

# 2022-2023 HANDBOOK



## MAYFIELD VOCAL MUSIC

**Mr. Brian Fancher**

Director of Choirs,  
Mayfield High School

[bfancher@mayfieldschools.org](mailto:bfancher@mayfieldschools.org)

(440) 995-7836

MHS Room 128

[www.MayfieldVocalMusic.org](http://www.MayfieldVocalMusic.org)

*"Ah, music ... a magic beyond all we do here."*

- Albus Dumbledore

# Mayfield High School **Vocal Music**

6116 Wilson Mills Rd.  
Mayfield Village, OH 44143

August 25, 2022

Dear Choir Students & Families,

Hello! My name is Mr. Fancher, Director of Choirs at Mayfield High School. I am so excited to make music with all of you this year!

Throughout the year we will learn about using your singing voice both as an individual and as an ensemble, individual musicianship through sight-reading and ear-training, and developing deep connections with the music we sing as well as camaraderie throughout the music program. We will perform at three school concerts throughout the year, as well as a handful of outside of school performances.

The handbook at the QR code below outlines and presents the objectives, expectations, grading policies, schedules, and rules for this year in all Mayfield High School Choirs. Please read all the information very carefully! Please sign the Handbook Contract at the end of the packet and return it by Friday, September 2, 2022 (it is your first grade).



Best,  
Mr. Brian Fancher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Fancher".

**SCAN ME**

# CLASS OBJECTIVES

- Develop healthy and effective singing technique
- Develop music literacy skills to promote independent musicianship
- Rehearse and perform quality choral literature from a variety of genres, cultures, and historical contexts
- Gain respect for and an understanding of many styles of choral and vocal music
- Gain respect for fellow musicians and yourself
- Understand the mechanics of the human voice
- Learn the role choral music plays in society and in our lives
- Make meaningful connections between music and other areas of life

## THE BENEFITS OF CHORAL SINGING

Singing in choir not only teaches students basic musical skills, concepts and vocal production technique, but also develops professionalism, self-discipline, team-work and an appreciation for the arts. Students who study music from an early age have shown higher math and science aptitudes. Music students, on average, have higher standardized scores than non-music students. In addition, music students have higher GPAs than those not in music courses.

The disciplines learned in a singing group will enable students to participate in lifelong musical activities including many adult choral organizations. Singing offers a great physical and emotional outlet for young people, cultivating the expressive part of their personality in a positive manner which will carry over into adulthood.

# CONCERT CHOIR

Concert Choir is a mixed choral ensemble open to all 9th-12th graders, especially those singing in a choir at Mayfield High School for the first time. Participation in the Concert Choir expands basic knowledge of music through the performance and appreciation of choral music. The ensemble lays the foundation for exceptional musical performance through focuses on diction, tone production, and vowel formation, as well as improving or beginning students' ability to read music notation.

## CHORALE

The Mayfield High School Chorale is an advanced singing group consisting of 10th-12th grade students with prior choral experience. Entrance into this ensemble is by audition or by director discretion, and all performances and rehearsals are mandatory. This choir further develops sight-reading and musical interpretation skills through the study of music theory, history, and performance. The Chorale is made up of members who strive to make meaningful emotional connections with their audiences, fellow choir members, and within themselves.

## LIMITED EDITION SHOW CHOIR

The Limited Edition Show Choir is comprised of 9th-12th grade students accepted by audition in May of the previous school year. They sing mostly popular repertoire while performing high energy choreography. This group performs at competitions and festivals all around the northeast Ohio region throughout the year. Keep an ear out for the auditions for next year's group!

# CLASSROOM MATERIALS

Each student is expected to come to class prepared with the following items each day:

1. Assigned folder (provided)
2. Pencil with an eraser
3. Loose leaf notebook paper and/or staff paper (kept in folder)
4. Concert Music (provided)
5. Theory/Sight-Singing Packets (if applicable)
6. Bottle of water (recommended)

Folder slots will be assigned within the first two weeks of school so that students may keep their folders in the classroom at all times. They may take their music home to practice, but be sure to bring it back for the next day's class!

## CONCERT ATTIRE

**Attire is student provided except where noted.**

### **Concert Choir and Chorale**

All-black outfit shoulders-to-ankles, dressy outfit (shirt and pants/skirt, dress, etc.), black (preferred) or dark closed-toe shoes.

### **Chorale Only**

Green accent accessory (tie, pocket square, sash, belt, etc.).

Note: Black choral dresses, black tuxedo jackets, dress pants, and green accents can be provided by the school if desired. Please contact Mr. Fancher as soon as possible to be fitted.

Hair should be styled so every students' eyes can be seen.

All students are asked to avoid wearing excessive jewelry.

