



# Huron High School Choirs

## 2019-2020 Choir Handbook

2727 Fuller Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

(734) 994-2096

## Welcome to the Class of 2023!

### Information Includes

- Contact Info
- Choir Website
- Choir Camp
- Dates for Concerts, S&E Festival, and other important choir events
- Classroom Procedures and Expectations
- Curriculum and Grading
- Concert Attire
- Huron Music Association
- Student Choir Contract (To be signed by student and parent and returned)

### Choir Teachers

Bonnie Kidd [kidd@a2schools.org](mailto:kidd@a2schools.org)

Kent Wattleworth [wattleworthk@a2schools.org](mailto:wattleworthk@a2schools.org)

Cantando, Bel Canto

Cantare, A Cappella,

Chamber Choir

Huron Music Office Phone: 734-994-2096

Huron Choir Website: [www.a2huronchoir.weebly.com](http://www.a2huronchoir.weebly.com) \*

*\*Contains Google Calendar with all Huron Choir performance and fundraiser dates, music practice resources, choir forms and documents, and other choir info.*

Huron Music Association Website: [www.huronmusicassociation.weebly.com](http://www.huronmusicassociation.weebly.com)

## What does it mean to be in Huron choirs?

### Community

Congratulations on being a part of a wonderful tradition of choral excellence at Huron High School! *Choir is a community and family, not just a class.* It means something to be a part of this group. There is a bond that occurs between people who sing together that is different from any other. When you become a choir member at Huron, you not only receive outstanding opportunities for making music. You also become part of a large family of people who are committed to supporting one another. It is crucial that you, as a member of this community show respect for others, making sure everyone feels welcome and safe as a part of the group. This is true between singers from different choirs as well. Officers are elected for each choir. All choir officers are expected to meet at least three times a semester to plan team-building/social events for the choirs which develop community. Social activities will be planned throughout the year to help choir students get to know each other. Please try to attend these if you can! *It is extremely important that all Huron choir students take care of each other and treat each other with kindness.*

### Commitment to Excellence

Our concerts and performances can only be as good as our rehearsals. The key to a successful rehearsal is hard work! Our success depends upon the focused efforts of each member each day in rehearsal. The students who give their all are usually the most accomplished and most respected musicians in their respective choirs. Every student has to be committed to giving their best effort in all aspects of rehearsals for the choirs to be successful. The reward for this hard work is an experience unlike any other in school: fun, excitement, the chance to be a part of a very successful group, team-working skills, self-discipline, and a lifelong passion for music and life.

### Bell procedure

-Students should be in their assigned seat with their choir folder, music, and pencil when the bell rings. If a student is not in their seat when the bell rings, they may be marked tardy.

### Cell Phones

-THE USE OF CELL PHONES IN CLASS IS NOT ALLOWED UNLESS DIRECTED BY THE TEACHER. If a student has a cell phone out in class, it may be taken and turned in to the office. There will be some days that students will be allowed to bring their electronic device to participate in class activities. Students will be notified of these days in advance.

### Food and Drink

-Students are to bring only water into the room. This applies both before and after-school.

### Passes

All students need to bring their Huron student planner to class. This will also be used as a bathroom pass from class.

### The Choir Curriculum includes the study of:

- Vocal Technique-posture, breathing, tone, vowel unification, diction, articulation, dynamics, phrasing and syllabic stress, ensemble, and stage presence
- Sight singing, music theory, symbols, and vocabulary
- Historical and cultural contexts of music
- The relationship of music to the human experience.

### Huron Choirs Curricular Ensembles:

There are currently four curricular ensembles at Ann Arbor Huron High School.

Cantando	Cantando is a treble choir, grades 9-12.
Cantare	Cantare is a tenor-bass choir, grades 9-12.
Bel Canto	Bel Canto is the advanced treble SSAA ensemble open by audition only. This ensemble is open to qualified freshmen, but most members are in their second or third year in the program.
A Cappella	A Cappella is the advanced SATB choral ensemble open by audition only. This choir is open to singers grades 10-12 who have successfully completed an audition. Most members have completed at least one year in Bel Canto and Cantando/Cantare.

