

**PERSON
HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL HANDBOOK**

2019 - 2020

Dear Choir Members and Parents:

Welcome to an exciting, musical year at Person High School! I am Brittany Booth, and I am thrilled to serve another year at PHS as the Director of Choral Activities. I look forward to working with each of you in the upcoming year to make this program the best it can be! My plan for this year includes building on the already established traditions here at PHS, as well as creating some new ones.

This handbook applies to all of the vocal ensembles at Person High, which consists of the following performing groups:

Choral Ensemble (Vocal Music Beginning)

Treble Choir (Vocal Music Intermediate)

Gospel Choir (Rocket Seminar)

Varsity Singers (Vocal Music Proficient- Honors)

As a choir, we are a team; we depend on each other, practice together, learn together, and make music together. It is rewarding when all the hard work pays off! We can achieve everything we set out to, and it all depends on the dedication and effort put forth by individual members. Individual hard work and commitment to a group are important aspects to being in a choir, or any team for that matter. Each student is held to the standard of upholding several responsibilities including: individual concentration, attendance, preparedness, work quality, cooperation, and an open minded attitude! Respect and support of fellow classmates is an additional responsibility required within our classroom and outside of it. Your talent and hard work can make this year at PHS very exciting, fun, and musically fulfilling for all of us.

Like so many organizations, we thrive because of willing volunteers and community supports. The parents who volunteer time, resources, and additional support in this organization make a tremendous contribution to the success of our choral programs. I encourage you to join in contributing to Person High School's success. This handbook contains much information so that students and parents alike will be aware of classroom expectations, and so they will be able to plan for the year. I am looking forward to another great year of memories, and getting to know each new face joining our Chorus family!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions throughout the school year.

Attached at the end of this handbook, you will find a form for students and parents to complete together. This form is due by the end of our first week of classes, and will count as students' first assignment grade.

Sincerely,

Brittany Booth

boothb@person.k12.nc.us

336-599-8321 ext.20150

Standards

Concepts taught in the choral classes will be based on the NC Essential Standards for Music Education, implemented in 2012 by The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Additionally, the National Association for Music Education has a list of standards to provide a well-rounded music experience for all students. I follow these guidelines in choosing music, creating unit and lesson planning, and in my thoughts of what each ensemble should do each day. To meet these state and national standards, all of the ensembles will be studying and singing Choral music from a wide variety of time periods and genres. We will also study vocal health, music literacy, music theory, and music history/ contextual relevancy.

The NC Essential Standards for Music Education are listed here:

<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/artsed/scos/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf>



Programs Offered

Gospel Choir

The purpose of this course is to develop, expose, and expand musical talents through a variety of gospel music (i.e. spirituals, anthems, contemporary and traditional gospel as well as all music from different cultures). Students will learn intervals, rhythms, ear training, and sight-singing skills allowing them to be more vocally independent.

Choral Ensemble

(Vocal Music Beginning)

This Choir offers a variety of learning experiences for new choral musicians. This ensemble offers exposure to a variety of musical styles while learning the beginnings of music history, music literacy, vocal technique, and performing in a group. Students will be introduced to systems like solfege and the “Takadimi” rhythm system that assist in learning the basics of sight-reading.

Treble Choir

(Vocal Music Intermediate)

As the step following the Choral Ensemble, this choir continues to refine the skill sets initially introduced. This class offers expansion and refinement in music literacy, sight-reading, and in addition, challenges students by exposing them to musical notation/dictation. This level of music performance is for intermediate and early proficient musicians. This ensemble oftentimes participates in MPA, (Music Performance Adjudication) in the spring. The ensemble is assessed on its performance and sight reading skills, and graded by a panel of adjudicators. Students can audition for this ensemble or be recommended by the Director.

Varsity Singers (Honors)

(Vocal Music Proficient)

This class is available to students by audition or by the director's recommendation based upon previous performances. Students are expected to sight-read proficiently, to be equipped with music literacy and notation knowledge, and to express sincere interest in dedicating time and effort to choral performance. If a student has not taken Mixed Ensemble or Women's Chorus previously, and believes he/she should be enrolled in the advanced ensemble, an audition will be required. This ensemble represents Person High School annually at MPA, (Music Performance Adjudication). The ensemble is assessed on its performance and sight-reading skills at a proficient/advanced level, and then graded by a panel of adjudicators. The ensemble receives commentary on the performance for constructive critique and student reflection.

