

CENTRAL BUCKS WEST CHOIR HANDBOOK



2022-23

This is a living document that is subject to changes and additions throughout the year – check www.cbsd.org/westchoir for the most updated version.

September 8th, 2022

Dear Choir Families,

I am thrilled to begin my first full year with the CB West Choir. We have a wonderful group of students this year and I am honored to have the chance to facilitate the growth of these student singers as musicians and people.

We have an exciting year ahead of us in choir. Please take a few minutes to read through this handbook that outlines many of the important details about this school year. At the time of writing this message, this handbook is not fully complete, but the most important information will be communicated and updated throughout the year. Thank you for your partnership in an amazing year of singing ahead with CBW Choir. **Go Bucks!!**

Musically yours,

Ms. Abby Marchione

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267-893-2500 ext. 2546

CURRENT ENSEMBLE OFFERINGS

Curricular Choirs

Concert Choir

Chorus is offered to students who enjoy singing in a vocal ensemble. Active participation and pursuit of individual musical growth are essential for the successful performance of choral music. Students will learn to develop proper vocal technique and performance discipline. Emphasis will be placed on training the singers to become better musicians through the use of choral repertoire.

The chorus will perform both classical and contemporary works at the appropriate developmental level. A repertoire will be chosen that reflects a variety of styles, forms, and cultures and includes both sacred and secular texts. School and community performances will be scheduled throughout the year. Only students who are enrolled in Chorus are eligible to audition for County and District Chorus as well as for select vocal ensembles. Participation in the choral program includes required afterschool and evening rehearsals and performances as determined by the director. Participation in the spring trip is optional but encouraged. **Prerequisite: Participation in the middle school choral program is preferred but not required.**

Chamber Choir

Chamber Choir is an honors level course offered to students who wish to sing in an advanced vocal ensemble. Active participation and pursuit of individual growth are essential for the successful performance of choral music. Students will continue to develop high-level vocal techniques.

The choir performs both classical and contemporary works at the highest standard. A repertoire will be chosen that reflects a variety of styles, forms, and cultures and includes both sacred and secular texts. School and community performances will be scheduled frequently throughout the year. Only students who are enrolled in Chorus are eligible to audition for County and District Chorus as well as for select vocal ensembles.

Participation in the choral program includes required afterschool and evening rehearsals and performances as determined by the director. Participation in the spring trip is optional but encouraged. Prerequisite: Audition and/or approval by the high school choir director.

******Chamber Choir auditions for the 2023-24 school year will take place after winter break.***

This course is weighted at .25 as a recognition of the fact that it is more demanding and has more requirements that go beyond those of the standard music ensemble courses.

Co-Curricular Choirs

Our advanced vocal ensembles that rehearse after school are **Treble Choir** (sopranos and altos) and **Tenor-Bass Choir** (tenors and basses). This year, these ensembles rehearse on Tuesdays from 2:45-3:30 (Treble) and 3:45-4:30 (Tenor-Bass).

Auditions will take place during Lunch and Learn on September 14 and 15. Audition details are located in the Concert Choir Canvas course.

Additional Singing Opportunities

BCMEA County Choir Festival – details will be discussed in Chamber Choir class and can currently be found in the Chamber Choir Canvas course.

- **Counties Audition Date - January 21, 2023**
- **Counties Festival Dates - March 16-18, 2023**

PMEA District 11, Region 6, and All-State Choir – details will be discussed in Chamber Choir class and can currently be found in the Chamber Choir Canvas course.

- **Districts Audition Date - November 19, 2022**
- **District Festival Dates - January 12-14, 2023**
- **Region Festival Dates - February 23-25, 2023**
- **All State Festival Dates - April 19-22, 2023**

Harlequin Club – Rent, Anything Goes, cabarets – please contact Ms. Jessica Bostock, musical director, at jbostock@cbsd.org with Harlequin Club questions.

Phoenix Club Coffeehouses

CONCERTS AND PERFORMANCES

Although our students meet at different class times, every CBW Choir student will learn the same core repertoire. We all join together to form one large group. The full choir puts on two major concerts per year. Select choirs also perform their own repertoire at these concerts.

