



Salem Hills High School

Choir Department

2017-2018 Disclosure Document

Justin Bills, Director of Choirs

Course Outcome

Being in a 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. Being introduced to uplifting music and engaging in complex musical experiences, you will feel an expansion of your 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.

Utah Core Standards

- **CREATE:** Students will conceptualize, generate, and organize artistic ideas and work. They will complete and refine musical works.
- **PERFORM:** Students will analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for performance. They will develop techniques and concepts to refine artistic work, and express meaning through the presentation of musical works
- **RESPOND:** Students will perceive and analyze artistic work and process. They will interpret intent and meaning, and apply criteria to evaluate artistic work and process.
- **CONNECT:** Students will synthesize and relate knowledge from personal and collaborative experience to make and receive art. They will relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Course Requirements

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

Rehearsal Participation

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.

Performance Participation

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.

Self-Assessments

Periodically through the term, students will be asked to assess their own success in the areas of rehearsal participation and performance participation. These self-assessments will be completed using an online tool that will be made available during a given window of time. All students are expected to complete these self-assessments. The instructor reserves

the right to adjust self-assigned grades depending on certain criteria, including but not limited to excessive absences, tardies, behavioral issues, missing a concert with or without prior notification, missing a dress rehearsal, etc.

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

Financial Obligation

Each year, class fees, uniform, and tour 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.

Extra Rehearsals

The instructors reserve 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