Welcome to the
Battle Vocal Arts Department

Dear Vocal Arts Families,

We are completely thrilled to start another year at Battle Vocal Arts with you! We have the responsibility of continuing to create a legacy for our community.

We are very proud to have you as our student. You will find we care a great deal about you as a person (in the classroom, on the stage and beyond). Our passion is to develop human kind through music. The art of choral music is singing, interpreting text, and in short creating a work of art that remains in your soul throughout your lifetime. Our goal is for each student to experience just that.

Participating in the arts is a privilege. We strive each day to create beauty while working synonymously with one another. We will demand your best effort in each rehearsal, and in return, we will give every bit of ourselves to create with you a musical experience that is exciting, challenging, and inspiring!

This Handbook is designed to be a reference for you and your family. Regardless of the choral ensemble you are involved in, you are responsible for understanding the contents of this handbook and how this information applies to you. In order to offer the many activities within the department, we need parental support and encouragement, both physically and financially. We hope that you will take a moment to look over this information carefully. In an active program like this one, your cooperation and support helps ensure a successful experience for all.

Musically,

Tim Hercules
573.214.3300 x38047
thercules@cpsk12.org

STAY CONNECTED

Website: BattleVocalArts.com
Calendar: https://goo.gl/98NNdk
Twitter: @BattleVocalArts
Facebook; Battle High School Vocal Arts: @BHSVocalArts
Charms: charmsoffice.com
School Code: Battle
Vocal Arts Department Philosophy

Columbia Public Schools

Vision: To be the best school district in the state

Mission: To provide an excellent education for all students

Battle High School

Mission: Battle High School will empower and equip the leaders of tomorrow in the disciplines of academic excellence and social responsibility.

Battle Vocal Arts
GOOD MUSIC. BETTER PEOPLE.

WHY DO WE TEACH MUSIC?

Not because we expect you to major in music,
Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life,
   Not so you can relax,
Not so you can have fun,
But – so you will be human,
So you will recognize beauty.
So you will be sensitive,
So you will have something to cling to,
So you will have more love,
   More compassion,
   More gentleness,
   More good –
   In short, more life.

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live?

THIS IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC.
Vocal Arts Department Faculty

Tim Hercules, Director

Tim Hercules is on his 10th year of teaching in the public schools and 4th year in the Columbia Public Schools. Teaching two years at Oakland Middle School and part time at Battle High School, he continues the school year teaching full time at BHS. He accompanied the high school at concerts, festivals, and contests and directed the 7th/8th grade choir and the after-school Honor Choir. Tim also accompanied the high school musical and the show choir, Battalion.

Tim’s previous teaching experience is from Shelbina, Mo. He taught middle school and high school band and choir with ensembles including middle school concert band, high school concert, jazz, and pep bands, middle school choir, middle school honors choir, and high school choir. Tim’s last few musicals included: Honk, Tarzan, Little Shop of Horrors, Beauty and the Beast. He also directed the Shelbina community shows which included: Willy Wonka, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Wizard of Oz, Curious Savage.

Tim received his Masters of Music from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2011. There he taught and conducted Hitt Street Harmony, a 12-member a cappella jazz ensemble. He was also a member of University Singers, Choral Union, and Concert Chorale.

Tim also received his Bachelor of Music Education from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo in 2008. He received his education degrees in both Instrumental and Vocal Music. Tim was involved in Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Symphonic Choir, Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, and One-College-Hill Octet (OCHO).
Objectives/Standards

National Arts Standards:

Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.
Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.

Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.
Anchor Standard #4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation.
Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Connecting: Relating ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.
Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Columbia Public Schools:

