
PINNACLE CHOIRS

Mrs. Jennifer Paz, Director

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Welcome to the Pinnacle High School Performing Arts Department! My goal is to teach you all that I can about music and help you become the finest and most knowledgeable musician. If you always make your best effort, you will find great success department. The purpose of this handbook is to help guide you to a fulfilling musical experience.

I hope you enjoy your musical journey here at Pinnacle. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask! Email is the quickest way to reach me.

Choir Mission: Cultivating Honest, Open-Minded, Intellectual, and Respectful Singers

The Choirs of Pinnacle High School cultivate excellence in students by promoting musical, academic, and artistic development through the choral ensemble. A positive and encouraging professional environment allows for all participants to advance their musical literacy, talent, self-esteem and life skills. As a musician and ensemble member, students may successfully build upon their music education through the strong foundation that is developed in our ensembles.

**“When we seek to discover
the **best** in *others*,
we somehow bring out
the **best** in *ourselves*.”**

William Arthur Ward

Choir Goals

Our choral ensembles will focus on three aspects of music: literacy, technique, and performance. Students will develop a consistent and healthy vocal tone and will improve their ability to read music. The singers will be learning key musical skills so they may teach themselves in the future and become knowledgeable yet individual musicians. Focus, creativity, self-discipline, self-esteem, collaboration, and a sense of personal development are examples of the transferable life skills that they will learn and utilize in Mrs. Paz's ensembles. As a passion further develops for the joy of performance and music as an art, students will have a well-rounded academic and musical education while attending Pinnacle High School.

Music Contract

You will find a **Music Contract** in this handbook. The purpose of this contract is to make certain that both you and your parents have read this handbook and are aware of the responsibilities involved in your choir membership at Pinnacle. This contract must be signed and returned to Mrs. Paz during the second week of school.

Choir Expectations

- Be respectful
- Be prepared (folder, stand, pencil)
- Use common sense
- Sing and perform to the best of your ability

Please be aware of routine rules and expectations in our program.

Gum, unauthorized cell phone use, or food will result in a loss of points, parent contact, and a possible referral. Cell phones or iPads/tablets will be used at times for academic purposes. Electronics may only be used when announced by the instructor and additional use will result in consequences.

**“PLEASE TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE ENERGY
YOU BRING TO THIS
SPACE.”**

Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor

Behavior

Our primary responsibility in choir is to learn about music. Any behavior that distracts from, or interferes with, this learning process will not be permitted.

The Choir Expectations are provided as guidelines for your behavior in the Performing Arts Building. Quiet attention to the instructor, remaining in your designated spot during rehearsal, no gum, food, or unauthorized cell phone use, and following directions are naturally expected of you in choir - just as they are in other classes.

Infractions of the rules or disruption of class will follow the Pinnacle High School disciplinary policies. Additional consequences will be taken as necessary.

Behavior on field trips is especially crucial as we are representing not only ourselves, but our school and *all those who support us*. Any disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. We want to ensure that when we go off campus, we have the best possible experiences.

The director and administration will make every reasonable effort to help you adjust your behavior. It is our goal to help each student be as successful as possible in the choir program.

A note about Online Behavior and Social Media

We are all aware of the prevalence and impact that social media has on our daily lives. Please remember that anything that you post or comment about online, it is no longer your property. Your actions are directly reflective of our program and the other members of all choirs. We strive to display a mature and friendly personality to all those we encounter. It is beneficial to remember that online and electronic activity is permanent. Students choosing to act in a less than positive manner will earn the necessary consequences associated with their infraction.

Rehearsal Routine

Establishing a normal rehearsal routine is vital to the success of our program. It allows time to be used efficiently and will begin as soon as you enter the room. Immediately upon entering, please get your music folder, put away your belongings, retrieve a music stand, and go directly to your assigned spot. Students are expected to be in your assigned spot when the final bell rings. Students who are not promptly in their spot will be marked Tardy. The Tardy Policy is outlined in the PHS Student Planner and Handbook.

Every class period will begin with vocal warm ups that directly relate to the music we will be singing that period. Next, we will learn through a sight singing and/or rhythm reading lesson. During these lessons, music literacy and solfege will be addressed to fully develop the musical skills of each singer. We will rehearse our literature for the remainder of the period as an ensemble and/or sectionals.