Daily Procedures

1. Enter the classroom quietly and on time.
2. Gather daily materials and take your seat.
3. Read the board for the agenda/instructions.
4. Wait for Ms. Booth to dismiss at the end of class.

Supplies

1 Inch Black, Matte Finish Binder (No Glossy Cover!)
Pencil
Notebook Paper
Tissue Box Donations ☺
Concert Attire (As listed in Handbook)

Person High School

Choral Standards and Expectations

Conduct

Each student will represent the Choir, the Music Department, and Person High School in an exemplary fashion. In addition to the expectations of conduct stated in the Person County Schools Handbook, choir students are expected to display proper conduct and respect of the highest caliber during rehearsals, performances, festivals, contests, field trips, and any other activities associated with chorus and outside it. Respect toward peers and adults is absolutely mandatory; anything less is unacceptable behavior, and can have an affect on future ensemble placement and participation, as well as the enforcement of necessary consequences and disciplinary action. **There is zero tolerance for apathy and distracting other students from learning.**

Bathroom Policy: Students should be sure to use the restroom before class! Each week, students will be allotted one-bathroom pass. Students will not be allowed to go during first ten or last ten minutes of class. If a student has to go more than the number of times allotted, class time missed can be made up in an after school rehearsal. Please indicate on the student information sheet if your child needs other bathroom accommodations.

Educational Disruption Procedures:

1st Offense- Verbal Warning

2nd Offense- After class conference between teacher and student.

3rd Offense- Parental Contact/Conference.

4th Offense- Administrative Referral

Expectations

I ask that my students abide by “The Professional Ps:”

1. **Polite** - Being polite means showing respect for those around you, including yourself. Respectful and polite words, tone, actions and attitude should be given to your classmates, teachers, interns, student teachers, substitutes, and yourself.

You may not always like someone else’s singing - you are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not at liberty to always share it. We will never laugh or make fun of those around us because everyone will always be doing his or her best.

2. **Punctual** - Students should be punctual. This applies to class *and* performances. A call time will be announced for all formal and required performances.
3. **Prepared** - Items needed for class each day are outlined in the supplies and materials section. *Please note that the following items are not on the supply list and therefore have no place in our classroom: electronic devices (unless instructed otherwise,) gum, work for other classes, food, drinks other than water, etc.* Anything that distracts from rehearsals will not be tolerated. After a warning, any distracting items will be confiscated and kept in the front office.
4. **Positive** - Students should have a positive attitude in class. It is expected that everyone arrives ready to sing. Your attitude can determine whether you enjoy our time together or not! Set yourself up for success from the start!
5. **Participate** - All students should come to class with a willingness to participate in each activity. Each person’s participation is necessary for the success of the ensemble!

Accommodations

Students with documentation of special accommodations or any disability should arrange to see the music director as soon as possible. Music is for everyone! It is important that you feel comfortable and supported while on this exciting, educational journey! If you are unsure or have any questions regarding this matter, you can contact me directly, or feel free to contact the student’s assigned counselor.

Attendance/Absences

Students are **required** to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Religious holidays, illness (with a doctor's note,) compromised state of affairs of immediate family, and some pre-approved situations are excusable absences. Absences must be reported beforehand (or promptly, in the event of emergency,) and not after the occurrence. Students are responsible for making up any material or assignments missed due to absences. When there are direct conflicts with other school activities, a note must be submitted to Ms. Booth prior to the event. Concert dates are presented at the beginning of the semester, accessible on Powerschool Learning, and are listed in the Choral Handbook. These performances are **mandatory**. An alternate assignment is available for students who are ill and cannot perform in the concert. All other excuses will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. For every 3 tardies acquired by a student, he/she must serve time in detention. This can be completed after school by scheduling a time with Ms. Booth. Accumulation of additional tardies may result in a parent/ teacher conference or administrative action. Tardies can be excused with a parent's note if there are extenuating circumstances; however, students are held responsible to manage their time wisely during the class-change break.

