

Parkway Central High School



CHOIR

**2015-2016 Ensemble Handbook
and CALENDAR**

Music Department Faculty

Graeme Allen, Choral Assistant
Matt Beazley, Band Director
Joseph Bradley, Orchestra Director
Susan Hampton, Orchestra Assistant
Doug Hoover, Band Director
Denise Marsh, Accompanist/Teaching Assistant
Ben Silvermintz, Choir Director

Dear Choir Students and Families,

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to the Parkway Central Music Department for an exciting year! This handbook has been prepared specifically for choir families, outlining our grading policies, ensemble expectations, music awards, and a host of other items that you will wish to know about as the year progresses.

Please return the two pages at the end of this handbook (Information/Emergency and Robe Fee forms) and do not hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ben Silvermintz
Director of Choral Activities
bsilvermintz@parkwayschools.net
bsilvermintz@pkwy.k12.mo.us
(314) 415-7912

Music Department Ensemble Expectations

Our educational philosophy focuses on arts-based education through performance. Parkway Central has an award-winning, nationally recognized music department, designated by the GRAMMY Foundation as a GRAMMY *Gold Signature School*. We are constantly working to improve, providing every student with a rich and robust musical experience.

Because music is a performing art, rehearsal and performance attendance is of the utmost importance. ***We expect every student to be in every class, every day. We expect every student to be prepared with music and a pencil at every rehearsal. We expect every student to be focused and attentive during instructional time.***

Missing a performance can be likened in severity to missing an exam and no truly equivalent make-up is possible. However, students may be required to do a performance jury for the music faculty in the case of an excused absence from a performance. Students will not be allowed to make up points for an unexcused absence.

Every member of every ensemble is important! In the rare case when it is necessary to miss a dress rehearsal or performance, students must notify a faculty member in advance. According to MSHSAA rules, students must attend classes all day in order to be eligible to participate in after school or evening events, games, matches, and concerts.

Performance Attire

Choir is a group activity, and we strive to present a uniform, classy appearance wherever, and whenever, we perform. Each choir student is assigned a choir robe and stole that will be kept at school in a space provided by the Music Department. Beneath the robe, men will wear: black shoes; black socks; black pants; white, button-down dress shirt; dark tie. Women will wear: dress or skirt with the hem falling near the knee in a manner that represents our school in a professional manner; black shoes (closed-toe, no boots).

Travel Attire

When traveling as a member of a Parkway Central music ensemble, students will dress in a comfortable, but “dressy-casual” manner. No jeans. More information about travel attire will be shared as the need arises.

Grading Policy

Individual improvement and personal responsibility are hallmarks of a strong music education. To that end, students are assessed in the areas outlined below.

Participation in rehearsal and daily work

Graded areas in this category include daily or weekly exit quizzes; formal and informal written responses; classroom decorum; readiness for class (music/pencil).

Participation in concerts, performances, and dress rehearsals

Attendance at concerts and dress rehearsals is mandatory. Full credit will be awarded to students who are: on time; demonstrate adequate preparation; have any music or equipment required; wear the correct uniform; behave in a manner commensurate with the standards of the Parkway Central Music Department whether on stage or as audience members.

Absence from a concert or dress rehearsal *for any reason* will result in grade loss. Excused absences and makeup work must be arranged in advance of a missed performance. Only in an actual emergency will an absence be excused after the performance. Students must call or email Mr. Silvermintz in advance when an emergency prevents attendance at a concert. Only serious illness, personal injury, or a death in the family are considered automatic excused absences. Students wishing to earn performance grade points may be required to perform a concert jury for the music faculty. This jury performance of concert material will be completed in a timely manner when a student returns to school. Students will not receive points for work they have not completed. Generally, our students do a terrific job of keeping music faculty informed of future absences. *This policy promotes time management, individual accountability, and responsibility – traits that we hope transcend the time and space of the school building for years to come.*

Quizzes/Tests

Graded items in this category include both group and individual singing quizzes/tests. The format for singing assessments varies throughout the year. Students will sing in small groups, large groups, and individually.

Music Department Grading Percentage Breakdown

92%-100%	A
83%-91%	B
74%-82%	C
65%-73%	D
64% and below	F

Citizenship Grade Requirements

Outstanding citizenship in a music ensemble differs from outstanding citizenship in other curricular areas. In some classes, there are very few group grades and group performances, so if an individual does not participate but does not disturb the class, he or she might be viewed as a satisfactory or even outstanding citizen. In a class where so much of what we achieve is based on the participation and contribution of the entire group, outstanding and even satisfactory citizenship are based on what we DO as opposed to what we DON'T do. Not everyone is going to study music in college or be a professional musician; however, everyone can develop the traits of dedication, determination, detail-oriented focus and good citizenship that will lead to successes in *any* future endeavor.