During a rehearsal, there will be times when the director will be working with a section other than your own. This is a time for “score study.” Please adhere to the study policies for a successful rehearsal.

Fund-raisers

Each year, Pinnacle High School will use fund-raisers to assist in the purchase of performance and rehearsal equipment and supplies. This year we are planning on having a Walk-A-Thon/Jog-A-Thon. During this event, 100% of the proceeds will go directly to Pinnacle Choirs. All students enrolled in choir are expected to participate in the events since all students will benefit from the items purchased with the funds. Students chosen to go on a choir tour may also use a portion of their monies earned through the events to pay for their tour tuition.

TAX CREDIT

Under Arizona law, any adult member of your family that files a state income tax return can donate up to \$200, or \$400 per married couple to the PHS Choir Program.

Materials for Class

Each student must have the following items every rehearsal:

- a sharpened pencil
- music binder (1 inch, black, non plastic front) music, note pages, and a music folder (2 pocket)
- sight singing and rhythm packets
- additional technical tools provided by PHS and/or Mrs. Paz (rhythm sticks, bands, tuning forks)

Additional writing utensils that will be needed on a non regular basis will be announced ahead of time. These items may include, pens, high lighters of 3 or more colors, and dry erase markers.

Students not in possession of these items will not receive their daily points resulting in a lowered grade. Please be prepared! Our daily rehearsal routine will greatly benefit from our prepared students.

Music and Sight Singing Materials

You will have music and additional materials checked out to you. If any items are lost, damaged, or stolen, you will be charged its full replacement cost. Shipping charges may apply. Music generally costs \$3 a piece. Photocopied music and materials are expected to be returned to avoid any fees due to copyright laws.

After each rehearsal, it is your responsibility to return your music and folder to the designated area. You are only permitted to handle your own folder. You may take your folder home, but please return to the following rehearsal with all necessary materials. Please write rehearsal notes in PENCIL only. All pencil markings made on original scores will be erased completely when music is turned in at the end of each term.

Website: www.PinnacleChoirs.com

Please visit www.PinnacleChoirs.com to access information regarding the Choir Program at Pinnacle High School. Here you can also find access to all documents, my YouTube channel, audio recordings, assignments, calendars, and parent information.

Concert Attire and T-Shirts

Each year we design a T-shirt to coincide with our theme and to promote our program. The shirts are typically \$10. Please communicate with Mrs. Paz if financial assistance is needed.

Formal Concert Attire:

Women:

You will be issued a choir dress from Pinnacle.

Please provide sheer black pantyhose, 1 1/2 inch black character shoes

(no T-Strap is preferred)

Hair needs to be in an up-do with no additional jewelry.

Jewelry will be assigned to each ensemble.

No nail polish is permitted, unless nails are in a French Manicure

Men:

Please provide black dress shoes, black dress socks, and a black button up dress shirt, and a white wingtip tux shirt.

You will be issued a black tux jacket, black tux pants, a vest, and tie.

It is important that the items issued to you are treated with the utmost care. No food, drinks other than water are to be consumed while in uniform. *No permanent alterations are to be made to the issued uniforms.* Any damage to the uniforms will require the students to repay the program the full retail value of the uniform.

Dry cleaning will be addressed by the 2nd week of school

HEMMING

You may be required to professionally hem your uniform. Information on hemming and pricing will be posted on www.PinnacleChoirs.com.

FINAL SPRING POPS CONCERT

Additional items for each ensemble will need to be purchased for our final spring show. The lists for each ensemble will be distributed before the beginning of the second semester so all students have ample time to obtain their necessary costumes. An additional T-shirt will be purchased for the final concerts. Please see Mrs. Paz if financial assistance is needed.

All State and Regional Festivals

Students have the opportunity to individually audition for honor choir ensembles throughout the year outside of the Pinnacle Choir Program. While this is not a current requirement, students are encouraged to audition for these state run ensembles. Each festival allows singers to advance their audition skills, rehearsal etiquette, and advance both their repertoire and technical skills. There are related fees to these events that will be taken from the class fees paid by the students at the beginning of the year. However, in the event that a student does not fulfill the audition, or participate in the event after the registration is complete, the student must repay the fee (generally

between \$15-\$50). Please check your personal and family schedules before committing to an audition and the subsequent festival. All dates will be announced as soon as possible.