### Extra-Curricular Ensembles

There are currently six extra-curricular ensembles at Ann Arbor Huron High School, comprised of students enrolled in the curricular ensembles.

Chamber Choir	Comprised of singers from A Cappella Choir who audition and are chosen for this treble and bass voiced ensemble. Maximum number of members is 20 and meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 2:45-3:20.
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There are several a cappella groups listed below that meet as student led clubs. Some or all of these will meet each year depending on the students who are part of them. They choose their own rehearsal times and places and sometimes rehearse at their homes.

Duly Noted	(Mixed SATB voices)
Pitch Please	(Mixed SATB voices)
Harmonics	(Treble voices only)
Treble Makers	(Treble voices only)
Clef Hangers	(Treble voices only)

Auditions for Extra-Curricular groups take place in September. Members of any extra-curricular ensemble are required to participate in a curricular choir at Huron. Auditions for Chamber Choir and the other extra-curricular choirs take place in September.

### Concert Attire

All choir students will be provided with concert attire that is specific to their ensemble-either a dress or a tuxedo. A *cleaning fee of \$20* will be collected from each student to cover the maintenance cost of the dresses and tuxes. Students are required to wear black socks or skin colored hosiery and black closed toe dress shoes.

## Huron Choirs Performance and Activities Calendar

*-Rehearsals and concerts are required for all choir students-See below for the concerts specific to your choir. Students are expected to stay at their required performance until the end of the concert. It shows respect for the other choirs and you will learn more about singing by listening too! Choir Social Events are highly encouraged, but not required. Building a community of choir friends is essential to our success, and fun too!*

**PLEASE CHECK THE CHOIR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES REGULARLY!**

[www.a2huronchoir.weebly.com](http://www.a2huronchoir.weebly.com)

Huron Music Association (HMA) Parent Volunteer Meeting – Thursday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm in Meyers Aud.  
(ALL PARENTS OF MUSIC STUDENTS SHOULD ATTEND)

HMA Blitz fundraiser – Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> (ALL CHOIRS)

Collaboration with Jackson Northwest Middle School Choir - Field trip Monday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30-5:00  
(A Cappella Choir only)

Acappellapalooza – Monday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:30pm-9pm at Skyline HS (Chamber Choir, acapella groups only)

Middle School Choir Day during school hours - Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at Huron, 8:30-2:00 (ALL CHOIRS)

Ann Arbor Symphony Holiday Pops (Bel Canto and A Cappella Choirs Only)

– Rehearsal on Monday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-8:30pm at Skyline HS

– Rehearsal on Thursday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm at Hill Auditorium

– Performance on Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, 8pm at Hill Auditorium

Winter Concert - Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm at Meyers Auditorium (ALL CHOIRS)

Michigan Music Conference Preview Concert - January 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at Meyers Auditorium (A Cappella Choir Only)

Michigan Music Conference Choral Hour Performance - Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm at JW Marriott Grand Rapids (A Cappella Choir Only)

MSVMA District Solo and Ensemble Festival - February 1<sup>st</sup> at Eastern Michigan University  
Specific times TBA. (Chamber Choir and any soloists who study voice and wish to participate)

MSVMA District Choral Festival - March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln HS, Ypsilanti -one day only, times TBA  
(Bel Canto and A Cappella Choirs Only)

Choral Cavalcade - Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm at Meyers Auditorium (ALL CHOIRS)

Clinic w/ composer Morten Lauridsen at EMU - April 7<sup>th</sup> field trip during school hours (Bel Canto and A Cappella Choirs Only)

MSVMA State S & E Festival - April 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Brighton HS, Brighton, time and day TBA  
(Those ensembles and soloists who receive a Division I rating at District)

MSVMA State Choral Festival - April 29<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup> at Holt HS, time and day TBA  
(Choirs who receive a Division I rating at District)

Spring Choir Concert - Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm at Meyers Auditorium (ALL CHOIRS)

Music Department Awards Night – Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm at Meyers Aud. (ALL CHOIRS)

Graduation – June 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 pm at EMU Convocation Center (Bel Canto and A Cappella Choirs only)

Interlochen Choir Camp - August 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (ALL 2020-2021CHOIRS)

**PLEASE CHECK THE CHOIR WEBSITE FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHOIR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES!!!**

[www.a2huronchoir.weebly.com](http://www.a2huronchoir.weebly.com)

### **Performance Activities**

The Huron Choirs perform several concerts each year in Meyers Auditorium. Students in advanced choirs may attend District and State level events as well which are off-site. Performance activities include but are not limited to:

### **Solo and Ensemble Festival**

Solo and Ensemble Festival provides opportunities for interested singers to individually prepare a musical performance. Students perform solos for an adjudicator who provides feedback, instruction, and an overall performance rating. This festival takes place in early February. Students who wish to participate should be studying privately with a voice teacher in order to prepare the required literature for the festival. Chamber Choir performs at Solo and Ensemble Festival. If the singer and or Chamber Choir receives an excellent rating at District festival, they may participate in State Solo & Ensemble.

### **Michigan Youth Arts Festival**

The very best solos and ensembles from all of Michigan who perform at State Solo & Ensemble Festival are selected to perform at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in Kalamazoo at Western Michigan University.

### **Choral Cavalcade**

*The Huron choirs perform each year with some of the Ann Arbor middle school choirs.*

### **Choral Festival**

Bel Canto Choir and A Cappella Choir perform at District Choral Festival (March). If the choirs receive a rating of Excellent, they also have the opportunity to participate in State Choral Festival (April). The Huron Choirs consistently receive top ratings at Choral Festival.

### **Choir Tour**

About every three years, Bel Canto and A Cappella Choirs go on tour. Fundraising is done throughout the summer and school year to make sure every student from these choirs is able to go on the trip.

### **Private Voice Study**

Many of our students elect to study voice privately. We have a teacher who comes to Huron for this purpose if a student wishes to study at school. Contact Mrs. Kidd or Mr. Wattleworth if you are interested in studying voice privately. Each year Huron offers two scholarships to choir students who want to take voice lessons. The scholarship will cover half the fee for the lessons. Interested students must fill out an application, which can be obtained from Mrs. Kidd or Mr. Wattleworth.

### **Musicals**

Every other year the Huron music department and the Huron Players collaborate to present a full scale Broadway musical. On alternating years, the Huron Players present a smaller scale musical. All rehearsals and performances are after school.

### **Class Philosophy on Assessment/Grading Policies**

In a music performance class, each student is expected to do their best at all times. This involves punctuality and focused work every day in class. The student needs to positively engage in large group as well as small group rehearsal. Everyone is important to the success of the whole choir and is expected to reflect an understanding of personal responsibility for that success. As a performance class, attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is required because it is the summative assessment for the class. We are successful as a result of our collaborative efforts. This is an important life lesson. The structure of this course, along with the broad range of the cultural emphasis aligns it well with the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile.

### **Grading**

Class participation/effort

Attendance at required performances and dress rehearsals

Quizzes(written and vocal)

Tests

### **Huron Music Association**

The Huron Music Association is our parent organization boosters organization. HMA supports all of the choirs, bands, and orchestras of the school. They perform fundraising activities to provide for activities, materials, services, and other necessities to conduct a high quality choral program at Huron High School. Any parent interested in helping HMA is eligible to volunteer for a variety of activities or be elected as a board member. HMA meetings are held once a month from September through June at 7:00pm in the band room at Huron.

### **International Baccalaureate Music Curriculum Statement**

At Huron High School we recognize the importance of a balanced education and believe that the music curriculum plays a vital role in nourishing our students' intellectual, physical, social, and emotional growth. The IB music curriculum of Huron High School centers around fostering compassionate, thoughtful, and respectful communities of learning. Through the rehearsal process students are inspired to make musical discoveries through the use of inquiry and collaboration and learn empathy for those in their ensembles in our school, community, and world. Students communicate with others by creating music that elevates, enlightens, and inspire those around them.

## **CHOIR CAMP 2020!!!!**

### **48<sup>th</sup> Annual Choir Camp at Interlochen - August 11-17, 2020**

Our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Choir Camp will be held at the world famous Interlochen Center for the Arts. Students stay together in cabins while enjoying a week of singing and camaraderie. Camp is an amazing opportunity for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to begin their transition to high school. Lifelong friendships are forged with new members who are paired with upper classmen mentors and guides. We strongly encourage everyone registered in the Huron Choral Program for Fall 2019 to attend camp with us.

- Dates:** August 11-17, 2020 @ Interlochen Center for the Arts  
Mandatory Registration for Camp is MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020  
1:00PM TO 3PM AT HURON HIGH SCHOOL.
- Forms:** Available mid March.
- Payment:** \$465.00 - Partial scholarships are available upon request.
- Deadline:** Registration forms and payment is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **Information for incoming freshman choir students**

1. Counselors from Huron High School will be, or already have visited your middle school.
2. Register for Cantando (all 9<sup>th</sup> treble voices) or Cantare (all 9<sup>th</sup> grade tenor and bass voices) on your course request forms.
3. Attend Choral Cavalcade – Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> to hear the choirs from Huron, Scarlett, Clague, and Tappan.
4. Mrs. Kidd will visit Scarlett, Clague, and Tappan for Bel Canto auditions at the end of March. Sign ups will be available at your school with your choir director.
5. You may also contact Mrs. Kidd for an audition at Huron if you wish. Her contact information is: [kidd@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:kidd@aaps.k12.mi.us).
6. Once registered for a choir at Huron, register for Choir Camp.
7. Contact Mr. Wattleworth or Mrs. Kidd for any questions you might have.

### **Future Choir Students - Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Does choir fulfill the Fine Arts graduation requirement?**

*Yes, Each curricular course meets the State of Michigan Fine Arts graduation requirement.*

**2. Should Freshmen attend Choir Camp?**

*Yes! Freshmen are encouraged to attend this fantastic event! All members of the Huron Choirs are welcome to participate in our annual choir camp.*

**3. Can I enroll in both choir and orchestra/band at Huron?**

*Yes, we have many students who are enrolled in multiple music classes. This is one of the benefits of Huron's 7-period day.*

**4. I will be attending Community High next Fall. Can I still sing in the choirs at Huron?**

*Yes, we have many students who dual-enroll.*

**5. Can I sing in the choir and participate in Huron Players Theater group?**

*Certainly. Our students are involved in a myriad of after-school activities.*

**6. Do I have to audition for Bel Canto Choir?**

*Yes. An audition and permission of the conductor is required to be in this choir.*

**7. Do I have to audition for A Cappella Choir?**

*Yes. An audition and permission of the conductor is required. Freshmen are not accepted into A Cappella Choir.*

### **Auditions for Bel Canto Choir**

**Auditions for Bel Canto Choir will be held in late March. Mrs. Kidd will travel to Tappan, Clague, and Scarlett to hear singers who wish to audition. An audition is required ONLY if a student wishes to be in Bel Canto. Cantando and Cantare choirs require NO audition to participate. Auditions will be comprised of a vocal range test, hearing the singer sing a song a cappella, testing sight-reading abilities in 4/4, 3/4, 6/8 time signatures, knowledge of major key signatures, solfege, dotted rhythms, ability to subdivide the beat, and clarity of voice. Auditions will be arranged through each middle school director.**



# Huron Choir Handbook Contract

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Choir Class \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the choir handbook and understand all of the guidelines therein. We understand our responsibilities as students and parents and we accept the conditions stated in the choir handbook.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

**Please sign and return this contract by Friday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**