

Prairie High School

Douglas Orofino, Director of Choirs

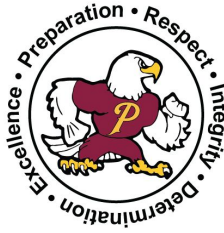


"The arts aren't just important because they improve math scores. They're important because they speak to a part of children's being which are otherwise untouched."

**-Sir Ken Robinson,
International Educational Advisor**

**2017-2018
Choir Handbook**





School-Wide Expectations

Preparation	Respect	Integrity	Determination	Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage time wisely• Dress appropriately• Have necessary materials and student ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use appropriate volume• Use appropriate language• Maintain personal boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be responsible for your actions• Be where you're supposed to be• Report any concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move with purpose• Work toward goals• Grow from experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat others and yourself well• Be a good role model• Leave areas better than you found them

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Prairie High School Choir Program. My name is Douglas Orofino and I am new this year to the Prairie Staff. I have worked with some of you and many of your students before and I am excited about this new year. I am coming from Chief Umtuch Middle school and am thrilled for the opportunity to make music with your amazing students.

It has been a while since Prairie has had a dedicated Director of Choirs so things this year might be a little different than you've experienced before. In a few short months we have already experienced amazing growth. We have gone from offering one period of choir to three (including an advanced ensemble). Our department enrollment has also nearly doubled from approximately 40 students, to near 75! I truly believe that if we all bring a positive attitude, work ethic and an open mind we will have an excellent year.

This handbook contains information concerning policies and expectations for the coming school year. Choir can offer each student many opportunities for growth and provide musical experiences that they will treasure for a lifetime. Membership in choir requires an open mind, hard work, pride, and a serious commitment to excellence. **Please read this handbook carefully and retain it for your reference. You will also find forms for you and your student to complete and return all forms by September 5th.**

At Prairie, parents are a hugely important part of the success we have in the classroom and on stage. There are several volunteering opportunities that we will have throughout the year through. All volunteers must be approved through BGPS Human Resources.

Please follow this link to access the online Volunteer Application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnNOP9tUmfMvUCKP7mkOBg9ZkclxYf19K4WVP_EmxfrY2F_6g/viewform

This is a great way to be involved in the success of our program and school. I strongly encourage you to contact me and let me know if you have a particular skill, trade, time, and/or anything else that will benefit the students in choir.

Best,

Douglas Orofino

Director of Choirs: orofino.douglas@battlegroundps.org



Performance Schedule

As mentioned above there are now three periods of choir (and two performing groups: Chamber Choir -0 period- and Concert Choir -3rd and 4th periods combined). The performances are for both ensembles unless otherwise indicated.

Concert Schedule:

Fall Concert - Music Around the World: **November 6th 6:30pm; call 5:30pm**

Winter Concert - **December 20th 7:00pm; call time 6:00pm**

Recruiting Festival (with 8th grade students): Saturday in February or March (**TBD**)

Spring Concert - Spring Has Sprung/Spring into Action: **March 5th 7:00pm; call time 6:00pm**

LCRMEA High School Choral Festival

Chamber Choir - **March 14th** (school day trip)

Concert Choir - **April 16th** (school day trip)

Jazz Night (at BGHS) Chamber Choir only - May 30th (**exact time TBD**)

Final Concert - Night at the Movies: **June 4th 6:00pm; call time 5:00pm**

Choir Calendar – <https://tinyurl.com/PHSchoircalendar>

Our calendar is run through Google which will allow us to access it more readily, update it as necessary, and make sure that parents, students, and directors are all on the same page. Students are to attend the dates on the calendar that the directors communicate are applicable to them. If a date needs to be added or changed, students will be given at least 2 weeks of notice and are expected to attend. The calendar will update automatically as changes are made, so no need to request an updated one from the Choir Office!

If you have questions about the calendar, please send them to

orofino.douglas@battlegroundps.org

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior, dependability, hard work and dedication. With this philosophy in mind, the following are guidelines for behavior expected of all singers:

- Be in assigned place when the bell rings with your class materials and a positive attitude.
- Participate fully in rehearsal and activities.
- Come to class with a growth mindset (what can I do better today?)
- Adhere to the Classroom Behavioral Guidelines

Classroom Behavioral Guidelines

- Show respect to each other, teachers, any other adults that may be present, and classroom.
- All materials are to be placed in backpacks or folder slots at the end of each rehearsal.
- Gum, food, and beverages (other than water) are not permitted in the room during rehearsal.
- Caps/hats/hoods are not worn during rehearsals or performances.
- School dress code is followed.
- Electronic devices are to be put away during rehearsals or performances, unless requested by the ensemble director.
- If ill, students are to participate fully in rehearsal mentally (through audiation, marking music, etc), *Students must consult the ensemble director at the beginning of the rehearsal in order to be excused from singing. Prolonged inactivity over 2 full rehearsals will require a doctor's note*
- Always be working to improve singing technique, proper singing posture, learn assigned music, positivity and demonstrating on-task behavior.
- Demonstrating responsibility by taking care of assigned uniform, music, and all classroom materials

Materials

- Black music folder and pencil (student provided)
- Rehearsal music* (provided by Mr. Orofino)
- Recommended: bring your own water bottle to stay hydrated during rehearsal

*At the end of each rehearsal, students will take their music home to study or put their folder back into the assigned folder slot. **It is the student's responsibility to replace any lost or damaged choir department materials at her/his own expense.**

Grading

The goal of this grading system is to establish a clearly defined method through which you can develop in the areas of singing technique, music theory and ensemble. Your grade will be determined by your accumulation of points within each category at the end of each grading period.

