having the opportunity to spend time individually with an experienced professional is a tremendous help to any student whether you are an advanced musician, a beginner, or anywhere in between. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Batcheller.

### ***How to Practice***

Select a time of day that will be as free as possible from interruptions and try to use this same time every day “rain or shine”.

Choose a place where you will be as free as possible from distractions that may be caused by improper temperature, poor light, or other factors.

Have your objectives well in mind. Just what do you hope to accomplish during this practice session?

Make sure you are using correct posture. Please remember that perfect practice makes perfect. Isolate troublesome passages and work on them. Reduce the tempo until all musical elements are mastered then gradually increase the tempo, keeping all musical elements under control, until you have achieved the desired excellence of performance.

Work as long as you can maintain your concentration. Don't overdo it and “burn-out” for next time. It's better to put in two good half hours than one long tedious hour.

### ***How Parents Can Help***

1. Show a sincere interest in the music study of your son/daughter.
2. Arrange a regular time for them to practice.
3. Find a quiet place for them to practice, without interruption.
4. Be patient in helping your student secure the things they need.
5. Discuss the possibility of private lessons and the significant benefits to be obtained from them.
6. Encourage them to sing for others when the opportunity arises at home, school, church, and in the community.
7. Try to attend all performances to show support for their progress.
8. Call Mr. Batcheller with any concerns, comments, or questions.

### ***Loaned Music and Folder***

Just as you check out library books and then are responsible for their safe and healthy return, in choir, some music will be checked out to you also. The safe and “healthy” return of these is expected. You will be signing a music loan agreement explaining the student's responsibilities when checking out music. If your music is left on the floor or chair, a \$1.00 “rental” fee is required to redeem your music while I store it for you. This is to help encourage you to be responsible for your music; any money collected becomes part of the music purchase fund.

## ***Fundraising***

In order to help the students provide the money for the various trips, many fundraising opportunities are provided throughout the year. It is the parents/guardians' and student's decision whether to participate in the fundraising activities or to simply pay the fees from their own pocket. There should be an understood responsibility on the student's behalf, that when they commit to a fundraising activity, they are committed to carrying out their responsibilities. For example, if a student signs up to work a shift selling concessions at a BSU event, it is their responsibility to make arrangements to be there, on time, for the full time. If something comes up preventing them from going, **it becomes the student's responsibility to find their own replacement.**

## ***Local Events and Traveling***

The choirs will be participating in local events planned throughout the year. For these events, students are required to ride with the choir on the provided transportation to the event. Students may ride home with their parents/guardians if they have spoken with Mr. Batcheller to release the student. Please remember, I want to keep all students as safe as possible!

## ***Fees and Expenses***

All choir members will pay a \$20.00 "choir fee" which will be due the first Friday of the semester. This choir fee will cover local travel and music expenses for the school year.

### **All Choirs:**

- All choirs will pay a \$20.00 "Choir Fee" that will cover local travel and music expenses.
- All choirs will purchase a CHS Choir-themed t-shirt (approximately \$10.00)
- All choirs will have the opportunity to purchase a CHS Choir-themed sweatshirts (approximately \$25.00 for a hoodie sweatshirt and \$30.00 for a zipper hoodie sweatshirt)
- I'm asking all students to bring a box of Kleenex. We go through a lot!

### **Concert Choir Robe Fee:**

- \$8.00 is due within the first 4 weeks of the semester for the dry cleaning and maintenance of your robe.

**The following expenses are an approximation for the following choirs:**

**Concert Choir:** The uniform concert dress will be chosen for both the ladies and the gentlemen (\$50). The Concert Choir will be participating in two choir trips for the year which will cost approximately \$25.

**Total cost for the year will be approximately \$100**

**Treble Choir:** The treble choir outfit will cost approximately \$75. This class will also travel 2-4 times a year. The traveling expenses for this class will be approximately \$200.

**Total cost for the year will be approximately \$300**

**A cappella Choir:** The a cappella choir outfit will cost approximately \$75. This class will also travel 2-4 times a year. The traveling expenses for this class will be approximately \$200.

**Total cost for the year will be approximately \$300**

**Jazz Choir:** The jazz choir outfit will cost approximately \$100. When the jazz choir participates in choral festivals (non-vocal jazz) this ensemble will wear choir robes. This class will travel 4-6 times a year.

**Total cost for the year will be approximately \$400**

## Handbook Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge receipt of the 2007-2008 Choir Handbook, understand its concepts, and agree to abide by the guidelines to the best of my ability. I understand the purpose of setting forth these guidelines and my understanding of them sets my choir(s) up for more success, knowing that all of us accept responsibility and ownership for the success of this choir.

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(Student Signature)

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(Date)

As the parent/guardian of the above signed choir student, I have read the choir handbook, and plan to assist my student in trying to fulfill the guidelines and in meeting responsibilities and deadlines for the choir(s) he/she is participation in.

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(Parent/Guardian Signature)

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(Date)

## Music Loan Agreement

I receive and promise to use the choral music under the following conditions:

1. I will return this music and materials to the school when notified, or at the end of the year, in as good a condition as when received, allowance being made for wear caused by careful use.
2. If this music or materials is lost or damaged by carelessness or avoidable accident, I will replace it or pay full replacement value.
3. Marking in pen, tearing, or defacing this music and materials will be considered as cause for replacement.
4. When music is left on the floor, there will be a penalty of \$1.00 placed on your choir account

By signing I agree to the above terms of this agreement:

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(Student Signature)