

The Martin Luther High School Choral Handbook

2023-2024

Forward

Today more than ever, educators and taxpayers examine the worthiness of every course in the curriculum. They ask if the course fulfills the objectives of education.

Martin Luther High School and its community are serious minded people who recognize that the purpose of education is more than just a means for making a living and are placing and increasing emphasis on music and bands in particular. They recognize that man does not live by bread alone. They recognize that music is a gift from God.

Music is the most widely used art. Just about everyone listens to music on TV, radio, movies, computers or CD's. Central to the appreciation and understanding of music is music performance. The student who has learned to play an instrument will always enjoy music more than if he had not. The good band performs superior music in order to give its members a worthwhile musical heritage.

The purpose of the Choral Music program is to serve the school and community through concerts, thus providing entertainment and enhancing school and community spirit. It is also to furnish the student with an invaluable experience and educate them with the gifts that God has given them in music, they should use them to serve others. We praise the Lord with our music as Psalm 150 tells us to do. The disciplines of a good choir are similar to those acquired in athletics. Both develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork, and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects.

Choral music performances also promote good health. One pediatrician has said: "If I had my way, all boys and girls would be required to sing." One must not forget that the superior choir helps to develop character, good behavior, leadership and provides students with an ideal outlet for their energies. The choir also gives each student a place to "hang his hat." Everybody needs something of this kind for good mental health and happiness.

In addition to the rewards from discipline and hard work one also belongs to a choir because it is fun. There is a genuine exhilaration in making music, in playing a beautiful concert, enhancing the worship at church and in being able to proudly wear a uniform of the Martin Luther High School choir.

General Information

In cooperation with the school and the community, our choral music program has a unique function. Our obligations both during and outside of school hours are many but our rewards are also many. In a typical classroom the students' major purpose is to learn what they can and earn

as high a grade as possible for themselves. In the choir, you gain much personally too, but you also have an important function to perform for others that is most significant. You are now in the limelight of the school and the public as you have never been before. This is both exciting and demanding, but it is the way every band director and ever good choral member wants it to be. It is why being a good choral member is a most worthwhile endeavor.

The intense concentration required to perform in the choral is the very kind of training that produces success in every field. The player not only has to use his voice to sing, but read a rather difficult set of hieroglyphics called music, and while he is doing these two complex tasks, he must also keep a watchful eye on the conductor's baton. This requires 100% attention to the task at hand-a task which does not permit the mind to wander for a second. This develops coordination and mental discipline and explains why choirs invariably have such a high percent of the top students in their organizations. Top scholarship and top musicianship go hand in hand. One helps the other.

If some of the regulations herein seem a bit strict, especially when your choral director insists that they are followed strictly, bear in mind that this is essential to your development and to the success of the band. It is not possible to have a good choir without the full cooperation of all its members at all times. So if you find the discipline of being a choir member more demanding than those of other classes, remember that this is "par for the course" and is intended for your good as well as that of the choir. In a regular class, if your work is not good, you hurt only yourself; in the choir, your hurt the whole group. Your obligations are demanding, but your rewards are many!

MLHS Choral Music

The Choral Music Department of Martin Luther High School provides students the opportunity to involve both skill and creative imagination in a musical context. It also provides the student and the community with an experience that might be aesthetic, emotional, intellectual, or a combination of these qualities.

PHILOSOPHY

It is my conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord of all aspects of our lives. As Christians, we feel that our striving for excellence in music or any other human activity is an act of praise, thanksgiving, and therefore, worship. Thus during performances, rehearsals, and private practice we seek to bring praise and honor to Him through the full development of the talents that He has given us. I believe that music is an essential element in the total education experience. Music is a science. It is mathematical and a foreign language. It is history and physical education. It requires research and fosters relational understandings. But most importantly, it is ART. It allows a human being to take all the dry, technical boring techniques and use them to create vivid emotion and praise to God. That is what we will do here!!!!

OBJECTIVES

The choral music program is an integral part of school life, providing opportunities for students to develop an interest in and respect for music as a basis for lasting enjoyment. The choral music program has the following objectives:

Spiritual

To continue to develop our music as an act of praise and worship to our Lord for the gifts that He has given to us for this is what we shall do in heaven. Revelations 14:2-3.

Educational

To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best musical literature.

Service

To add color and atmosphere to selected events while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the school through various performances.

Recreational

To provide all choral music students with an opportunity for a worthwhile use of their leisure time and social interaction.

CHORAL MUSIC EXPECTATIONS

- ❖ You must stay in your assigned area during the entire class period. The hallway is off limits until the bell rings.
 - ❖ Be good stewards of the equipment in our room. They are valuable and expensive to fix or replace. If it is a band instrument, don't mess with it.
 - ❖ I like to have a clean room to come in and work. Please do your part to keep the music room clean and in good shape. We need to have a room that we can be proud of.
 - ❖ **THE MUSIC ROOM WILL BE A NO PHONE ZONE. LEAVE IT IN YOUR LOCKER.**
 - ❖ **THERE WILL BE NO GUM, CANDY, FOOD, OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC ROOM.** You may bring a water bottle if you wish to. **Violators will receive a detention.**
 - ❖ Please keep a pencil in your folder at all times. This helps in our rehearsals.
 - ❖ Choral music is not a study hall. Unless otherwise noted, do not bring your homework to do in my class.
 - ❖ Please respect each other's space. We want everyone to feel comfortable in our room. If this is violated, then consequences will be assigned.
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- ✚ All communication should be honoring to one another
 - ✚ Keep your body, hands, and feet to yourself
 - ✚ Respect and obey all supervising teachers
 - ✚ Be a good caretaker of all our things

When difficulty with a student arises, I will treat them like an adult enough to speak directly to them and give them the opportunity to take the responsibility to correct themselves. In the event that this does not work, I will be forced to request that a parent assist us and I will contact them by phone while the student is present so that he/she can explain the situation. Should this also fail, I will have no other choice than to assign consequences for behavior. Therefore, begin to think wisely about the decisions you make about your role in our choir. Ultimately, my responsibility as director is to ensure that those who do comply with expectations are granted every opportunity to learn at the highest possible level free from distraction.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

This is an optional opportunity for you to participate in.

You are first, representing yourself and then secondly, representing Martin Luther HS. Martin Luther HS does not ask you to participate for the school.

You are responsible for the following:

Picking music (on your own or with my help)

Finding a piano accompanist if you need one and compensating them accordingly.

Rehearsing the music on your own and setting up practice time with me and accompanist

Getting to the performance venue.

UNIFORMS

You will need the Concert Dress by our Christmas concert.

Ladies: A nice black dress, dress shoes (Please refer to MLHS dress code for appropriate length)

Guys: White shirt and tie, black dress pants, dress shoes

CONCERTS

Attendance at concerts and performance activities is required for all students unless prior approval has been obtained. Performances are an integral part of any choral music program.

They are the “major tests” for our class. Every student plays an important role in our choral music program. Our Christmas Concert is December 16 and Spring Concert is May 11.

If an emergency situation that prevents you from attending a concert arises, please notify me as soon as possible. Any student missing a concert because of an excused absence will need to complete a make-up assignment at the discretion of the director.

GRADING

As you may know, the choral music program at Martin Luther High School receives credit like any other class. This means that your choral music grade will count toward your Grade Point Average. You will be graded in a manner similar to other classes, your performance being judged by the percentage of points you earn over the course of each quarter.

Your grade will consist of the following four components:

A. Performances---40% of grade

Credit will be given for all concerts. **Our major concerts are Dec 16 and May 11.** IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT FAILURE TO BE PRESENT AT A CONCERT IS A DISREGARD OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GROUP AND YOURSELF. FAILURE TO BE PRESENT AT A MAJOR CONCERT WITHOUT AN APPROPRIATE EXCUSE, SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE, WILL RESULT IN RECEIVING A ZERO FOR THE CONCERT. If you are sick for a major concert, a doctor's written note must be submitted to the office.

Any excused absence from a major performance will require a research paper to be turned in as an alternative grade.

B. Rehearsal Participation---40% of grade

This grade includes your cooperation, zeal, and deportment in our choral rehearsals. Do you exhibit an understanding of the importance of your concentration and active participation in our rehearsals? Are you on time for class? Are you marking your music? Are you taking proper care of your music? Are you taking proper care of your uniforms?

C. Evaluation---20% of grade

Your individual performance will be evaluated informally by the instructor during the course of our rehearsals and also during lessons. Also, evaluation may occur through written tests and quizzes during the quarter.

D. Extra Credit

You may improve your grade through a variety of ways.

Audition for District Honor Choir.

Prepare a solo for contest.

Sing at a church service.

Study privately with a qualified instructor

How to Contact Me

By Mail

Martin Luther High School
315 Martin Luther Drive
PO Box 228
Northrop, MN. 56075

By Email

Mr. Schult
philschult@martinlutherhs.com

By Phone/Cell

SCHOOL (507) 436-5249 CELL (407) 462-6573

By Student

You are always more than welcome to send a note with your child. Please include a phone number or an email address where you can be reached.

Student Acknowledgement

I have read a copy of the Martin Luther High School Choral Music Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.

I understand what is involved with being in this group.

I recognize the following:

- Music is a gift from God and I must strive to use my gifts to His glory.
- Concerts: Dec 16 and May 11. Church performances and other performances forthcoming.
- Membership in this group brings many responsibilities
- Failure to meet the expectations contained here could jeopardize grades, performance status, privileges and membership.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Acknowledgement

I have read a copy of the Martin Luther High School Choral Music Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year. I understand what is involved with my child being a member of this group.

I/We recognize that I/We can have a significant impact upon my student's success and the success of the entire organization of young people.

I/We will work to:

- Arrange for my student to attend all rehearsals and performances on time and in their entirety
- Concerts: Dec 16 and May 11. Church performances and other performances forthcoming.
- Support the instructional staff of the Martin Luther High School Instrumental Program.

I/We recognize that difficulties in meeting these points may result in lower grades and consequences for my student.

Parent Signature

Date