To grow and improve as a student and musician, you will be evaluated on both objective and subjective criteria in each of the following areas: weekly rehearsal work, assignment completion/achievement, musicianship assessments and concert performances.

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	
Weekly Rehearsal Work	35 %
Performances	30 %
Assessments	20 %
Assignments/Activities	15 %

Weekly Rehearsal Work

Students have received a copy of the rubric used to evaluate rehearsal behaviors and techniques. We will spend the majority of our class time rehearsing; thus the **attitude, vocal technique** and **treatment of class materials** during rehearsals is critical to the success of the class. We will go over this rubric as a class and students will understand how to achieve success during the rehearsal.

Performance Participation/Expectations

Participation in concerts/festivals is comparable to major tests or term papers in other classes. The only excuses for missed performances are: illness, death in the family, a pre-excused absence by the parent with their ensemble director, or a Prairie High School related activity (also must be cleared with their ensemble director per district guidelines). Although the absence may be excused, the student is required to do make up assignment in order to earn concert/festival credit. The teacher must be notified in advance in order for the absence to be excused, even if the student is not in school the day of a performance. Students will receive performance credit only when in attendance for the entire performance or rehearsal.

In addition to actually performing in a concert, students are also evaluated on their "concert etiquette" while involved in a performance. Students will be expected to arrive at the designated "call time" (generally 45-60 minutes prior to the concert), and to remain for the entire concert. During the performance of all choirs, students are expected to be thoughtful, appreciative audience members and adhere to the standards of appropriate concert behavior that have been discussed prior to each concert.

Make Up Work/Attendance Policy

After School Rehearsal Absence Make Up

It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher to determine what homework and/or exams must be made up. All sectionals and exams should be made up within 2 calendar weeks of the student's return, or arrangements should be made with the teacher for an extension within three days of returning to school. Make-up work for excused absences must be completed within the six-week period the absence occurred to earn credit. Work, an outside of school job, is not considered an excused absence from outside of school performances.

*****Students with excessive absences from rehearsals (in and out of the school day time) may be removed from choir and encouraged to choose another elective where his/her attendance does not play such a critical role in the success of the entire class*****

Performance Absence Make-up

An absence from a performance will only be excused if the parent contacts the ensemble director 15 school days prior to the performance, except in the case of an emergency. In the case of an emergency, the parent/guardian(s) must contact the ensemble director as soon as possible. If a student has an excused absence, he/she may receive performance credit by:

- Concert Review: attending an approved school or community concert and writing a review of the concert
- CD Review: reviewing a choral music CD as assigned by the ensemble director and writing a paper of at least two typed pages in length.
- Historical Context Paper: writing a paper of at least two typed pages on a composer whose music we are singing or a research paper assigned by the ensemble director.
- Assigned Project: completing a project assigned by the ensemble director; and/or a combination of the above

*****Credit is awarded based on the quality of the make-up work submitted*****

Unexcused Absences

Students with unexcused daily, after school, or performance absences will be allowed to do make up work in special in special circumstances only. Chronic unexcused absences may constitute grounds for dismissal from the choir.

Uniforms

Concert appearance: Neither jewelry nor hair bows are to be worn. Hair is to be worn off the face and shoulders, unless specified by ensemble director. Facial and tongue piercings are strongly discouraged; if a student has facial jewelry, the jewelry must be removed for the performance. Because of the importance of proper tongue placement and relaxation in singing, tongue jewelry is strongly discouraged during rehearsals, and is not allowed in concerts.

Specifics about concert uniforms will be coming to you very soon. There **will be** several performance items students **need to order and/or purchase**. You will receive information as soon as it is available.

Anyone having difficulty meeting these standards due to financial concerns should contact Mr. Orofino so a solution can be reached.

Information Outlets

In an effort to communicate effectively with parents, students, alumni, and community members, we have created additional outlets for you to keep up to date with Prairie Choir: Remind Messages (Messages straight to your phone!) - Chamber choir: <https://www.remind.com/join/singphs18> Concert Choir: <https://www.remind.com/join/phs18choir>
Twitter - @Mr_Orofino

Social Media Policy

It is a goal of Prairie Choir to use outlets like Remind, Twitter, Instagram, etc. to enhance our communication with parents and students. Mr. Orofino may indirectly communicate with students, but will avoid all direct communication (i.e. text message, following students on Twitter, Instagram, etc.).

Students are encouraged to make wise choices when posting publicly on social media outlets. Negative public comments toward directors, ensembles or other students are damaging to the choir program, other schools and the district. Inappropriate social media behavior may affect ensemble placement and may lead to further consequences.

Due: September 5, 2018

Prairie High School Choir

Choir Contract Acknowledgement Form 2018-2019

STUDENT:

I have read and understand the Prairie Choir Handbook concerning my participation in the Prairie Choir program. I accept personal responsibility in abiding by the guidelines established in this handbook.

_____ (Printed Student Name)

_____ (Student Signature) _____ (Date)

PARENT(S) / GUARDIAN(S):

I acknowledge reading the Prairie Choir Handbook regulations governing my student's participation in the Prairie Choir program and I accept responsibility in supporting my daughter/son in fulfilling the expectations and obligations as established in this handbook.

Additionally, I understand that photos/videos of the choir may be used for promotional purposes. This may include display, distribution, publication or other use of photographs, images, and/or video taken of my student for purposes that include, but are not limited to, printed materials such as choir newsletters, videos, and digital images.

If I do not wish for media of my student to be used, I understand I must complete the appropriate form and have it submitted to the office.

_____ (Parent/Guardian Signature) _____ (Date)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Orofino
orofino.douglas@battlegroundps.org