Thursday, December 15th – Winter Concert

Call Time: 6:15 pm

Concert: 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 18th – Spring Concert

Call Time: 6:15 pm

Concert: 7:00 pm

The choir is regularly invited to perform at events outside of our scheduled concerts. Students who are in Concert Choir class can expect about 1-3 extra performances per year. Students who are in select ensembles should anticipate about 5-10 extra performances per year. **Excluding illnesses, life events, and major/unavoidable conflicts, students are expected to perform in all choir events that apply to them – ESPECIALLY students in select ensembles.** The ensemble experience is impacted when even one choir member is missing. Please check the Google calendar at www.cbsd.org/westchoir and mark off all dates. All field trip and caroling dates that are currently scheduled are on the calendar, even if they are tentative/have not yet been announced. There may be a few additions and changes throughout the year, but these will all be announced via email and Remind.

If there is a fee associated with participation in an event and it poses a financial difficulty, assistance can be provided. Students/families should speak with Ms. Marchione if this is the case. Unfortunately, assistance cannot be provided for the Orlando trip, but many fundraising opportunities will be available.

GRADING

The choir grading system is tailored to each student's individual growth. It is not built around a student's musical ability when entering choir, but instead focuses on growth and successful completion of learning tasks throughout the year. The bulk of the choir grade for the year will consist of mandatory assignments, which include concerts, mandatory evening rehearsals (4 per school year), and projects, recordings, and other learning activities that will be submitted throughout the long-term rehearsal process.

In addition, every marking period, students will fulfill a "Student Choice Grade" requirement for 25 points of their marking period grade. The easiest way to earn the 25 points is to attend that marking period's optional "Student Choice" evening rehearsal for the full length of the rehearsal. If students have conflicts on those dates, they can also fulfill the grade with independent assignments. These options will be discussed in class in coming weeks.

It should be very achievable for every choir student to earn an "A" in choir class. **Grades will be updated in Infinite Campus only** – please do not check Canvas for grading purposes.

SAMPLE MARKING PERIOD GRADE BREAKDOWN*

**subject to minor changes in point values and categories*

Assignments	Points per Marking Period
CONCERT	50 points
Mandatory Rehearsal	20 points
Assignments (mainly in-class)	35 points
Reflection	20 points
Student Choice (options will be explained and distributed in class)	25 points
Total Points	150 points

COMMUNICATION

Clear and consistent communication from the choir director is key to the success of our choir students. Choir updates are shared in four main ways: **the CB West choir website, email, Canvas, and Remind.**

Website

All students and parents should bookmark the choir website: www.cbsd.org/westchoir

The Google Calendar with all choir rehearsals and events is shared on the website. You can bookmark the calendar page to revisit, and/or sync the Google calendar to your own calendar to receive live updates that way. When possible, the home page of the website is updated with reminders about events coming up for easy access.

Email

Students must get into the habit of checking their CBSD email daily Monday-Friday. The most detailed and important updates will be sent out via email for both students and parents/guardians. For students, these will always be sent to CBSD email addresses. For parents and guardians, the email addresses listed in Infinite Campus are used. Contact amarchione@cbsd.org with any additions or changes to parent/guardian email addresses.

Canvas

Canvas is used for assignments and course content, but is also used in addition to my website as a “central hub” for information. Parents can sign up as a Canvas observer to view the content. Please contact Ms. Marchione if you need assistance signing up as an observer.

Remind Messaging

The Remind app is used to push out quick announcements and reminders as we get closer to events. Remind messages can be accessed in three ways:

1. Sign up for texts by texting the code to 81010
2. Download the Remind app, join using class codes, and enable notifications
3. View the feed of Remind texts shared on the homepage of the choir website www.cbsd.org/westchoir. Check back frequently so that you don't miss important reminders. This method can be used for students who do not have a cell phone or parents who want to view the announcements without signing up for texts or the app.

This year's Remind Codes are below. (If you are a member of these groups from last year, you do not need to rejoin – the codes have changed, but they are the same groups!)

- CB West Choir (everyone) – @choircbw
- Chamber Choir – @cbwcchoir
- Treble Choir – @cbwtreb
- Tenor-Bass Choir - @cbwtb

Contacting the Director

Email (amarchione@cbsd.org) is my preferred method for contact. I make it a high priority to respond to emails in a timely manner during the school week. I do not access email on weekends unless we have a scheduled choir event on a Saturday or a Sunday.