Fundraising

Each year, the choral department sponsors student fundraisers to support our program and to involve the local community. Rather than students paying regular "Fair Share Fees" or Dues to participate in choir, I believe in bringing the community together to support music in our schools, and in turn, we aspire to give back to the community as well. Students will perform fundraisers to raise money for field trips, to pay for uniforms, to buy music and materials, and to compete in competitions/festivals at a lower cost. With funding comes opportunities to travel and share music beyond the local community! We have many performances on the books for the semester; raising money will make trips more accessible for ensembles to attend. More information will be communicated after the confirmation of dates and details.

Resources

Classroom Dojo: This FREE app will be used during class to assist in tracking absences, tardies, and will award/deduct points from students' weekly performance grades based on the "Professional P's," rehearsal/performance expectations, and procedures outlined in Choral Handbook. Parents and students can access this application by using the code issued at the beginning of the semester. It can be accessed by downloading Classroom Dojo or accessing through the website itself.

Remind: The (free) Remind app is a forum where students and their teacher can partake in a group conversation to post questions, reminders, and announcements. This app is particularly convenient because they send messages directly to a student's phone. Parents and Students can download the app or just receive the announcements as text messages.

Google Drive: Practice Tracks and helpful documents are provided to students via Google Drive for convenience and clarity.

Chorus Weebly Website: Our Chorus Website will have announcements, dates, practice materials, assignments, and additional resources available for parents and students. This handbook will also be posted in the "Documents and Resources" page.

Grading

All Ensembles are graded on the following:

Summative Assessments= 40%

Concerts, Projects, Tests

Concert Expectations:

Arrive at all concerts 5 minutes early for designated call time

Arrive prepared and ready to engage in music making

Full participation

Wear appropriate performance attire

Conduct oneself in a professional manner

Work toward achieving Personal Excellence

Self-Efficacy: Professionalism and focused motivation as a Musician

Respect Others

Study music and class activities outside class; this includes PRACTICING!

Formative Assessments= 30%

Weekly Rehearsals, Quizzes

Practice, Preparation, Musicianship

Arrive at all scheduled rehearsals early

Seated when the bell rings with your black binder, music, and a pencil

Positive attitude throughout class and rehearsals

dParticipation in all singing, clapping, listening, and other class activities

Correct posture while singing

Always focused and on task

No gum chewing, food, or drinks in the chorus classroom

Cell phone remains away at all times during the rehearsal unless otherwise instructed

Abiding by Classroom Standards and Expectations

Active participation in Sectionals

Active participation in Classroom Discussion

Written and Performance-Based Quizzes

Formative Daily Work= 30%

Homework, Classwork Assignments

In-class assignments

Submissions on Powerschool Learning

Written Reflections

Music-Theory/ Music History Assignments

A performance is an important representation of your choir, department, and school. It is the byproduct of our work and effort. It gives us the opportunity to display our craft. Students' behavior is expected to be exemplary. We represent our school, our county, and our state. The highest level of professionalism is expected at all times.

* ***Excused*** Absences and tardies will not impact Grades.

Grading Scale

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

59.0 % and below = F

Performance Dress

Treble Choir/Choral Ensemble *(Vocal Music Beginning)*

The beginning level ensemble will be required to wear the following for concert attire:

- Black Top (modest, with at least a short sleeve; gentleman wear a black button down shirt)
- Black Dress Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Closed-Toe Shoes
-

Varsity Singers/Treble Choir

(Vocal Music Intermediate and Intermediate/Proficient)

Women- Women must wear their Person High School Chorus attire purchased at the beginning of the semester. An order will be placed in the beginning of the school year for students in need of a dress.

Concert Attire:

- Black Dress (\$65)
- Black, closed-toe shoes (preferably flats; heels are acceptable, but no more than 1 ½ in.)
- Black panty hose or tights (REQUIRED)
- Black Head Band/ or hair pulled away from the face
- Pearls (Property of PHS Chorus, provided before the concert)

Men- Men must wear their Person High School Chorus Tuxedo purchased at the beginning of the semester. An order will be placed at the beginning of the semester to accommodate gentleman needing to acquire these items.

