

♪ BSS Music: Concert Choir 8-12 Outline ♪

Mr. Kellas - bkellas@sd69.bc.ca

Concert Choir will take place on Mondays from 3:45pm to 4:00pm and on Wednesday mornings from 7:20am to 8:20am.

Welcome to the Ballenas Music Program! Being a member of our program will prove to be beneficial and rewarding for you in many ways. As you learn about participating in a musical ensemble here, you will also learn more about commitment, musicianship, and teamwork. We all get better together!!!

The goal of the Ballenas Music Department is to provide students the experience of playing music together as a class (and individually) while developing the highest possible level of musical achievement. We strive 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. Hard work is key!

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.

Communication/Email/Website (www.ballenasmusic.org)

I will be communicating with students via my Google Classroom and their student district email. It is very important for students to check their email often and use Google Classroom regularly! Students will be guided through the use of Google Classroom and email at the start of the year.

I communicate frequently with parents via email. If parents are interested in getting my emails, please email me at bkellas@sd69.bc.ca so I can add you to my address book. In addition, I post all correspondence to our website at ballenasmusic.org. Check it out!

Evaluation

Students who maintain a regular home practice schedule are very likely to achieve excellence. Evaluation of each term's work/participation will be based on the following things:

- Self-Assessments & Playing Tests
- In-class Playing Ability, Participation, & Leadership
- Theory, Assignments, Quizzes, etc.
- Concert Participation & Performances

Proficiency Scale – The student’s achievement in the class will be communicated through the Proficiency Scale. The descriptors are **Emerging, Developing, Proficient, and Extending**. Students will reflect on their progress and identify what they can do improve and move up the Proficiency Scale. The student’s achievement on the Proficiency Scale will also be turned into a percentage/letter grade for reporting purposes.

Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending/Exceeding
Beginning to demonstrate basic knowledge in relation to the learning standards	Demonstrates some knowledge/skill in relation to the learning standards	Demonstrates good knowledge/skill in relation to the learning standards	Demonstrates knowledge/skill beyond the learning standards
Works with ongoing support	Works with some support	Works independently	Works independently and can support the learning of others
“I am just getting started”	“I understand some of it”	“I get it!”	“I get it and go beyond what is expected of me”
“I learn best with help”	“I am beginning to do more and more on my own”	“I can do it on my own”	“I can teach it to someone else”

Term Grades and Final Grade

The Term Grade will be based on the Proficiency Scale and all work completed during that term. It will be converted to a percentage/letter grade. The Final Grade will be an average of four terms equally weighted at 25% for each.

Concert and Performance Expectations

Participation in all concerts and festival performances is essential! Participation in concerts and festivals is a course requirement as band/choir is a group activity. Acceptable reasons to miss performances include illness (not just a stuffy nose), being away on a family holiday, family emergency, etc. If you cannot make a music commitment, please 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.

Singing Tests (Skill-Based Evaluation)

Students will be required to demonstrate their skill on technical exercises and repertoire several times each term. This is an important part of your evaluation and gives you an opportunity to show me what you have learned. 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. Formative assessment and self-evaluation assessment, with the aid of rubrics, form the basis for our skill-based evaluation.

These tests can be completed in class, during lunch times, or videos can be submitted via Google Classroom. More information on this will be outlined in class. ☺

In-Class Singing Ability

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

Instrument/Folder checks

Your folder, music, pencil, and technique books need to be brought to every class. Having a pencil to write things down and fill out worksheets is very important. We often take notes and write reminders on our music. This is part of being an effective musician/singer!

Home Practice Requirements

Students in the Ballenas Band program are strongly urged to practice regularly at home. Students should do 60 to 120min/week of home practice. I recommend practicing every day (or every second day) rather than once a week. Recordings of some of our songs, and even practice tracks for individual parts, will be uploaded to our music program website. 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

Students will require the following items for their uniform:

- **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 **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!

-- 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

Cell Phones – Cell phones are not to be used during class times. They can be put in your locker, inside your backpack, or plugged into the power bars for charging in the band room. If you have your cell phone out, you will be asked to put it away or place it into the basket at the front of the room. If you have it out again, you will be asked to take it to the school office to be picked up at the end of the day.

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. Please 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: _____

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