Remind is a useful messaging tool when real-time communication and clarifications are necessary. Please feel free to use Remind for questions during off-site trips. Otherwise, please use email when sending questions that are less time sensitive.

Thank you for your partnership in creating strong lines of communication throughout the year!

ATTIRE

We wear black concert uniforms for a unified appearance in our concerts. We use Cousins for our uniform orders. For new members, we place an order for the choir near the beginning of each school year.

Option A: floor length black choral dress. You supply close-toed black dress shoes.

Option B: white shirt, black vest, black tie. We supply a black jacket. You supply black pants and close-toed black dress shoes.

CLASS PROCEDURES

When you enter the classroom:

1. Place your cell phone in your backpack.*
2. Pick up your choir folder from your assigned slot.
3. Check the board for any additional directions for the day.
4. Find your seat for attendance.

***Cell phones:** For our choir rehearsals to be effective, it is essential to eliminate the inevitable screen distractions that can wait for another time in the day. These include social media, games, checking grades and email, etc. In the increasingly digital world, it can be very difficult to part with our devices. However, the difference when everyone is engaged and fully “present” in rehearsal can be felt by all. Unless teacher permission is given, cell phones are expected to be left in backpacks or pockets and not seen during class.

If it would be helpful to hold onto your phone for appointment pickup purposes, etc, please let Ms. Marchione know when you get to class or via email before class. Students may also check their phones during rehearsal breaks when teacher permission is given. Contact Ms. Marchione with any other concerns. Otherwise, thank you for your help in leaving distractions behind so that we can enjoy making music together.

During rehearsals, eating, chewing gum, doing homework for other classes, and other activities that prevent full engagement in our rehearsal process are not permitted.

It is never permissible to use a choir class as time to work with another teacher or complete make-up work for another class. This constitutes a class cut and results in a choir grade penalty.

CB West Choir 2022-23

Important Dates at a Glance

Any schedule changes will be communicated via email and updated on the choir Google calendar. The calendar is posted at www.cbsd.org/westchoir.

Concerts

Thursday, December 15th – Winter Concert

Call Time: 6:15 pm

Concert: 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 18th – Spring Concert

Call Time: 6:15 pm

Concert: 7:00 pm

Evening Rehearsals

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Monday, October 3rd – <i>Welcome Back Rehearsal</i>	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	All Choir Members - Graded
Monday, November 21st	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Student Choice Grade**
Monday, November 28th	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	<i>Only need to attend if going on the Flyers Field trip</i>
Monday, December 12th – <i>Final Winter Concert Rehearsal</i>	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	All Choir Members - Graded
Monday, February 6th	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Student Choice Grade** and/or Orlando Trip TBD
Monday, February 13th	6:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Mandatory if attending Orlando Trip
Monday, March 6th	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	All Choir Members - Graded
Monday, April 17th	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Student Choice Grade**
Monday, May 15th – <i>Final Spring Concert Rehearsal</i>	7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	All Choir Members - Graded

** **Student Choice Grade** rehearsals are optional but will help students to fulfill the “Student Choice” grading requirement each marking period. Attending one of these rehearsals for the full length of the rehearsal is the easiest way for students to earn this grade. Alternatives will be discussed in class and could include independent rehearsal, practice on musictheory.net, piano practice, etc.

Extracurricular Rehearsals – First Rehearsals will be September 20

Treble Choir: Tuesdays from 2:45-3:30 pm

Tenor-Bass Choir: Tuesdays from 3:45-4:30 pm

Chamber Choir: will be scheduled only as needed

Choir Parent Organization and Meetings

We have a few parents who have volunteered to step into leadership positions. We may need a few more positions filled. I will reach out with this information.

Additionally, we will hold monthly meetings that all choir parents are welcome to attend. These meetings will take place in the choir room or virtually over Teams. Notification of meeting mode will be sent out prior to the meeting. The first meeting on September 13 will take place in-person in the choir room.

These meetings are mainly scheduled for **Tuesday evenings**, except for 12/5 (a Monday) as select choirs have a caroling event on 12/6.

9/13/22 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

10/4/22 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

11/1/22 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

12/5/22 (Monday) - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

1/10/23 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

3/7/23 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

4/18/23 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

5/9/23 - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm