

BOOKER HIGH SCHOOL  
COURSE SYLLABUS

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**CONCERT CHOIR**

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Course Description

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**Goal of the Course**

The Concert Choir class emphasizes continued technical training, rehearsal, and performance of vocal literature for students who have successfully completed an audition. Emphasis is placed on the reading, study, and performance of quality original literature of high artistic merit while continuing to reinforce those technical and personal skills gained from previous study. The student will gain familiarity with standard high school, college, and professional level vocal literature over a four year period.

Enhanced curriculum assignments will take the form of required readings of professional journal articles pertaining to pedagogical techniques, instructional video presentations, content specific books and book excerpts, and the promotion of individual student solo and small ensemble performance and repertoire study. Students will begin to develop a solo repertoire in anticipation of eventual college/university auditions and will practice the application of solo performance skills.

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# Performance Standards

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## **Course Objectives:**

Students will have met the course objectives when they develop or continue to improve the following skills:

- The ability to follow both verbal and visual directions of the instructor including regular teacher, student teacher, adjunct, or guest conductor.
- Demonstrate in all rehearsals and performances the correct playing position and posture that meet teacher defined criteria.
- Demonstrate proper vocal techniques by performing with a tone quality deemed satisfactory for his/her level of experience by the teacher.
- Demonstrate an understanding of transposition as it applies to his/her instrument and transpose teacher selected work.
- Can react musically to all symbols, including tempo markings, dynamics, musical terminology, time signatures, and key signatures encountered in music.
- Will sight read music appropriate to his/her experience and ability.
- Can demonstrate, by performance, all phases of musicianship in a concert setting.
- Will perform correctly all technical passages.
- Understand and acquire the ability to recognize, understand, and perform musical phrases.
- Demonstrate the ability to listen carefully to a musical performance and then evaluate, by discussion or writing, the quality of performance of an individual player or organization.
- Demonstrate through completion of special project assignments and appropriate literature the ability to identify, explain, and perform music genres/styles (performance practice techniques) from various cultures and historical periods.

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## Performance Exhibitions/Special Projects

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Students will be required to fulfill all class expectations and requirements leading to advanced training in vocal technique and mastery in preparation for more advanced performances in other musical venues including the following:

- Development of advanced performance skills through frequent performance task assessments covering class assignments and material on a daily basis.
- Development of a Solo Repertoire Portfolio which includes specific material selected for each student. The solo repertoire portfolio selections will be performed for evaluation once each term on student Juries.
- Development of a Professional Journal Article Portfolio consisting of two articles each nine weeks—one which relates to their specific instrument, and one of a general nature pertaining to all instrumentalists. Students will submit reaction papers for evaluation on each article.
- Development of Critical Listening Skills as demonstrated through written critiques of live performances and radio programs pertaining to music of serious artistic merit.
- Development of knowledge of Music History/Appreciation, Theory, and writings on Advanced Musical Topics is achieved through assignment of special projects.
- Development of ensemble involvement through participation in the Florida Vocal Association Solo/Ensemble Festival, BHS Concerts, BHS Small Ensembles, Youth Opera, Florida Music Educators All-State Festival, and other musical performance venues as available.

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# Grading Scale for Authentic Assessment

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The grading ensemble for the Booker High School Concert Choir conforms to the Sarasota Public Schools grading policy. The intent of this grading system is to accurately assess the student's academic progress and commitment to course objectives and educational goals. The academic grade reflects what the student knows and is able to do.

The following categories will reflect those aspects of student performance that will be assessed and the percentages that will contribute to a student's grade:

**Employability: 20%**

- Attendance
- Promptness—being on time for rehearsals
- Is ready to perform in all aspects: music folders in possession, in seats at bell, music in rehearsal order as posted on whiteboard
- Student enters and leaves the room in an orderly manner
- Does not talk while tuning or while the director is working in rehearsal
- Does not write on stands, chairs, or whiteboard
- Takes care of music and instrument
- Brings pencil to class
- Listens to the conductor and others
- Marks music
- Constantly listens and adjusts pitch and volume
- Is always ready for entrances
- Always attempts to sing part correctly
- Interprets as the conductor wishes
- Displays professional attitude
- Uses rehearsal room for its intended purpose
- Does not bring food, drink, or gum to rehearsal room

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## Grading Scale (cont.)

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**Concert Performances: 30%**

- Attendance at all performances including chorus concerts, solo and ensemble concerts, all FVA district and state events, all regional and national festivals, and all community and recruiting performances. Also included are any assigned performance exams of an individual nature.

**Class Work/Rehearsal: 50%**

**Juries: 30% of Semester** - Serves as Mid-term/Final exam grade.

- VPA Concert Choir students are required to complete one jury each semester. Students will select an appropriate piece that must be approved by the director. Students who receive highest marks on their jury may be invited to perform at the departmental Evening Recital