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Expectations:

1. Show support for your choir, director, classroom, and self.
2. Work as a team.
3. Strive for excellence.

Unsupportive behavior will result in logical consequences, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning/Redirection (may reduce daily grade)
- Conference with director
- Written reflection
- Parent contact
- Office referral (extreme cases)

MHS policies & code of conduct are in effect at all times.

## DAILY PROCEDURES & NORMS

- Students that are not in their assigned seat when class begins will be marked tardy/absent.
- No gum or food allowed in the classroom. Water, however, is recommended and encouraged.
- Every student should have their pencils, music folders, and water bottles at their seat. Bags and other belongings should be stowed completely under your chair. If it doesn't fit, put it in your locker.
- **Cell phones, earbuds, or other electronics are prohibited in class, unless given specific permission by the teacher.**  
School-issued devices may be used only when specified.
- Personal items left in the classroom will be put in lost and found (on top of the folder cabinets) or recycled at the end of the week.
- Sheet music is the property of the school. Students will be held responsible for replacing any music that is lost, torn, defaced, or otherwise mangled to the point it can no longer be used.
- Students that have been absent are responsible for checking in with a classmate to get caught up on missed material.

# PERFORMANCES

All concerts on the **Concert Calendar** are an important part of our music curriculum. Absences will be excused under extenuating circumstances.

## **Excused Absences:**

- Conflicting event is unavoidable and was scheduled before the concert calendar was released (weddings, graduations, etc.)
- Illness or family emergency.
- Notification required at least 14 days in advance, with filled out Performance Conflict Form, signed by parent/guardian.
- Make-up performance required for full product grade credit. Process grade will be excused.

## **Unexcused Absences:**

- Notification of absence received less than 14 days in advance
- Conflicting event is planned after the concert calendar was released (sports games or practices, play rehearsal, extracurricular performances, last-minute vacations, etc.)
- Make-up performance required for product grade credit, with filled out Performance Conflict Form, signed by parent/guardian. Process grade will be zero.

All excused and unexcused absences require a Performance Conflict Form filled out and signed by a parent/guardian. If no form is submitted, no make-up opportunity will be offered.

## **MAKE-UP PERFORMANCES**

All make-up performances will be scheduled with Mr. Fancher within two weeks, prior or after, the missed performance, or sooner if the end of the grading period requires. Students will perform their part on any of the pieces performed at the missed event and will be graded using the performance grading rubric.

# INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

## EMAIL

I am available by email between the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm. Emails will generally be answered faster than voicemail. I will do my best to reply to emails within 24 hours. In-person meetings may be made by appointment. You can expect important announcements, updates, reminders, and concert details to be sent via email and the Remind app.

## REMIND

We will be utilizing the Remind app for quick communication, especially on weeks/days leading up to performances or trips. Both choir students and their parents or guardians are asked to download the app in order to receive timely updates and information. To join, use the app or text the code to the number 81010.

**Remind Codes:** Concert Choir - @MHSVocal1    Chorale - @MHSVocal2

## MAYFIELD VOCAL MUSIC WEBSITE & SCHOOLGY

Families should refer to my emails for the most up-to-date information, as well as the [Mayfield Vocal Music website](#) for calendars, links, and announcements. Students should refer to Schoology and Remind for student-related information and announcements.

## CHORAL BOOSTERS

All students and families in vocal music courses become a part of the Mayfield Choral Boosters. This organization helps support the middle and high school vocal music programs, as well as the high school musicals.

All meetings are at 7pm in the MHS Choir Room on the following Wednesdays throughout the year:

**2022:** 9/7, 10/12, 11/9, 12/7

**2023:** 1/4, 2/1, 3/8, 4/4, 5/3, 5/31



# GRADING POLICIES

Assessment will fall into two categories: product and process.

**Product grades** will reflect how well students have achieved specific learning goals, or standards.

**Process grades** will reflect student behaviors or skills that facilitate or broaden learning in music. Such as formative assessments, homework, and class participation.

## **Grade Percentage Breakdown:**

Performance: 40%

Musicianship Skills: 20%

Assignments: 20%

Participation: 20%

## **Participation** (process grade only)

Using a participation rubric, students will be graded on participation and rehearsal etiquette. The rubric will be filled out by the students themselves (self-evaluation) and/or the teacher on a rotating basis. If there is a dispute with a rubric score, the student and teacher will conference and come to an agreement on the final score.

## **Assignments & Musicianship** (both product & process grade)

Students will be regularly assessed on their performance of sight-reading, repertoire, and other musicianship skills. Singing tests may be done through recordings or live in class. Singing tests may be used to determine what musical part a student sings. Singing tests may be retaken as many times as desired for the best possible score, as long as it is in the current grading period.

Students may have various assignments focused on building musicianship. Topics will include vocal healthcare, music theory, music vocabulary, performance reviews, home practice, etc.

