



August 25, 2026

Dear students and parents,

Please read completely and make sure to sign the electronic signature page at the end!

Welcome to another great year of singing at Bismarck High School! We are very excited to begin the school year and look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish! The relationships you build with friends in this class is unlike any other. Allow this class to help you express yourself and become an outlet for you during the day. Each and every person singing in this program is important and without you, we would not be here.

The following pages are the Bismarck High School Choir Handbook. It has information on important dates and policies you will need for this class. As always, if there are any questions please feel free to contact either of your directors. Be sure to check out our website at www.bhschoir.org. With your help and hard work we can make this a fun, wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Brian Saylor and Shana Klee

brian_saylor@bismarckschools.org

shana_klee@bismarckschools.org

Office phone #323-4800

Performance Attire

The required attire to be worn for each of our performances this year will be as follows:

BHS Choir

Plain Black Shirt/Blouse (NO SLEEVELESS)
Plain Black Dress Pants (NO JEANS/YOGA PANTS)
Black dress shoes
Tie (optional provided by BHS)

There is a \$20 choir fee for all choir students.

Please pay Mrs. Klee your \$20 fee by **September 22, 2025**. You may use the district's My Payments system to pay for this along with your other fees. Cash and checks can be brought to Mrs. Klee. Checks can be made out to "BHS Choir". Fundraising money may also be used to pay this fee.

Concert Attendance Policy

Concert attendance is a great way to share what we have been doing in the classroom and is **MANDATORY**. It is a graded event (100 points) and is a crucial part of the class. Any student missing a performance (unexcused) is required to complete a make-up assignment which will be given by the directors and must be completed within two weeks. Credit will be awarded based on the quality of the submitted assignment.

Students must communicate with their directors about any absence (excused or unexcused) at least one week before the concert. **Failure to communicate will result in a grade reduction.** Bismarck High School Policy, located on page 8 of the handbook, states the following "***Any student participating in any BHS activity (athletic competitions, music performances, club events, etc.) must attend all classes on the day of the activity. An absence in any class will cause the student to be ineligible for participation on that day.***" Please make sure you plan accordingly so this violation does not occur.

Daily Participation Points

Each day a student receives 3 participation points during class, totaling 15 for the week. In order to have a successful choir, students must be on task and participating. If a student chooses not to participate they not only will fall behind on their music, but it directly affects the sound of the whole choir. Students will receive full participation points if the following occur;

- Student has music out
- Student is singing
- Student is engaged and listening when it is not his/her turn to sing

2026-27 Honor Choirs

Honor choirs are an extra opportunity for students to participate in. Members of honor choirs are selected through either a live or recorded audition process. The following list has the grades eligible, fees involved, locations and dates that have been announced thus far.

ACDA National Honor Festival:

- Grades 9-12
- Students record a portion of a pre-chosen choral piece and submit
- Honor choir takes place in Minneapolis, MN on March 7 - 10, 2027
- Students must be chaperoned by a parent
- Audition fee: audition fee is \$30

Northwest Honor Festival

- Grades 9-12
- Audition Fee: \$7
- Audition possibilities: scales, "My Country Tis of Thee" and solo excerpt
- Audition: September TBA @ Legacy High School
- November 6th & 7th in Minot, ND

ND ACDA Honor Choir:

- Grade 9
- Students record a solo and "My Country Tis of Thee" and submit
- Honor choir takes place February 5th & 6th in Grand Forks, ND
- Audition fee: \$10

ND ACDA SSAA Choir

- Grade 11-12 Soprano & Alto
- Honor choir takes place February 5th & 6th in Grand Forks, ND
- Participants are director selected

NDMEA High School All-State Auditions

- Grades 9-12
- Students sing a live audition consisting of a prepared solo, a vocalise, and sight reading at Bismarck State College
- Audition date: January 7th & 8th
- Audition Fee: \$20 – regular choir
\$20 – jazz choir
- If a student wishes to audition for the jazz choir, they MUST do a regular audition as well.
- Festival dates are March 21st - 23rd, Bismarck, ND

UND Honor Choir

- Grades 10-12
- Audition fee: \$15
- Students sing a live audition consisting of a prepared solo and sight reading
- Audition date: late October
- Festival dates are January 22nd - 24th; Grand Forks, ND

Lettering Policy

BHS Choral Music Department

Bismarck Public Schools

The requirements for lettering in choir are:

1. Participate in the WDA Music Festival and/or State Music Festival.
2. Choral leadership, students who expect to letter should display leadership skills in their ensemble. Some examples may include; being a section leader, assisting with additional ensembles, private voice lessons, auditioning for honor choirs, and other director-determined activities.
3. Must be a member in good standing of the ensemble based on:
 - A. Eligibility
 - B. Maintaining a 3.5 average in all music courses
 - C. Appropriate behavior in the ensemble at all times
 - D. Classroom effort/cooperation
 - E. No unexcused absences from concerts

All decisions as to lettering will be made by the conductor/teacher of the ensemble.



BHS Choral Music

2026-2027 Performance Schedule

bhschoir.org

October 5th Fall Concert – BHS Auditorium

6:00 pm - Prep & Treble Choir

7:30 pm - Concert Choir & WMS 8th Grade Choir

October 27th New Generation with Jazz Band 7:30 PM

November 6-7 Northwest Festival- Minot State University*

November 24th DON 7:00 Demons of Note

BHS Feeder Schools, Genesis & New Gen – BHS Auditorium*

December 7th 7:30 Holiday Concert

**Prep Choir, Treble Choir, Concert Band & Concert Orchestra
– BHS Auditorium**

December 14th 7:30 Holiday Concert

**Concert Choir-Wind Ensemble-Chamber Orchestra
– BHS Auditorium**

January 7th & 8th All-State Auditions, BSC*

January 22nd-24th UND Honor Choir, Grand Forks*

January 25th Jazz Dessert BHS Commons

January 29th - 30th U of Mary Jazz Festival, Bismarck*

February 5th & 6th NDACDA Honor Choir & Jr. High Honor Choir*

February 18th - 21st BHS Musical*

March 1st Midwinter Choral Concert – BHS Auditorium

6:00 – WMS 6th Grade & BHS Prep Choir

7:30 – WMS 7th Grade & BHS Concert Choir

March 2nd Midwinter Choral Concert – BHS Auditorium

6:00 – Southside Children's Choir & BHS Treble Choir

March 7th-10th ACDA National Honor Festival, Minneapolis, MN

March 21st-23rd NDMEA/ND High School All-State Music Festival, Bismarck*

April 1 (Ensemble) & April 2 (Solo) WDA Music Contest – Bismarck*

April 23rd - State Music Contest – University of Jamestown*

May 10th 8:00 Spring Rock Concert

Treble Choir-Prep Choir-Concert Choir – BHS Auditorium

May 23rd New Generation with Jazz Band 7:30 PM

*** Additional activities involving students in the choral program**

Parent & Student Acknowledgement

Please sign and return to Mr. Saylor or Mrs. Klee. **Completion and return of this form counts as your first assignment for the semester. This form is due back by Monday, September 21st.**

Please click here to fill out the **STUDENT** electronic signature:

<https://forms.gle/gsHhCJzYbmE84Ke6>

Please click here to fill out the **PARENT** electronic signature:

<https://forms.gle/9LLw5dVzcJbGMDQM8>