Grading Policy

Three types of grades are earned in each ensemble:

Performance, Tests/Quizzes, and Materials

Performance Grades:

A performance schedule can be found at www.PinnacleChoirs.com. Please review this schedule with your family and put the dates on all your calendars so conflicts do not arise. If an unavoidable conflict does occur, you must notify the director with a note from your parents a *minimum of one week prior to the dress rehearsals*. One week's notice will give the ensembles ample time to rehearsal without you for the performance. Additional conflicts will be determined by Mrs. Paz, the student, parent, and administrator (if needed).

Below are the requirements for performance grades:

- A - You arrive on time, dressed appropriately, demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette on both stage and in the audience, and remain in your designated position during all aspects of the concert.
- B - You fulfill all but one of the requirements for an "A." Most people earn a B if they are talking backstage or in the audience.
- C - You fulfill all but two requirements for an "A."
- D - You fulfill all but three requirements for an "A."
- F- You fail to fulfill any requirements.

An unexcused absence from any performance will result in a "F" for that performance. Your participation is crucial for the success of our program!

Tests and Quiz Grades:

Music students will have written music theory and solfege quizzes approximately every week. These quizzes will cover music theory and concepts taught in class. Cumulative quizzes will also be given approximately every three weeks containing any information taught since the first day of rehearsal.

“A” Projects

The items listed below are choices each student may choose to complete to earn an “A” in Choir.
Please complete on project each quarter to earn the “A” letter grade.
The same project may not be used for multiple choirs.

*A one page typed report must be submitted with each of the projects indicated with an asterisk **

- ***Prepare and perform a vocal audition***
 - All-State Show Choir
 - School Musical
 - Regional/All State Choir
 - College Vocal Audition (music majors)
 - Other auditions with prior permission from the director

- ***Attend a High School, College, Professional Choral Ensemble, or Broadway Musical Theater Production***
 - You may not be a member of the performing group
 - Attach proof of attendance to evaluation

- ***Private Lessons***
 - A minimum of 6 half hour voice, piano, other instrument lessons, or voice classes
 - Private Instructor signature required for submission

- ***Sight Reading Class***
 - Complete a minimum of 6 half hour sight reading lessons
 - Attach proof of attendance and instructor signature

- ***Extra Curricular Choirs***
 - A minimum of 6 rehearsals must be attended for a community or church choir
 - Director signature required for submission

- **Service Project/Volunteer Work for PHS Performing Arts Faculty**
 - Complete a minimum of 3 hours of cleaning, organizing, or volunteering for the PHS Performing Arts Faculty
 - Taking tickets, cleaning up after a Performing Arts Event, assisting in the ensemble rooms, ushering, etc. are all examples of volunteer work you may complete
 - Please complete the “A Project Volunteer Form” with the necessary PHS Faculty signatures for submission

- **Perfect Attendance**
 - Attend each choir rehearsal for the full time every day
 - No more than three field trips may be excused during one quarter

Private Lessons

Nothing can take the place of individualized, expert attention and guidance. Private lessons greatly increase the chance for you to participate in choral festival at a higher level. Also consider private piano lessons. Piano skills can help you become a much better musician in a relatively short period of time. If you are interested in finding a private voice or piano teacher, Mrs. Paz would be happy to assist in finding a compatible instructor. Please visit the “resources” tab at www.PinnacleChoirs.com.

Parent Booster Club: *Rhapsody*

We are very fortunate to live and learn in such a supportive environment. As much encouragement and support as we exude in our rehearsals, it is vital to the success of our program to have an equally encouraging parent booster club. *Rhapsody* is a parent booster club that supports and encourages the choral programs at Pinnacle High School. And just as important, it allows for expression of appreciation to our talented Pinnacle choral students like never before. Please visit www.PinnacleChoirs.com to receive additional announcements from our parent booster club!



Click on this icon on our webpage and a percentage of your proceeds goes directly to our program!

Please email:

PHSRhapsody@gmail.com to join
or receive more information.



Music Contract

Thank you for being an important addition to our growing choir program at Pinnacle High School. By signing this form, you and your parents acknowledge that you have read and understood the contents of this handbook.

This form also indicates that you will be participating in all events on the calendar (once finalized and available) for your choral ensemble and will be responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen uniforms or music.

I look forward to our upcoming year!

Please contact me at jpaz@pvlearners.net with any additional questions.

Printed Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Printed Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

*Please know that I may be emailing/calling home to confirm this contract