

2009-10

Handbook

For

Excellence!

Discipline Rehearsal
Attitude Leadership Appearance
Relationships Performance

A cappella
Highlander Chorale
Calamity & Classicality
Men's Varsity & Women's Varsity
Women's Chorale & Women's Select

From Your Director.....

What a privilege to welcome each of you to the Howell High School Choir program. We are embarking on another remarkable year in the life of this exciting group of singers.

YOU represent a vital part of the choirs and we are glad to have YOU singing with us this year. Once again this year, we will find creative ways to connect one choir with the others. Get to know as many individuals in your class and other choirs as you are able. Encourage one another. A positive word to others in your class will carry more influence than a negative attitude. Smiles create echoes. Maintain a positive attitude daily.

Leadership will continue to be an important focus in each choir. Let your actions identify you as a leader. Demonstrate your dedication to excellence in each rehearsal and performance. Be an enthusiastic participant. Your enthusiasm will be contagious. Bring that attitude to each rehearsal.

We need to constantly work to be the best we can be. To earn a reputation of excellence, we must exhibit excellence in the classroom and in performance. I know our students are all about winning and being the best. Success can only be achieved if we, as a total program, from our youngest to our most experienced ensemble, strive to be winners. Develop a successful attitude to improve yourself through discipline and musicality. You will in turn improve your ensemble, which will reflect on the entire choral department.

Being a member of the choir program, you assume a leadership role. Here are some important “leadership laws” from an excellent music educator:

- 1. People are more important than titles and positions.**
- 2. We can't lead until we lead ourselves.**
- 3. A positive attitude is 90+% of leadership success.**
- 4. We're only worth what we give away.**
- 5. We can only give away what we have...so keep learning!**

**YOU ARE A CHAMPION! YOU MUST HAVE THE DESIRE TO ACHIEVE!
BE THE EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE!!!**

**See you at the TOP!
Mr. Rod Bushey
Director of Choirs**

PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Green robe, matching stole with embroidered “HHS”, nylon garment bag, and hanger assigned to each member[\$ 195.00 uniform package];

Women: *Black uniform character shoes.

Men: Dark dress slacks [navy, black, dark olive...no jeans or khakis] ; dark dress shoes and socks [no gym shoes with white markings].

Tour Outfits: A cappella Choir sweater [\$26]; [nice] black slacks, tour T-shirt [included in the cost of tour].

WOMEN’S CHORALE

Black dress [\$100.00] Used dresses may be purchased as per availability; *Black uniform character shoes; pearl necklace [choker]. Necklaces are available for purchase @ \$5.00 each.

Tour Outfits: Black polo shirt [\$12]and black pants.

WOMEN’S SELECT CHOIR

Maroon dress [\$ 95.00] Used dresses may be purchased as per availability; *Black uniform character shoes; pearl necklace [choker].

Tour Outfits: Red long or short sleeve shirt and black pants.

WOMEN’S VARSITY CHOIR

Blue robe with white stole; *Black uniform character shoes.

VARSAITY MEN’S CHOIR

Black Tuxedo, provided,[you have the option to purchase \$100.00]; tuxedo shirt and bow tie must be purchased by each member [\$20.00]; Black shoes and black [NOT WHITE] socks. Shirts must be laundered after each performance. Tuxedo MUST be DRY cleaned and returned at end of school year.

HIGHLANDER CHORALE

Women: Dress [purchased by individuals, ordered by group]*Black uniform character shoes;

Men: Black tuxedo [provided]; vest, tie, shirt [purchased by individual]; black shoes and black [not white] socks.

YOU MUST KEEP YOUR UNIFORM CLEANED AND PRESSED. Shirts MUST be laundered following performances.

MEN MUST TURN IN TUX OR BE ASSESSED A PENALTY [\$100.00 or diploma withheld if not returned in condition received.

CALAMITY/CLASSICALITY

Individuals in the ensemble will purchase uniforms.

*Uniform Shoes: We are attempting to develop a consistency with the women’s shoes. We would like to have the women wear closed toe, black, with a short heel. [No flip flops, spike heels, ankle straps, etc.] Character shoes provide the most consistent styling.