## **Performances/Performance Recording** (both product & process grade)

All classes will have multiple performances throughout the year. These performances are mandatory and part of our music curriculum. Please take time to check your calendar, plan ahead and make arrangements so that students are able to participate at all concerts and events.

**\*\*Complete the Performance Conflict Form if you are going to be absent from a performance (found on Schoology and [www.MayfieldVocalMusic.org](http://www.MayfieldVocalMusic.org)).**\*\*

# MEMBER CONDUCT

Members of the Mayfield High School Vocal Music program are continuously representing themselves, their ensemble, their school, and their community at various musical events throughout the year, both on and off campus. It is expected that students maintain professional etiquette at these events and retain an awareness of the image they convey with their actions.

Behavior that will not be tolerated includes, but is not limited to:

- distraction from and/or interference with performances
- defiance
- indecent actions
- inappropriate language
- failure to follow instructions

Inappropriate behavior at events or performances will result in disciplinary action, and in extreme cases, may include removal from the ensemble.

The choral art relies on the participation and cooperation of all members in the ensemble. We always work as a team and can only perform to our fullest potential when each student is contributing their best work. Any member that prevents others from giving their best, or exhibits negative or disruptive behavior that is detrimental to the group in rehearsal or performance will receive appropriate consequences for their behavior, and in extreme cases, may include removal from the ensemble.

# EVENT CALENDAR

This is not meant to be a comprehensive or exhaustive list of performances. Any changes made to this calendar will be sent out via email and Remind, as well as listed on the Mayfield Vocal Music Website.

DATE	EVENT	PARTICIPANTS
<b>Thursday, December 1, 2022</b>	<b>MHS Choirs Sing National Anthem at Cleveland Monsters Game</b> Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse	<b>All Choirs (optional performance, tickets required)</b> Call Time: TBD
<b>Tuesday, December 13, 2022</b>	<b>Holiday Concert</b> MHS Auditorium, 7:00pm	<b>All Choirs</b> Call Time: 5:30pm
<b>Wednesday, March 1, 2023</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b> MHS Auditorium, 7:00pm	<b>MHS Concert Choir and Chorale, MMS Chorale</b> Call Time: 5:30pm
<b>Friday or Saturday, March 3 or 4, 2023</b>	<b>OMEA Large Group Adjudicated Event</b> TBD Location and Time	<b>MHS Chorale Only</b> Call Time: TBD
<b>Tuesday, May 23, 2023</b>	<b>Spring Pops Concert</b> MHS Auditorium, 7:00pm	<b>All Choirs</b> Call Time: 5:30pm
<b>Wednesday, May 24, 2023</b>	<b>Vocal Music Banquet</b> MHS Cafeteria, 7:00pm	<b>All Choirs' and Musicals' Cast, Crew, Pit members and families</b>

*Members of Limited Edition will receive a separate calendar of their events.*

# PERFORMANCE CONFLICT FORM

<b>Student Name:</b>	
<b>Class:</b>	
<b>Date of performance you will miss:</b>	
<b>Date this form is turned in:</b>	
<b>Reason for absence:</b>	
<b>Date of makeup performance in front of your music teacher. (Must be done within two weeks of performance or end of grading period.)</b>	
<b>Parent Email:</b>	
<b>Parent Signature:</b>	

**Excused** = This form turned in a minimum of two weeks prior to the performance. Requires performance music to be performed for the teacher and graded as a playing/singing assessment to earn product grade for missed performance. Process grade will be excused. For illness/family emergency turn in form after returning to school.

**Unexcused** = This form turned in less than two weeks prior to the performance. Requires performance music to be performed and graded as a playing/singing assessment to earn product grade for missed performance. Process grade will be zero.

# AGREEMENT FORM

Please read the Mayfield High School Vocal Music Handbook thoroughly and return this form with proper signatures no later than

**Friday, September 2, 2022.**

**Student:**

I have read, understand, and agree to comply with all the expectations and guidelines of the Mayfield High School Vocal Music program.

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Student Printed Name

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Student Signature

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Date

**Parent/Guardian(s):**

Please sign this document to indicate that your child has shown you this handbook, that you have read it together, and you both understand and agree to comply with the expectations and guidelines of the Mayfield High School Vocal Music program.

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Parent/Guardian(s) Printed Name

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

**\*Volunteer form on other side\***

# VOLUNTEER FORM

Dear Choir Families,

Dedicated volunteers are needed in order for our program to thrive. Your help is strongly encouraged and would be GREATLY appreciated!

Please check all that apply:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in volunteering for HOSPITALITY (getting food/drinks for students, special occasions, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in assisting at PERFORMANCES.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in helping with FUNDRAISING.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am available to help with activities/administrative work during the school day.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in serving on the Choral Boosters board.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not sure what I want to do, but I just want to help!

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Brian Fancher



*Director of Choirs, Mayfield High School*

**\*If you are interested in helping, please turn this form in as soon as possible. Thank you!\***