



BCHS Advanced Choir “Bella Voce” Handbook 2022-2023

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Welcome to Bay City High School Bella Voce! Choir is a group activity that emphasizes teamwork and cooperation. Each individual must strive to work for the success of the group. Even though you are a part of a large group, each individual's participation is needed in order to make our group goals a reality. Our choir should be seen as a source of pride for our school and community.

Each time you participate with the group whether at school or in the community you are carrying on a tradition that stretches back many decades. **Every student that joins our program assumes the responsibility of upholding and making an effort to improve the high standards responsible for our future success.** It is up to all of us to continue the traditions that will last long after we have left. Therefore, students in Bella Voce must be dedicated to this organization.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be courteous to your classmates.
2. Be in your seat when the bell rings with your music and a pencil, prepared to sing.
3. NO talking during instruction.
4. NO food or gum allowed in the choir hall (water is acceptable).
5. Cell phones allowed ONLY when we are using them for instruction.
6. Class will be dismissed by the instructor, not the bell.

Classroom Procedures:

1. When you enter the room, place your backpacks, purses, personal items along the wall. This would also be the time to spit out your chewing gum.
2. Once this is done, get your choir folder. Make sure you have a pencil in your folder.
3. Be in your seat when the bell rings. The door will be locked when the tardy bell rings. If you are not in the classroom before the tardy bell, you must go to TARDY SWEEP.
4. Cell phones will be used at specified times for classroom instruction. If you are caught using them outside of those times, the phone will be taken up and you may retrieve it from Student Services.
5. Be ready to begin as soon as the bell rings.
6. Please have a pencil in your folder at all times to make any notes.
7. The final bell does NOT dismiss you, I do. Please remain in your seat until I dismiss you.
8. In choir, every voice counts. You will be given daily participation grades and our concerts will count for a test grade. We can work together to create beautiful music but it requires effort from everyone!! Let's do our best to make this a choir we can all be proud of!

Supplies:

3-ring binder and a pencil

You are responsible for all music passed out during class.

Restroom Visits:

You have plenty of time between classes to use the restroom. You will be given three (3) restroom passes for the SEMESTER. When you need to use the restroom, you must turn in a pass and you will be given the RED pass to use the restroom. You are responsible for these passes. Put your name on them. If you lose them, you will NOT get a new one.

Consequences:

1. Verbal Warning – Loss of points on participation grade
2. Student/Teacher Conference – Loss of points on participation grade
3. Phone call to parents/guardian
4. Parent/Teacher/Student Conference
5. Office Referral

Grading:

Grades will consist of the following:

- Participation (includes singing and having all materials)
- Recorded and written assessments
- Every performance counts as a test grade**
- Semester exam – final concert

~ All students are required to attend every practice, sectional, and performance. Your grade is largely dependent on your attendance. **Work related absences are not excused.** Plan ahead!!!! A schedule of events will be provided to you-- check it! The director is not responsible for determining your excuse. You must keep her informed well ahead of time if a conflict cannot be avoided. (The day or week of a contest or performance is too late! Major points will be deducted if this occurs). If some emergency arises and you cannot attend, you must notify the director as soon as possible ahead of time and BRING A NOTE SIGNED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN. You will be given an alternate assignment to complete your grade for that event in case of emergency only.

Student Responsibilities:

- You must pass all classes every six weeks. If you fail, you cannot participate and that leaves a hole in the group. I will be checking your grades each six weeks. If you are having trouble in a class, seek help through the teacher or another student, attend tutorials, and make up tests. **Students that continue to fail two years in a row and are not eligible to participate in UIL events will be removed from the choir program.**
- Bella Voce is 5th period. Be in class, in your chair ready to sing as soon as the bell rings. If you are not in the room when the bell rings you will be tardy and you will be locked out according to school policy.
- Students in Bella Voce represent BCHS and must therefore be the best students in the school.
- Days spent in ISS in excess of 5 times or placement in DAEP may result in removal from Bella Voce at the discretion of the director.
- **YOU CANNOT MISS EVENTS!!! This includes performances, fundraisers and any other scheduled events. In order to achieve all that we do it takes commitment from everyone, all the time!**
- Nothing can tear apart a choir more quickly than gossiping about each other. If you have a problem with someone, work it out with them or come to Dr. Cowart. If gossip occurs on a regular basis, it will be grounds for dismissal from Bella Voce.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Please read the student responsibilities. Parents must also adhere to these guidelines.
- I realize that things do happen, occasionally, and I will be flexible to a point. However, if you and your students do not communicate with me, then I cannot be flexible. Each member has a responsibility to this group. If you and your students feel that you cannot commit to this, please let me know now.
- Students CANNOT miss performances. Every performance is a test grade.

Director Responsibilities:

- Help the students to be the best choir they can be.
- Communicate, communicate, and communicate!

CHOIR TRIPS

We are hoping to take a day trip in the spring but details are not available at this time. As soon as dates and costs are determined, information will be sent out.

LETTERMAN JACKETS

Students can earn their letterman jacket in choir. Listed below are ways to earn your jacket. You must be currently enrolled in a choir class to receive your jacket.

- Be active in your third (3rd) year of choir
- Audition for and make the All-Region Choir (fall semester)
- Advance to State for Solo and Ensemble (spring semester)

CHOIR FEE - \$20.00

Each member must purchase a choir t-shirt. These will be worn for certain performances and on our trip in the spring. The cost of the t-shirt is \$15.

Uniforms are provided (black dress for girls/black shirt and vest, tie for boys). There is a \$5 uniform fee to help cover the cost of cleaning.

FUNDRAISING

For any travel, each student will be responsible for their portion of the trip. We will do ample fundraisers to help with this amount but if the student or parent does not participate in the fundraiser, the balance owed will be your responsibility. Any money raised over and above the amount for this year's trip will be applied to next year.

REMINDERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

You can sign up for text message reminders through Remind.com. The easiest way to start receiving these is to text the message **@bv22-23** to **81010**. Students and parents can receive important reminders throughout the school year.

You can also follow the choir on Twitter and get information that way. **@Choir_BayCityHS** or follow the choir on Facebook **@BayCityHSchoir**.

Important Dates

Fall 2022:

Friday, Aug 26	T-shirt money/uniform fee due - \$20
Saturday, Sept 24	Region Choir Auditions @ BCJH (optional event)
Nov 4-5	All-region Clinic and Concert
Tuesday, Nov 15	Pre-area Auditions @ Columbia HS
Tuesday, Dec 13	JV/Bella Voce Concert @ FBC - 6:30pm
Thursday, Dec 15	Show Choir Concert @ BCHS - 7:00pm

Spring 2023:

Saturday, Jan 7	Area Auditions @ Cuero HS
Saturday, February 4	Solo & Ensemble @ BCHS (optional)
Monday, April 3	Pre-UIL Concert (Bella Voce & JV)
Tuesday, April 18	Bella Voce - UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest
Friday, May 12	Show Choir Concert @ BCHS - 7:00pm
Tuesday, May 16	JV/Bella Voce Concert @ BCHS - 6:30pm