EXCELLENCE

“Excellence produces excellence...This puts a tremendous responsibility on each of us, but it also serves as a checkpoint in seeing we do not let down our own standards. Excellence is not something which is seen on the surface. In fact, it is something quite the opposite of this. Excellence stands for the **depth of quality** by which a group came out in first place or received a superior rating. It is not measured by trophies, ribbons, one’s best plaques, and awards. **Excellence comes from the individual and is generated through and all-out effort to do.** If this goal is met, then the rankings or ratings are insignificant as they relate to personal gratification.

Excellence is not a place of arrival! We don’t “get to” excellence. It is a process we go through each and every day. It is a point of departure as well as the journey. It is an unending quest for personal and group achievement. It is the day by day unending practice which is our opportunity to bring all our gifts and talents to fruition to share with others. **It is [for those who are ready to hear this] a reflection of our expression for life!”**

Tim Lautzenheiser

GRADING SYSTEM

PERFORMANCES 30%

These performances are a part of the class and are a result of many hours of preparation. They are equal to major tests in other classes. Circumstances such as family emergencies, death in the family, or illness constitute a reason for missing a performance. A

WRITTEN NOTE,

E-MAIL[busheyr@howellschools.com]; or PHONE CALL @ [517-540-8340] from the parent or guardian is required to explain the absence.

NEW POLICY: If a student misses a performance for ANY reason, they will be required to spend two [2] hours AT SCHOOL rehearsing their music, or assisting one of the officers, [for example: Librarian, Robarian, Publicity]

Tests 40%

Singing tests will be done in small groups on a regular basis. Students absent will be given opportunity to make up the test.

PARTICIPATION 30%

Choir is a TOTAL GROUP EFFORT. No one “sits on the bench” in this class. We all work together for a common goal----- EXCELLENCE!!! This can only be achieved if all are working together as a “team” effort. Lack of participation includes: Talking; Gum chewing; Tardiness; Lack of Materials; Disruptive classroom behavior; and NOT BEING IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT. After four offenses, your grade will be reduced by 1/3 and for every three thereafter.

To Contact Mr. Bushey: Phone: 517-540-8340

Email: busheyr@howellschools.com

SCHEDULE OF CHOIR CLASSES

<u>Hour</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Grades</u>
First Hour	7:36-8:36	K-26	Varsity Men's Choir	9-12
Second Hour	8:42-9:37	K-26	Varsity Women's Choir	9-12
Third Hour	9:43-10:38		Prep Period	
Fourth Hour	10:44-11:40	K-26	A cappella Choir	10-12
LUNCH "C"	11:40-12:10			
Fifth Hour	12:16-1:11	K-26	Women's Chorale	10-12
Sixth Hour	1:17-2:16	K-26	Women's Select	9-12

"The Quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

-----Vincent T. Lombardi

"At the core of a leader must be the desire to serve rather than be served."

-----Mary Kaufmann

WHO ARE THE HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS???

They are students!

-Among the finest citizens in our school!!!!

-Leaders-----Involved-----Caring-----

Disciplined

-MUSICIANS!!!!

-Members of an elite and prestigious program.

-Proud representatives of the Howell High School Choirs

You comprise a group of individuals who have made a choice to be a member of this program. Make daily choices that will move you forward musically in your ensemble.

They are Parents/Family/Friends!

These are the individuals who encourage and provide the resource to make their son/daughter, relative, or friend successful. This is attained through attendance at concerts, chaperoning tours, festivals, and field trips. The strength of family/friend support at performances and choir events is necessary for the choir's success.

They are the Music Staff!

Mr. Bushey, Mrs. Ives and Mrs. Jones are committed to your success as an individual and within your ensemble. If you are committed to musical excellence, the leadership you bring to rehearsals and performances will enhance the expertise brought by Mr. Bushey, Mrs. Ives and Mrs. Jones.

Attitude will be the characteristic that moves an

individual from mediocre to outstanding.

CHOIR OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Each class elects a president who is their leader for the year. They are encouraged to elect a model student both in and away from the choir class. That person should be someone who will represent the choir in the general school climate as an exemplary citizen and be an individual the students respect.

VICE-PRESIDENT

This office not only operates in the absence of the president but is in charge of most social activities of the choir. The V.P. form a committee to plan and organize parties, picnics, hosting choirs and guests from other schools.

SECRETARY

Each class has daily attendance, concert attendance, and record keeping. The secretary will assist the other officers where their help is needed with other tasks.

