



SALEM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Choir Department

2015-2016 Disclosure Document

Justin Bills, instructor

Course Outcome

By being part of Salem Hills High School Choir, you are part of one of the finest choral organizations in the country. Your membership in choir will bring you significant and empowering experiences as you develop your musical skills, your integrity, your accountability, and your confidence. By exposing yourself to uplifting music and engaging in complex musical experiences, you will feel an expansion of your own soul as you surrender to that experience. Being involved in a fully immersive music-making experience with fellow students, will uniquely prepare you to work well with others in a creative environment. Years from now, though you will likely not remember specific pieces we have sung: the beautiful melodies, the intricate rhythms, or the complicated texts, your training in choir will help you to remember your emotional connection to music. With this training, you will develop a deep appreciation for music, its cultural impact, and your emotional connection to it.

Course Requirements

The requirements for this course are divided into two categories: participation and performances.

Participation (55% of grade)

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and to participate actively in the rehearsal process. Though attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory, attendance is only part of the requirement; students are expected to sing warm-ups, participate in sight-singing and ear-training exercises, work alone, in small groups, and in sections. Students are also expected to maintain high standards of behavior, discipline, and decorum during rehearsals. Any writing assignments or rehearsal reflections will be included in this portion of the grade.

Performance Participation (45% of grade)

In a performance class, like choir, participation in the performances is an extension of the classroom curriculum. Indeed, performance is part of core curriculum for both state and national music education standards. Part of students' responsibility as members of the choir is to attend and participate actively in all performances and important dress rehearsals. From time to time, students will also be asked to reflect on their performance, these reflections will be included in the performance portion of your grade.

Grading Policy

Participation

There are two elements of the participation score: attendance and rehearsal participation. Students are given 5 points each rehearsal for attendance. The students' rehearsal participation score will be determined by level or participation, their attitude and their behavior during rehearsals.

Daily Rehearsal Participation

Students will begin each rehearsal with 10 points. Based on their level of focused participation, they may either accrue additional points or be deducted points. The instructor will keep a record of point balances.

Making up Rehearsal Participation Points

Students are permitted to miss two rehearsals each term without their grade being affected. Any additional absences beyond the first two will need to be made up. To make-up **excused** absences, students must use an Absence Make-up Form available from Mr. Bills no later than two weeks after the absence. The students must complete 30-

minutes of private rehearsal with our current repertoire to make-up the absence. In most cases, the student will be able to make-up all the points they missed by being absent, but the instructor reserves the right to reward or to remove points as necessary. *Students will have 2-weeks from the day of the absence to make up the points.*

Performances

Each required performance and dress rehearsal is worth a pre-determined amount of points. If the student attends all performances on time, they will earn all possible points.

Excused Performance Absences

In the *rare* circumstance that a student needs to miss a performance, the instructor must receive e-mail notification from a parent/guardian at least *one week* prior to the performance. If the instructor receives adequate notification and the instructor deems the circumstances justified, the student will be eligible to make-up a portion or all of that performance's points by completed a performance make-up assignment.

Unexcused Performance Absences

If a student misses a performance without prior notification, the student may not be able to make-up that performance's points and it may result in the student being dismissed from the choir. Of course, the instructor reserves the right to discern when circumstances are emergency situations out of the hands of the student. Nevertheless, the eligibility of the student to make-up points will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Dress Rehearsals

On the afternoon of most concerts days, the students will be required to attend an dress rehearsal from 2:00-4:00pm. These rehearsals are worth a pre-determined amount of points and missing the rehearsal or being tardy to the rehearsal may result in a full loss of those points and a loss of performance privileges. In most cases, a portion or all of these points can be made-up by completing a performance make-up assignment.

Grading Scale

55% Rehearsal Participation Points

45% Performance Participation Points

100%

93-100% = A

79-81% = B-

65-68% = D+

89-92% = A-

75-78% = C+

62-64% = D

85-88% = B+

72-74% = C

59-61% = D-

82-84% = B

69-71% = C-

Rehearsal Expectations

Rehearsal time is incredibly valuable; it is so important that no time is wasted. In order to preserve the urgent learning environment, students are not permitted to talk during class unless asking a question or being called on by the instructor.

Students are expected to:

- Be on time to rehearsals.
- Attend rehearsals prepared (this includes having music, pencil, and water bottle ready).
- Refrain from talking out of turn.
- Honor all directions given by the instructor, assistants, or student-leaders promptly.
- Offer their best contribution to each rehearsal.
- Treat the music and music folder they are checked out with respect—write only in pencil, keep pages together, take special care of music when at home.
- Keep trips to the bathroom or drinking fountain to an absolute minimum.
- Preserve the learning environment for their classmates and instructor. This includes:
 - Not talking during class unless asking a question or being called on by the instructor.
 - Use politeness in addressing their classmates or instructor, or in asking questions.

- Refrain from crude, demeaning, or offensive jokes or language.
- Keep cell-phones, iPods, and other electronic devices put away at all times.
- Celebrate the contribution and opinions of your classmates.
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, or drinking (except water in sealable water-bottle).

Extra Items

Eligibility

The Salem Hills High School Attendance Policy requires students to attend and to be on time to all classes. Students who are ineligible the term prior to a performance will not be able to participate in certain performances until all attendance infractions are cleared. Students will need to be eligible each term.

Financial Obligation

Each year, class fees, uniform, and tour (Concert Choir & Serendipity only) costs generate a modest financial demand on the members of the choir. Students will be required to pay all payments *on time*. Students will have the option to pay in a one-time large payment, or in separate installments. Payments may be made at the school's finance office or online at myschoolfees.com. Receipts must be turned in to the receipt box as soon as possible.

Fundraising

Students are expected to pay off the fees of the choir. The choir program may periodically offer fundraising opportunities to the class beyond raising money for the program, but students are encouraged to work on their own to raise the money to pay for uniforms and tour.

Choir Tour

The Salem Hills Concert Choir, Singers, and Serendipity tours every school year for five days in the spring. All choir members participate on tour.

Extra Rehearsals

The instructor reserves the right to schedule additional rehearsals and sectionals, as he deems necessary, and requires attendance of the choir members in as much as he has given the students ample notice.

Dress Code

Students are expected to dress in a way that does not distract or detract from the learning environment. If a student is found to be in defiance of the Salem Hills High School's dress code, they will be referred to the administration office.

Safety Considerations

While in the rehearsal room, there is no tolerance for horseplay, loud yelling, or running.

Instructor Availability

E-mail Address: justin.bills@nebo.edu

Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY