

Hempfield School District
Landisville, PA

Guidelines For The Hempfield High School Choral Program

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Students and Parents
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Choral Director
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When I hear Music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe. I am related to the earliest times and to the latest. —Henry David Thoreau

Let all be stimulated by poetry, established of propriety, and perfected by music.—Confucius

People who make music together cannot be enemies, at least while the music lasts. —Paul Hindemith

Musical creativity comprises one of the mind brain's most basic forms of intelligence—of equal importance with linguistics, logical, mathematical, and interpersonal attitudes. —Howard Gardner

The Mission of the Hempfield School District Music Department is to provide meaningful learning experiences for all students that inspire and nurture the love of Music throughout the community. The Vision of the Music Department is an enriched community through musical expression.

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM

Hempfield's Music Department offers distinctive choral music experiences at the Elementary, Middle School, and High School levels. After Sixth Grade Chorus, the Hempfield School District offers excellent choral music experiences at the Middle School and High School levels. Hempfield's Middle School Choral, Band, and Orchestra programs offer an age-appropriate level of performance that bridges the gap between Elementary and High School experiences.

According to a recent study, "Choral singing continues to be the most popular form of participation in the performing arts." Parents report that their child's academic performance improved after joining chorus. Other findings conclude that adults who sing in choruses are remarkably good citizens because they are team-oriented, reliable, involved in civic organizations, and able to socialize well in other areas of their lives. Singing in a chorus has also been shown to improve our sense of happiness and wellbeing. Research conducted at Oxford University has found that "people feel more positive after actively singing than they do after passively listening to music or after chatting about positive life events." The choral program at Hempfield strives to provide each student with valuable musical instruction that will contribute to a well-rounded education.

HEMPFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS

Students in the high school may elect to sing in one of three distinct curricular choral groups. Students may also audition to serve as piano accompanists and/or soloists if needed for each group. All students in the high school choirs are assessed each marking period using a point system that measures formative accomplishments toward rehearsal goals and developing musicianship, summative concert performances, and written reflections about performing.

All students in the high school choirs are eligible to audition for the annual Spring Musical. The Spring Musical is a co-curricular activity with auditions and rehearsals held during after school, evening, and weekend hours. The rehearsal schedule for the musical usually runs from December through March.

Selected students are eligible to audition for the Lancaster-Lebanon Music Educators Association (LLMEA) County Chorus Festival and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 7 Chorus Festival annually.

CURRICULUM GUIDE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

0703 CONCERT CHOIR (Grade 9/alternative scheduling option for Grades 10-12) 1.0
Credit (Full Year - Alternating Cycle Days)

Prerequisite: Although no formal audition is required for enrollment in Concert Choir, students must either be recommended by their middle school director or demonstrate the ability to sing in tune and in tempo through an informal vocal pre-assessment for the director.

This choral ensemble, primarily for students in 9th grade and less experienced students with mixed voices rehearses and performs appropriate music for annual scheduled concerts. *Students are required to perform in all concerts*, which provides the basis for summative assessment during each grading period. The director encourages select members of the choir to audition for County and District Chorus Festivals. All members are eligible to audition for the annual Spring Musical. Topics include: (a) intermediate vocal technique, including range extension, resonance, diction, and breath support; (b) various styles of multi-cultural repertoire from all eras of music history; (c) intermediate sight-singing skills using *solfeggio*; and (d) intermediate levels of musicianship and emotional expression.

0763 HEMPFIELD SINGERS (Grades 10-12) 1.0 Credit (Full Year – Alternating Cycle Days)

Prerequisite: Students must have previous choral experience and must perform a successful audition for the director.

This select choral ensemble for students with mixed voices rehearses and performs a variety of challenging music for annual scheduled concerts. This choir also regularly performs concerts in local churches and for civic and social organizations. *Students are required to perform in all concerts*, which provides the basis for summative assessment during each grading period. The director encourages select members of the choir to audition for County and District Chorus Festivals. All members are eligible to audition for the annual Spring Musical. Topics include: (a) advanced vocal technique, including range extension, resonance, diction, style distinction, linguistics, and breath support; (b) various styles of multi-cultural repertoire from all eras of music history; (c) advanced sight-singing skills using *solfeggio*; and (d) advanced levels of musicianship and emotional expression.

0773 BEL CANTO SINGERS (Grades 10-12) 1.0 Credit (Full Year-Alternating Cycle Days)

Prerequisite: Students should have previous choral experience and must perform a successful audition for the director.

This select choral ensemble for students with women's voices rehearses and performs a variety of challenging music for annual scheduled concerts. This choir also regularly performs concerts in local churches and for civic and social organizations. *Students are required to perform in all concerts*, which provides the basis for summative assessment during each grading period. The director encourages select members of the choir to audition for County and District Chorus Festivals. All members are eligible to audition for the annual Spring Musical. Topics include: (a) advanced vocal technique, including range extension, resonance, diction, style distinction, linguistics, and breath support; (b) various styles of multi-cultural repertoire from all eras of music history; (c) advanced sight-singing skills using *solfeggio*; and (d) advanced levels of musicianship and emotional expression.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT POLICY CONCERNING ALL CHORAL MUSIC STUDENTS

1. All students are required to sing with their choral group at all scheduled performances.
2. The director will establish a uniform dress code for students in each performance.
3. The director will provide parents/guardians with written and/or email notification concerning students' rehearsal and performance schedules, uniform requirements, and other related policies.
4. All students must review, understand, and follow the guidelines and policies contained in this handbook. Failure to comply with Music Department policies, rules, and/or regulations can result in disciplinary action and/or the student's removal from the choral music program. Disciplinary action is subject to administrative review.

EXTRACURRICULAR CHORAL ENSEMBLES

Students participating in the curricular choral program are eligible to sing in smaller, extracurricular choral ensembles that meet before and after school. These ensembles may perform in regular school concerts and for community organizations.

CHAMBER SINGERS - Select ensemble of 20 - 30 mixed voices chosen by director's invitation/audition (based on musical experience and expertise) from students in the choral program.

OTHER ENSEMBLES - Students may organize smaller ensembles (trio, quartet, octet, etc.) with the director's approval to rehearse and perform publicly, to explore appropriate repertoire for small ensembles, and/or to assume responsibility for self-directed experiences.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Students participating in the choral program may earn departmental honors as they pursue the curricular offerings and as they become involved in extracurricular opportunities—Spring Musical, LLMEA Festival, PMEA Festivals, Chamber Singers, etc.—offered through the program. Beginning in 9th grade, students earn points for participating in extracurricular offerings and/or through their service to the program. The director employs an established point system, by which students may earn the following awards:

- Hempfield Choir Letter (3 points)
- Bronze Pin (6 points)
- Silver Pin (9 points)
- Gold Pin (12 points)
- Year Guard Pin (12+ points)

Selected students may be nominated by their director for membership in the Hempfield Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society for distinguished service and achievement in the Music Department.

Noteworthy students also may be nominated for a variety of departmental graduation awards, including the following:

National School Choral Award

For contributing the most service to the choral program

Chopin Piano Award

For contributing the most service as a pianist

Lancaster-Lebanon Music Educators Association Award

For service as a singer or accompanist and for representing Hempfield at LLMEA Orchestra Festivals

Richard L. Kline Award

For demonstrating the highest level of musicianship, leadership, and dedication to the Music Department

Annual Music Department Award

For being outstanding within the Music Department through service, musicianship, responsibility, and attitude