

Ballenas Secondary School Music Department

Course: Concert Choir 8-12

Mr. Kellas - bkellas@sd69.bc.ca

Welcome to an organization in which you can be proud to belong to! Music at Ballenas Secondary will prove beneficial and rewarding for you. As you learn more about singing in a musical ensemble, you will also learn more about commitment, musicianship, and teamwork. Our success depends on your ability to know your music and participate in a positive and meaningful way.

The goal of the Ballenas Music Department is to provide students the experience of creating music together as a class (and individually), while developing the highest possible level of musical achievement. It is also my goal to foster good listening skills, a positive attitude, self-confidence and a spirit of cooperation. Remember that in order to realize your musical potential, a consistent effort applied throughout the year is vital. The Ballenas Music Program makes a meaningful contribution to your overall education.

Concert Choir 8-12 (Mondays 3:15pm-4:30pm and Wednesdays 7:20am-8:30am)

Members of this ensemble do not have to have any previous music experience. Concert Choir 8-12 is skills-based course in a group-singing format. The focus is on education through preparation and performance of selected literature. Students will learn proper singing technique, the basics of reading music, how to self-evaluate and self-correct, and will take part in various performances. The fundamentals of rhythm, tone quality, intonation and technique will be areas for improvement. Festival, school, and community concerts will be performed. Students will work on several styles of music including classical, pop, African, world music, gospel, and spirituals. The BC Ministry Learning Standards outline **Exploring & Creating, Reasoning & Reflecting, Communicating & Documenting, and Connecting and Expanding** as the general curriculum competencies. These competencies are covered in various ways throughout the year's coursework in this class.

Evaluation

Students who maintain a regular home practice schedule are very likely to achieve excellence. Evaluation of each term's work will be as follows:

Self-Assessment & Playing Tests	30%
In-class Playing Ability, Participation, & Leadership	30%
Concert Participation & Performances	20%
Theory, Assignments, Quizzes, etc.	<u>20%</u>
Term Grade	100%

Final Grade - average of four terms equally weighted at 25% for each term. The experience of performing in public and at festivals is essential for all music students. It is the main reason we rehearse together!

Communication/Email

I communicate frequently with parents via email. Handouts given to students are also emailed to parents to ensure that you are kept up to date of musical activities, fundraising, trips, deadlines etc. If your parents are interested in getting my emails, please email me at bkellas@sd69.bc.ca and I'll add you to my address book. In addition, I post all correspondence to our website at ballenasmusic.org. Check it out! Check out the "Ballenas Music" Facebook page as well!

Concert and Performance Expectations

Participation in all concerts and festival performances is essential! Participation in concerts and festivals is a course requirement as choir is a group activity. Acceptable reasons to miss performances include illness (not just a stuffy nose), family holiday, family emergency, etc. If you cannot make a music commitment, let me know as soon as possible. Homework, jobs/work, birthdays, etc. are not valid excuses. Concert dates will be provided to you very early on, so please give your employer and other activity supervisors a lot of notice of your Band/Choir commitments.

Playing/Singing Tests

Students will be required to demonstrate (play and/or sing) repertoire and technical exercises several times each term. This is an important part of your evaluation and gives you an opportunity to show me what you have learned. If you are practicing regularly, you will be well prepared!

Playing/singing test material will be announced ahead of time, and you may have a chance to re-do tests if you would like to improve your mark after getting some feedback from the teacher. Mr. Kellas will give more details on this in class. Formative assessment and self-evaluation assessment with the aid of a rubric forms the basis for musical evaluation.

In-Class Singing Ability

Assessments (formal and informal) will be made regarding your musical preparation and ability to play/sing correctly in class. Those that practice will excel!

Instrument/Folder checks

Your folder, music, pencil, and handouts need to be brought to every class. You will be assigned a BSS Choral Folder in which to keep your music.

Home Practice Requirements

Students in the Ballenas Band program are strongly urged to practice their instruments regularly at home. Students should do 60 to 120 min/week of home practice. I recommend practicing every day (or every second day) rather than once a week. Facial muscles and finger dexterity are strengthened and improved more effectively with a regular on-going practice routine. Make specific times in your schedule to practice at home each night or on the weekends. It's much easier to keep that habit of practicing if you make a schedule and stick to it!

Uniforms

The Ballenas Music department is very proud to have the most attractive Band/Choir uniform anywhere! Students will require the following items:

- **Black dress pants**
- **Black socks and black shoes**
- **A black buttoned-down dress shirt suitable for a tie.**

If you are having financial difficulty and cannot afford these items, please email me, and the Music Dept. will assist you.

Music Ties

The music department will provide your child with a bright-coloured straight tie at no charge. They are individually coloured and come in **lime green, yellow, hot pink, red, violet, blue, and orange**. You can wear a different colour every time you perform in a concert! I will distribute them a day or two before the concert and a parent volunteer will collect them at the end of the concert. Ties need to be returned in the same condition they were received. Our uniform symbolizes dedication and commitment to excellence in music and is worn with pride. Students need to look their best when performing!

Fundraising and Trips

We have a very active fundraising program. **All fundraising is optional.** All your fundraising dollars are placed in your own individual account for your participation in Ballenas Music trips. You may simply write a cheque to pay for your trip if you wish. Just belonging to the ensemble does not automatically entitle you to travel on planned trips. Your conduct, behavior, attitude, effort, and attendance will determine your eligibility to travel. You must be deemed to be in good standing in the program (and with your academic work) to participate in the Music trips.

Final Thoughts

To conclude, the music department at Ballenas Secondary has a reputation for musical excellence, and provides students amazing experiences through our concerts, festivals, public performances, and trips. Hard work and practice is required for us to grow together as musicians and present polished, high-quality performances. This will be an exciting year, so let's get started!

-- Mr. Kellas

Classroom Expectations

Preparedness Expectations	Consequences
1. There will be ABSOLUTELY NO TALKING when the teacher is instructing.	- Removal from the classroom during the lesson
2. All music STOPS INSTANTLY when the teacher gives the signal.	- Possible detention at lunch in the music room
3. Students must arrive, on time, with ALL REQUIRED MATERIALS. (instrument, pencil, binder, sheet music, supplies, etc.)	- Possible referral to the office - Possible phone call or email home

Behaviour Expectations	Consequences
<p>C – CARE <i>Act with care in the music room, and show that you care about your achievement in the course. Take responsibility for yourself and all assigned work. Be positive! 😊</i></p>	- Removal from the classroom during the lesson
<p>R – RESPECT <i>Act in a respectful manner towards yourself, your teacher, and all members of the class.</i></p>	- Possible detention at lunch in the music room - Possible referral to the office
<p>S – SELF CONTROL <i>Behave in a safe manner at all times, and use self-control.</i></p>	- Possible phone call or email home

Practice regularly at home – at least 15 to 30 minutes every day. Always have a positive attitude, ask for help when needed, and HAVE FUN!

Contact Information

Legitimate absences from class do occur from time to time. If you must miss class (or have any questions or concerns), please email Mr. Kellas in advance at bkellas@sd69.bc.ca with the reason for your absence. Or, you can phone him at the school at 250-248-5721 (ext. 12914).

Ballenas Concert Choir 8-12 Outline – Assignment #1

This is your first assignment!

PLEASE DETACH, SIGN, AND RETURN

PARENTS: *Please read over this course outline, fill out the required information, and sign it showing that you have read through the material.*

Pay particular attention to Concert & Performances Expectations, Uniforms, and Home Practice Requirements.

Students need to return this sheet to Mr. Kellas to show that the outline has been read. Thank you!

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____