1. Strand 1
   a. Vocal production
   b. Melody/Harmony
   c. Rhythm
   d. Sight Reading
   e. Analysis
2. Stand 2
   a. Expressive Techniques
3. Stand 3
   a. Stylistic Perceptions
### Battle High School Vocal Arts Students Can…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEARNING TARGETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. I can identify and demonstrate basic fundamentals of singing:</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. I can demonstrate proper breathing technique.</td>
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<td>B. I can demonstrate proper posture.</td>
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<td>C. I can stay relaxed.</td>
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<td>D. I can use proper diction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. I can demonstrate a knowledge of basic music theory by:</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. I can begin to learn basic rhythms.</td>
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<td>B. I can begin to learn basic time signature.</td>
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<td>C. I can learn basic key signatures.</td>
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<td>D. I can learn note names, both in the treble and bass clef.</td>
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<td>E. I can learn solfeggio.</td>
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<td>III. I can sing in harmony:</td>
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<td>A. I can sing in 2 part harmony.</td>
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<td>B. I can sing in 3 part harmony.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. I can sing in 4 part harmony.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. I can sing in part divisi.</td>
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<td>IV. I can identify basic music vocabulary.</td>
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<td>V. I can identify proper rehearsal and concert etiquette.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. I can have respect for myself.</td>
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<td>B. I can have respect for others around me.</td>
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<td>C. I can have respect for my audience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI. I can demonstrate musical knowledge and literacy through performance:</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. I can learn how to sight-sing.</td>
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<td>B. I can sing with a group.</td>
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<td>C. I can sing in rehearsals.</td>
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<td>D. I can sing in performances.</td>
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### IN ADDITION, AS A CONTINUING STUDENT:

| I. I can continue to develop my music theory skills: |
| A. I can begin to learn complex meters. |
| B. I can reinforce my understanding of treble and bass clef notes. |
| C. I can begin an understanding of the Circle of 5ths. |
| D. I can identify major keys based on their key signatures. |
| II. I can continue to develop intonation and vocal production |
| A. I can create unified vowels and mouth shapes. |
| B. I can sing to produce a beautiful tone. |
| C. I can continue to demonstrate excellent posture. |
| D. I can sing with others and blend my voice with theirs. |
| E. I can demonstrate proper breathing techniques. |
| F. I can sing with a “strong/weak” emphasis. |
| G. I can continue to develop my knowledge on phrasing. |
| III. I can show an appreciation for music: |
| A. I can share my talent with others. |
| B. I can look for opportunities to serve others with my voice. |
| IV. I can continue to demonstrate musical knowledge and literacy through performance: |
| A. I can demonstrate appropriate onstage behavior/facial expressions/movement. |
| B. I can demonstrate how to enter/exit the stage; as well as appropriate audience etiquette. |
Missouri State High School Activities Association

Participation in any Battle High School performance ensemble is a full year commitment. Once the school year begins, a schedule change out of a performance ensemble is rarely considered. Should a conflict develop between any performance ensemble and another school activity, sport, or community activity, please schedule a conference with a director immediately.

MSHSAA Academic Eligibility Requirements for Fall Semester Participation

Seniors
➢ Must have earned at least 3.25 credits in the Spring Semester of their Junior year
➢ Must be enrolled in at least 3.25 credit-earning classes

Juniors
➢ Must have earned at least 3.0 credits in the Spring Semester of their Sophomore year
➢ Must be enrolled in at least 3.25 credit-earning classes

Sophomores
➢ Must have earned at least 3.0 credits in the spring semester of their Freshman year
➢ Must be enrolled in at least 3.0 credit-earning classes and sophomore advisory

Freshman
➢ Must have earned at least 3.0 credits in the spring semester of their Freshman year
➢ Must be enrolled in at least 3.0 credit-earning classes and sophomore advisory

All Vocal Arts students, as well as their parents, should be aware of the following guidelines when making decisions about their coursework.

➢ Credits earned/completed after the close of the semester will not fulfill the requirements. Summer school courses for fall semester academic eligibility may count provided courses are necessary for graduation and indicated on the student’s transcript. No more than one credit from summer school will be counted toward eligibility.
➢ Zero-hour courses will not be counted toward MSHSAA academic eligibility.
➢ Please check with school counselors and the athletic directors regarding Mo-VIP, credit recovery, correspondence courses, etc.
➢ You must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation as determined your local school board’s policies.
➢ DO NOT drop courses without first consulting with your counselor regarding your eligibility.
Vocal Health

Vocal Arts Classes require students to sing and participate each day in rehearsal/class. You are expected to keep your voice healthy, so you are able to do so. Drink plenty of water and get enough rest. Try not to yell or excessively strain the voice. **If a student is unable to sing due to illness or other vocal strain, he or she is still expected to participate in class to the fullest extent possible, including staying focused on the music being studied, making all markings, practicing motor skills, etc. Please communicate any issues with the director PRIOR to class.** If you sit out for more than THREE days your grade will drop if there’s no doctor’s note. Rehearsal is very important!

Classroom Procedures

- **Entering the Vocal Arts Classroom**
  - Before the bell rings: have your working pencil, class folder, additional music (if needed) and a seat in your section or assigned location.
- **Rehearsal**
  - Follow all directions effectively the first time.
- **Dismissal**
  - Director will dismiss class with a clever musical joke.

