

Dear Parents and Students,



I would like to personally welcome each and every student to the Berlin 7/8 Grade Chorus. Even though this is a VERY different year, I look forward to meeting each and every singer and making beautiful music.

### **Concerts**

There will be **two** virtual performances this year:

**Winter Virtual Performance Friday December 18, 2020**

**Spring Virtual Performance Friday June 11, 2021**

We ask that each student participate in this virtual choir performance as it will count for a large percentage of their participation grade.

### **Concert Attire**

Since all performances will be virtual, we ask that each student wears a nice top (no T-shirts)

### **Supplies**

Each student is asked to provide their own pocket folder (no color preference) and pencil. Each student will be responsible for bringing their chorus folder to and from class.

### **Grades**

All choral students receive a grade for each quarter. The following demonstrates the breakdown of the grading system:

**20% Daily Participation**-each student's participation, effort and attitude will be observed by the director **DAILY**. Each student will be assessed using the following rubric.

- 0 for not attending class and not participating at all
  - For virtual: student does not log in at all and does not make up the classwork with the teacher at all
- 1 for attending class, but not participating at all
  - For virtual: student logged in without video, audio or chat.
- 2 for actively attending class and following along with class
  - For virtual: student logged in with video, audio or chat but are not necessarily on task or participating during class
- 3 for actively attending class, engaging in actual lessons and completing work
  - For virtual: Student is logged in with video, audio or chat and are on task and participating for the majority of the class

*Points may be deducted as a result of not following the Ensemble Expectation Guidelines.*

**15% Virtual Concert Participation**-Each student will make a video of them performing their portion of the selected pieces that will be arranged into a "virtual choir".

**50% Formative Assessments/Audio Recordings**-Students will be submitting weekly “audio check in’s” to make sure they are mastering the music for our virtual performance. They will also be showing mastery and knowledge through the use of formative assessments (i.e bell ringers, exit tickets, quizzes, assignments etc).

**15% Remote Work:** Students will be asked to complete various assignments on Schoology such as Choice Boards, Sight Reading, Creating A Choral Program, etc.

### **Virtual Performance Participation**

This is a completely different year from what we are used to. Nothing can compare to the joy of singing as a group in person, but we want to offer as many performance opportunities as we can for our students.

Students will submit videos of them performing their portions of the selected choral songs (a cappella), which will be edited together to create a “virtual choir”.

It may be a scary idea to record yourself without any background music or other people singing, but we encourage each of our students to participate in this opportunity. No one student will be featured singing alone unless they want to.

***Note-This is subject to change depending on guidance from the CDC, district & Rensselaer County.***

### **Ensemble Expectations**

Please note that chorus is considered an academic subject in the Berlin curriculum and will be treated as such. Expectations for behavior and academic excellence are the same in chorus as in any other subject. It is, however, a unique subject matter with a different environment and structure. It is a large group of students that must function as efficiently as any other class. Each and every student is expected to meet the Choral Expectations as described on the attached sheet. Any student choosing to disregard our rehearsal guidelines will be subject to the following consequences:

- 1) Phone call (or email) home
- 2) Written referral to the Main Office

It is important for both the parents and students to understand the expectations at the beginning of the school year. Please keep this letter and fill out the Google Form Acknowledgement that you have read and understand the Grading Policies, Virtual Choir Performances and Ensemble Expectations. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at [leliashuk@berlincentral.org](mailto:leliashuk@berlincentral.org)

Thank you  
Ms. Leslie Eliashuk  
Chorus/General Music  
Berlin CSD

## **Choral Ensemble Expectations for the Entire School Year:**

The ability to remain standing or seated in assigned chair as directed by teacher.

The ability to remain focused on the director and the task at hand without distracting others.

The ability to read and follow the written vocal score.

The responsibility of not having anything in one's mouth during rehearsal as this is a health/safety concern.

The ability to follow directions.

The ability to exhibit self-control in regards to talking. Talking ***only*** when called upon.

The ability to maintain social distancing and health/safety guidelines

The ability to use proper singing voice when directed.

The ability to actively sing in an audible tone during in person rehearsals and in audio recordings

The ability to remember to bring materials to class on a daily basis (music, folder, pencil)

The ability to respect others.