O (Outstanding) – Student contributes actively at all times and shows leadership within section, contributes time and help outside of the classroom when needed, serves as a model citizen for all ensemble members.

S (Satisfactory) – Student contributes willingly when asked and is not disruptive to the rehearsal process.

I (Improvement Needed) – Student interrupts the learning process frequently or fails to participate on a regular basis.

U (Unsatisfactory) – Student disrupts class on a frequent basis through inappropriate behavior, does not contribute to the group, and inhibits the learning and participation of others.

Honors Option

An honors grade (“H”) may be earned by students in Concert Choir. Juniors and Seniors are eligible to enroll in this program and must fulfill all requirements. More information is available in the Honors Grade Ensemble Packet which is available at school.

Eligibility

The Missouri State High School Activities Association requires a passing grade in six classes per semester in order to participate in state-sanctioned activities such as the Solo & Ensemble Festival and Large Ensemble Contest.

Choir Calendar of Events, 2015-2016

August

20 – Open House; a cappella groups perform; time to-be-determined

September

10 – Prism Concert, 7:30PM, PCH Gym A – call time for students is 6:45PM

October

3 – All-Suburban Choir Auditions, Parkway North; time to-be-determined

8 – Fall Choir Concert, PCH; 7:30 PM; student call-time to-be-announced

24 – A cappella groups @ Muni for American Cancer Society 5K – early AM perf.

27 – Parkway All-District Choir, UMSL; field trip and evening performance (Jr/Sr)

November

7 – All-Suburban Choir Rehearsal/Performance (auditioned individuals)

10 – Pizzazz, Concert Band, and Jazz Band Dessert Concert, PCH, 7:30PM

14-15 Marching Colts Craft Show (choir students/parents work on Sunday)

December

6 – Madrigal Dinner set-up, PCH; students sign-up for shifts

9 – Madrigal Dinner cast and court rehearsal, 6PM-9PM (cast and court only)

10 – Madrigal Dinner full dress rehearsal, 6PM-9PM; all choir students

11 – Madrigal Dinner performance, PCH, 6:30 PM; student call-time TBD

12 – Madrigal Dinner performance/clean-up, PCH, 12PM; student call-time TBD

14/15 – Junior Honors Juries/Senior Honors Juries

January

4 – Pizzazz rehearsal, PCH, 10AM-12PM

12 – Pizzazz evening dress rehearsal/performance, location/time TBA

16 – Pizzazz @ Columbia-Rock Bridge (MO) Show Choir Festival

23 – Pizzazz @ Mt. Vernon (MO) Show Choir Contest

February

6 – Pizzazz @ Troy (MO) Show Choir Invitational

9 – Masterworks rehearsal, time/location to-be-announced (all students)

10 – Masterworks performance, time/location to-be-announced (all students)

March

4-5 – Solo/Ensemble Festival

7/8 – State Choir Festival

12 – Pizzazz @ O'Fallon (IL) O-Town Showdown

April

2 – Big Band Dance, PCH, 7PM-10PM

8 – 7th Annual A Cappella Invitational

21/22 – Pizzazz Show dress rehearsal; Pizzazz Show performance

May

2 – Spring Choir Concert

4 – Senior Honors Juries

7 – State Solo/Ensemble Festival @ Columbia, MO

9 – Music Department Banquet

10 – Night of Reflection (ensembles to-be-determined)

16 – Junior Honors Juries



PCH Choir 2015-2016

Info/Emergency/Local Field Trip Sheet

Mother or Guardian Name: _____ Father or Guardian Name: _____

Cell Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

E-mail address: _____ E-mail address: _____

Emergency Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Physician: _____ Phone: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, I request that my child be taken to _____/nearest hospital. If the school is unable to contact me, I hereby authorize the school and or hospital and physician to treat my child as they deem necessary.

My child has permission to travel with the PCHS music ensembles on approved school sponsored local field trips such as:

- All-District Choir Rehearsal
- Large Ensemble Contest
- Other Approved Local Community Performances

I understand transportation will be provided by Parkway Schools. I also understand that I will receive additional permission forms and information for out of metro area or overnight travel. I have read the 2014-2015 Choir Handbook and have retained a copy of the calendar of events

*****Parent Signature** _____ **Date:** _____ *******

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PCH Choir Robe Fee Form 2015-2016

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!

Every music student is responsible for an annual \$20.00 uniform or robe fee. This fee is due at the beginning of each year. Checks made to PCHS Music Parents are best, but cash is also acceptable.

Student's Name: _____

Music Ensemble: _____

Check # or amount of cash enclosed: _____