Grading Policy

- **Daily Class Participation (3 points per class)**
  - The following deductions shall be taken away from the daily participation grade
    - Tardiness: 1
    - Ineffective participation/absent: 3
    - Disrespect: 2
    - Unpreparedness: 1
    - Gum chewing and non-water drinking: 1
- **Test/Skills Assessments (12-25 points)**
  - Score Preparation: As needed
  - Singing Tests: 2 per semester (at least)
  - Music Literacy: As needed
  - Other: As needed
- **Performances (100 points each)**
  - The following deductions shall be made
    - Unexcused Absence: Failed Concert (see makeup)
    - Inappropriate behavior: Letter Grade (10%)
    - Tardiness: Letter Grade (10%)
    - Unpreparedness: Letter Grade (10%)
    - missing music/inappropriate attire
Attendance Policy

It is extremely important to be present, physically and mentally, in all rehearsals and performances. There is no way to fully make up the experience gained. One missing vocalist has dramatic effects on the rest of the ensemble.

Performances are the culmination of classroom work, therefore, all performance are mandatory unless otherwise noted. Students are responsible for making arrangement to attend each performance. This includes adjusting work schedule and arranging transportation to and from the events.

An absence MAY be excused under the following circumstances:

- **Critical Sickness**: Both written and phone confirmation from student and guardian are required BEFORE the performance to the director.
- **Emergency**: Student and guardian should contact director as soon as possible. Absence will be excused if director deems the severity of the situation necessary.

Make-Up Work

- For excused and unexcused absences from performances only the following applies:
  - Make-Up Performance: student must perform all elements of missed performance live or video recorded (at director’s discretion)
  - Make-Up Writing: student must complete 1000 word essay from one of the available topics.
- Note: unexcused absences can only earn 85% of performance grade
- District Practice: [https://goo.gl/Y1SaFm](https://goo.gl/Y1SaFm)

Internet Etiquette

There are an abundance of newsgroups and bulletin boards frequented by music students and parents. These sites are a great way to hear about what ensemble are doing around the country. Though entertaining, these places can be littered with posts that reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It’s obvious that many people don’t realize (or don’t care) that their personal thoughts, when subjective or inflammatory, reflect poorly on their entire group.

Occasionally someone has posted to a blog or commented on someone’s status that was intended to be innocent, but instead it was taken the wrong way. Even when not intended, this can be very embarrassing. If something is posted that is critical of another group, or reflects negatively on our program, please contact one of our directors so we can address the issue head-on. Sometimes the safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is NOT to post. However, if you choose to post comments remember that you are speaking on behalf the Battle High School Vocal Arts Program and we want to continue our first-class reputation. If you would like to post comments that could be questionable or create a site that is specific about our program and its members, please contact the directors for permission in advance so we can monitor the online activity.
Rehearsal Facilities & Equipment

Rehearsal Rooms & Classroom Spaces

The large rehearsal rooms at Battle High School will become a home away from home for many music students at Battle High School. In an attempt to keep these facilities an asset for Battle students for years to come, food and drink (except water) will be strictly prohibited. Students are also expected to keep personal belongings in cubes or designated storage spaces. Any personal items left out in the vocal room will be placed in the school’s lost and found.

Music Faculty Offices

It is imperative students do not enter any of the Battle High School music offices without permission, or supervision, of a CPS music teacher. Confidential student information like Individual Education Plans, 504 Plans, teacher grade books, and purchase orders are all sensitive material that students should not be perusing though. We ask that students respect the privacy of the Faculty Music Offices at Battle High School so teachers can honor all of the Missouri State Statutes regarding student confidentiality.

Practice Rooms

Several practice rooms are available for student use in the music department. Practice rooms are only to be used for music rehearsal and not for study, sleeping, or “hanging out.” No food or drink (except water) is allowed in Battle High School practice rooms. All performing arts students using BHS practice rooms are expected to keep the rooms clean, orderly, and free of trash. Students who fail to follow the BHS practice room guidelines will lose all BHS practice room privileges.

Uniforms/Costumes

Vocal Arts students are loaned uniforms/costumes or performance attire. Please bring BLACK DRESS SHOES AND SOCKS.
Private Lessons

Private lessons are the single most important factor in developing an outstanding program. Any student, who chooses to study privately with a professional, will show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As these students improve, and their excitement towards practicing increases, they will become a stronger contributor to the overall success of the program.