TREASURER

One of the most demanding jobs is that of treasurer. Each student is assigned an account and when we have a fundraising project, a percentage of the profit is placed in the account to be used to defray costs for uniforms, tour, concert tapes, etc. This position is apprenticed to a younger student in A cappella and the treasurer with the most experience holds a training seminar at the beginning of the year to help answer questions.

PROGRAM

This is an apprenticed position as well and is a very visible office. This person works on a deadline for each concert and needs to be responsible to get the program to the printer prior to concert. This is the person who is ultimately responsible for the “A cappella Annual”.

PUBLICITY

The publicity chairpersons operate out of a committee and are in charge of alerting the newspaper, radio station[s], bulletin boards[inside choir room and showcase], and informing the office of needs regarding the marquee at the 10-12 campus and Freshman campus.

ROBARIANS

This group of officers are responsible for the inventory of the robes that uniform their choir. They make sure everyone is assigned a robe, the length is correct, and the stoles are in good shape. This job is not elected but assigned by the director.

LIBRARIANS

With the amount of music issued, this position is overwhelming and the responsibility of more than one person. This job is also assigned along with an apprentice. The library is catalogued on computer and all the music boxed and filed.

“If one is to be effective, the effort to lead with honesty is the overwhelming stamp of approval needed. Honesty is the revealing quality of authenticity.”

-----Rod Bushey

To Contact Mr. Bushey:

Phone: 517-540-8340 E-mail:

bushey@howellschools.com

DESCRIPTION FOR INDIVIDUAL CHOIRS

Varsity Women's and Men's

This is an entry level choir that performs four [4] major concerts each year and attends Choral Festival. They will perform a variety of literature from various historical periods and cultures while emphasizing rehearsal and performance etiquette.

Students will learn and demonstrate mastery of skills in ear training, sight singing, and music theory. The classes will be evaluated in one or all of these areas on a quarterly basis.

At semester, the students will be tested individually to determine placement in the choral program for the upcoming year. They will be notified of their placement following the year's final concert.

Women's Select Choir [Grades 9-12]

This is an auditioned choir that must demonstrate the basic ability to sight read, perform rhythm, and respond to ear training at the intermediate level. This ensemble performs four [4] major concerts, attends Choral Festival, and participates in a two-day tour prior to festival, as per the choir calendar. They will perform a variety of literature from various historical periods and cultures.

Students will learn and demonstrate mastery of skills in ear training, sight singing, and music theory. The class will be evaluated in one or all of these areas on a quarterly basis. At semester, the students will be tested individually to determine placement in the choral program for the upcoming year. They will be notified of their placement following the year's final concert.

Women's Chorale [Grades 10-12]

This is an auditioned choir that must demonstrate a better than average ability to sight-read, perform rhythm, and respond to ear training at the intermediate-advanced level. This ensemble performs four [4] major concerts, attends Choral Festival, and participates in a two-day tour prior to festival. They will perform a variety of literature from various historical periods, cultures and genres.

Students will learn and demonstrate mastery of skills in ear training, sight singing, and music theory. The class will be evaluated in one or all of these areas on a quarterly basis.

At semester, the students will be tested individually to determine placement in the choral program for the upcoming year. They will be notified of their placement following the year's final concert.

This choir is expected to rehearse and perform at the level commensurate with the literature and expectations of professional musicians.

A cappella Choir [Grades 10-12]

This is an auditioned choir that must demonstrate the ability to sight read with good intonation, perform rhythm, and respond to ear training at the advanced level. This ensemble performs four [4] major concerts, attends Choral Festival, participates in a three-day out-of-state tour, and performs for various functions within and outside the community. They will perform a variety of literature from various historical periods, cultures and genres.

Students will learn and demonstrate mastery of skills in ear training, sight singing, and music theory. The class will be evaluated on a periodic basis. This choir is expected to rehearse and perform at the level commensurate with the literature and expectations of professional musicians.

Character

Loyalty

Self-Image

Relationships

Attitude

Desire

Goals

WORK

“...our rewards in life will depend on the QUALITY and amount of the contribution WE make!”

Dennis Waitley

Be a positive influence in the success of the Howell Choirs this year and be constantly

IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE!

**Rod Bushey
Director of Choirs
Howell High School**