



Welcome to Sutherland Choir 2020-21!

Mr. Bohrer, choir director

I am SO glad to be your choir director! We all know choir in school will look very different this year, and I am thrilled that you have chosen to participate in what I hope will be a very fun learning environment. Singing is so good for us all, and I am incredibly grateful to the school district for giving us the opportunity to think creatively and be able to sing in a safe way. First and foremost, our job is to take care of each other!

Course Expectations:

1. BE PREPARED

All students should be in class on time, every day, with their music, folder, and pencil.

Masks are required, and water is encouraged! Students are also encouraged to bring an electronic device that they can use for recording their own performances and searching for model recordings on the internet.

2. DO YOUR BEST WORK

All students should consistently participate in all class activities, with a positive attitude.

- Demonstrate readiness to sing at the start of class
- Contribute to a positive learning environment
- Demonstrate consistent effort in the development of proper vocal technique
- Demonstrate a willingness to try new things and take risks

What will Choir be like this year?

Frequently Asked Questions

In-Person Days

On your in-person days, we will be having our class in the SHS Multi-Purpose Room. We will be singing at 12' spacing, masked, to follow the guidelines set forth by NYS and PCSD. We will also sing outdoors when it is possible, masked at 12' spacing. For further questions about the guidelines, please visit the PCSD Music Department COVID-19 Guidelines posted on my teacher webpage. Since we are only in-person two days a week, we will try to maximize the singing time we have!

At-Home Days

On days when you are learning from home, there will be assignments and/or instructions posted in Microsoft Teams for work to be completed during class time. These assignments are designed to enhance your singing skills and will include watching videos of singing, listening and responding, strengthening music reading skills, sightreading, use of technology such as Flipgrid and much more. As we get going with choir songs, part recordings will be uploaded so you can practice your music at home.

As with all classes, you must record your at-home attendance at the start of your choir class. In Teams, navigate to Choir and the form will be found under the Attendance Tab at the top.

Class instructions will be posted in the channel that you are part of (either Blue or Gold). You may have instructions in place of a formal assignment, so please look every class after signing in. Posts on Teams are viewable to all, so please only ask questions that are important to our classroom goals. If you log on and are confused with what to do, please send me a message by email or posting on Teams. Most likely, I won't be able to answer right away as I am teaching in-person students at the same time so be patient!

Remote Wednesdays

On Wednesdays, we will gather together online for a short Zoom time. This is **required** for all students, and students will need to have their video turned on their device. I will post the link to our meeting each Wednesday morning in our Team.

What will I need for Choir?

Each day you attend in-person chorus you should bring your Choir folder and music, along with a pencil and a great attitude! Singing at a 12' distance is awkward and weird, yes, but if everyone tries their best we will make it super fun.

What about concerts?

At this time, there are no public concerts scheduled for this year. We will revisit and revise those plans in accordance with guidance given throughout the year. What we WILL do is record our student groups and share those performances with families at different intervals throughout the year. Stay tuned for more!

Will I need a uniform?

Not at this time. However, Sutherland Choir t-shirts, Hoodies, and ¼ Zips are available for purchase [HERE](#). You may want one!

How will we be graded?

Quarterly grades will be calculated as follows:

Analyzing and Responding to Music – 50%

Written reflections on performances
Written analysis and study of repertoire
Listening Assignments

Creating and Performing – 50%

Part Checks / Quartets
Sight Reading
In-Class Recorded Performances

How can I reach you?

My email is Brian_Bohrer@pittsford.monroe.edu Please let me know how I can support you and your singing this year!!

Thank you for being part of our choirs! We will make the best of this strange year and have fun!

Sincerely,
Mr. Bohrer