Students who study privately also greatly increase their chances of being selected for one of the All-State Performing Ensembles. These auditions are highly competitive, and open to students through the state of Missouri. We are fortunate to have a major university in Columbia as well as many other highly qualified private instructors. Please feel free to ask the directors for recommendations. These sources are by no means comprehensive, just some ideas for each family to begin the selection process. Columbia Public Schools provides as a recommendation list at cpsfinearts.com.

ACCOLADES

Lettering in Vocal Arts

Earning a letter in Vocal Arts, as in any BHS sport or organization, signifies going above and beyond the expectations associated with the activity. At Battle High School, we recognize effort, hard work and talent as qualities worthy of earning a Vocal Arts Letter. In order to earn a letter, students should participate in Vocal Arts activities outside of the expectations of class, including show ensembles, musicals, Taste of Broadway, private lessons, music festivals and honor choirs. In order to letter, a student must have no unexcused absences. Go to Varsity Vocalist Application: https://goo.gl/forms/rKSfHMu6ZHx6aeKs2.

End of the Year Awards

There will be a select amount of award given to those who have earned the honor at our final concert of the year. Awards that may be included are as follows: High school Choral/Director’s Award

Vocal Arts Officers

- President
  - Assist and advise the director of vocal arts
  - Preside and organize Officer meetings
  - Update calendar board
  - Attend Vocal Arts Council/League meetings
  - Write thank you notes to anyone who helps the choir in any way and get appropriate signatures
  - Lead other class officers in their duties, make sure duties are being done
Vice President
- Preparation/set-up and take-down for activities/performances
- Assemble and supervise cleaning of vocal room and take down stage equipment
- Post and maintain a suggestion box/envelope
- Serve in the absence of the President
- Post items of importance on bulletin board
- Delegate students (and help) clean practice rooms and vocal room each week

Corresponding Secretary
- Event attendance assistance
- Meeting Minutes
- Assign, record, and post folder/music numbers
- Help maintain bulletin boards
- Copy materials as needed
- Number, file, and stamp music
- Maintain and organize music library

Uniform Managing
- Check compliance with uniform requirements (shoes, socks, jewelry, etc)
- Manage uniforms with the director
- Report uniform problems/damages to director
- Check uniforms in and out and maintain records
- Check In and Check out at events

Class Representatives (at least one in each class):
- Spokesperson for the class
- Encourage each class to support the vocal arts program
- Assist in developing a positive class attitude
- Attend ALL department activities and Vocal Arts Council meetings
- Set up and break down class equipment

Secretary (one in each class)
- Attendance assistance
- Maintain records of items/papers turned in
- Assign, record, and post folder/music numbers
- Help maintain bulletin boards
- Copy materials as needed
- Number, file, and stamp music
- Maintain and organize music library

Section Leaders (assigned by director)
- Make sure their respective section is working and to know ALL of the music for their section.
- He/She must make sure that each member has a copy of the music in class and at rehearsals when applicable.
- Must lead vocally and musically in the section
- Report names of members who consistently behave irresponsibly to the director
Enrichment (Honors) Opportunities

All-District Choir & All-State Choir

Exceptional musicians have the opportunity to audition for the NEMO (North East Missouri) All-District Choir. NEMO auditions usually take in September. Students must fill out their audition form and return it, along with their audition fee, to a director in order to be eligible to participate in auditions. The NEMO All-District Choir traditionally performs in November. Please check the Battle High School Vocal Arts Calendar for specific dates. Juniors and Seniors who successfully audition into a NEMO All-District ensemble can audition for the Missouri All-State Choir. Auditions are held the same day of the All-District Choir performance. Participation in these events is voluntary, but if the student earns a spot in any of these choirs, they must honor their commitment to that ensemble.

District & State Solo & Ensemble Music Festival

In March, students have the opportunity to participate in the NEMO District Solo and Ensemble Festival, held in Mexico MO, at Mexico High School. Participation is voluntary and requires extra practice. Students who earn “I” ratings at Districts are eligible to participate in State Solo and Ensemble Festival held on the MU campus in late April or early May. Students must pay their own entry fees.

ACDA Summer Honor Choirs and ACDA Regional/National Honor Choir

Summer honor choir auditions are due in March. The rehearsal and concert are performed in mid-July for all the choral directors in the state! ACDA regional and national honor choir auditions are typically in the fall. The performances and rehearsals last a half a week in various locations across the nation!