

# HASTINGS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

## VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

### *HANDBOOK & GRADING SYSTEM*

#### DIRECTORS

**Kathleen Hanson**  
**Tatum Mahlen**  
**Lin Warren**

All students interested in singing in a choir at Hastings Senior High School are placed in a choir that will best meet their vocal and musical abilities. In each choir, material is selected which will best meet the needs of the students. All choir members have the opportunity to earn an “A” each quarter by demonstrating their abilities to meet the following expectations:

1. **Sight Reading** - Students will demonstrate their sight reading skill as part of our vocal assessment/audition in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the school year.
2. **Concert Attendance** – Since concerts are an extension of our classroom activities, we expect all students to attend each performance and we use this as our “final exam” of the quarter. We do recognize, however, that there will occasionally be absences. There are **three** types of absences.

#### **Authorized absence with prior notification (3 week notification)**

Athletic or church, related conflicts, extended family vacations

**Make-up work required for grade.**

#### **Excused absence after event with notification**

Student illness or family emergency (please call director)

**Make-up work required for grade.**

#### **Unexcused absence**

No prior notification: skipping concert, leaving concert early, work conflict, social engagements

**This type of absence cannot be made-up**

3. **Voice Lessons** – Students are required to sign up and attend a voice lesson/sectional with one of the directors. Lesson times are available almost every period of the day and after school. Students that have completed their voice requirement and would like to continue to improve their vocal skills or prepare for a vocal solo or duet, may sign up for lessons once every two weeks.
4. **Daily Attendance** – Students must be in attendance for rehearsal 90% of the time to pass this portion of our grading policy. Approved school activities that require an absence from rehearsal will not be counted because they are considered excused absences.

5. **Classroom Participation** – will be based on the student’s contribution in rehearsals and their effort to display a positive attitude toward choir. Classroom participation includes the following areas:

**Class Attitude**

- Following class rules
- No cell phone use
- No disruptive talking
- No disruptive/disrespectful behavior
- No gum chewing

**Class Contribution**

- Displaying proper vocal skills
- Open mouth, relaxed jaw
- Low correct breathing
- Good sitting and standing posture
- Positive participation
- Eagerness to learn
- Setting an example of positive self-discipline
- Class leadership...taking the initiative
- Every person must bring a pencil to rehearsal

**Concert Attire**

**All Women**

- Black Flat Shoes
- Dress, skirt or shorts that do not hang below the hem of choir robe

**All Men**

- Black dress shoes (not athletic shoes)
- Black socks
- Black dress pant (not jeans)
- Long sleeved white dress shirt with tie (Men’s Chorus only)

**Robe User Fee and Spring Concert T-shirt fee**

A **\$10** user fee will be charged for all students using a school furnished choir robe. **This includes every choir except Men’s Chorus.** This fee will be used to keep the robes clean and repaired. This fee can be paid: in cash, check to HHS or online at [www.hastings.k12.mn.us](http://www.hastings.k12.mn.us) - PaySchools (See the following page for directions). If paid in cash or check please put payment in envelope with student name and give to ensemble director.

There is also a **\$10** fee for our spring concert t-shirt fee. . This fee can be paid: in cash, check to HHS or online at [www.hastings.k12.mn.us](http://www.hastings.k12.mn.us) - PaySchools (See the following

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