Concert Attire:

- White, Button-Down Shirt
- Black Dress Slacks
- Black Jacket, Cummerbund
- Black Bow-Tie, Coat Pins

\$95 Purchase

- Men are responsible for purchasing separately: Black Socks and Black Dress Shoes

** These uniforms are required to be clean and wrinkle free for each performance! They will be worn for every performance unless otherwise stated. If students are not wearing Performance Dress, then they will be instructed to wear their PHS Chorus T-Shirts, Jeans, and closed-toe shoes for informal performances. These T-Shirts are \$10 for purchase. Please do not wait until concert week to realize you do not have these items! Please leave shiny, distracting accessories at home. ☺*



Media Release Form

Please verify your identity below:

I, (print name) _____ hereby verify that I am the parent/guardian of
(print student's name) _____.

Please sign your initials next to each statement to provide consent for media/picture usage. If you wish to not provide consent for something, please put an "X" on the line provided.

_____ I give consent for my child to be **videotaped** during all chorus related events.
(practices, community events, concerts etc.)

_____ I give consent for my child to have their **picture** taken at all chorus related events.
(practices, community events, concerts etc.)

_____ I give consent for **pictures** or **videos** of my child to be used on our PHS Chorus Website.

_____ I give consent for **pictures** or **videos** of my child to be used in the Person High School Yearbook.

_____ I give consent for **pictures** or **videos** of my child to be used on our Person Chorus
Facebook Page.

Please provide your signature and your child's signature below to verify all of the information above:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Database Information

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Guardian Name(s) _____

Guardian Phone Number(s) _____

Guardian's Email _____

Emergency Contact _____

Phone _____

FOLLOW US!

www.PHSChorus.weebly.com

@PHSRocketChorus

@PHSRocketChorus

fb.me/PHSRocketChorus

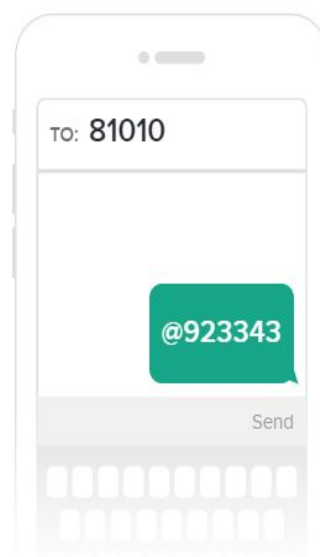
Join our Chorus Parent REMIND!

Text @923343 to 81010

Tell people to text @923343 to the number 81010

They'll receive a welcome text from Remind.

If anyone has trouble with 81010, they can try texting @923343 to (314) 735-0671.



Student Schedule Information

(Teacher and Class)

1st Block:2nd Block:3rd Block:4th Block:5th Block:**Student Contact Information**

Cell: _____

Volunteer/donation opportunities:

(Parents - please check those you would be willing to assist with)

- Chaperoning
- Fundraising
- Concerts (Door attendant, etc.)
- Photography/Videography
- Musician (I play _____, and would be willing to share my talents.)
- Providing tissues, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, etc. (please specify)
- Other (Please Specify)

Does your child own a chorus T-Shirt? Yes/ No

If he/she needs one provided to them, list their information below and send \$10 with the return of this form.

SIZE	Black Chorus T-Shirt \$10.00
S	
M	
L	
XL	
2XL	
3XL	
Total Qty.	
Total \$	

Does your child have any medical conditions or religious beliefs that will affect his/her performance in Chorus? Is there anything else about your child that you would like to share with me?

Choral Standards Agreement

Student:

I have read the Choral Handbook and fully understand its contents. I am aware that as part of the choral curriculum, I will not miss concert performances and mandatory rehearsals. As a pursuit of excellence in my musical training, I will use these standards in my study of choral music to maximize my musicianship and create a positive learning experience.

Student Signature

Date

Parent:

I have discussed these standards and dates with my son/daughter and will assist him/her to achieve the goals stated above. I understand some dates may be subject to change, and I will do my best to support my student's involvement in this program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date