

# 2015-2016 Vocal Music Calendar

Please note the following dates on your calendar to help alleviate scheduling conflicts. National Anthem Performance Opportunities are posted in the chorus room.

## August

24-1st Day of School

## September

2/3-Tentative All-State Chorus Auditions  
4-Football Concessions (Comm. Serv./Letter Points)  
14-Homecoming Coronation  
(Possible MHS Choir Performance)  
18-Football Concessions (Comm. Serv./Letter Points)  
18-Chautauqua Concert in MHS Theater:  
*The Inspiration of Broadway*  
25-Football Concessions (Comm.Serv./Letter Points)

## October

9-Football Concessions (Comm. Serv./Letter Points)  
10-Chautauqua Concert in MHS Theater  
*A Tribute to Neil Diamond*  
19-Start of 2nd Quarter  
20-High School Chorus Concert  
26/28-Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Ask about ticket availability  
29-Possible Football Concessions (Playoffs)  
29-31-All-State Chorus to Rapid City (High School)

## November

6/7-Possible Football Concessions (Playoffs)  
6-Chautauqua Concert at Ortonville  
*Maniacal 4*  
11-Veterans Day Program (MHS Chorus to Perform)  
14-Snow Queen (Talent Entries Needed)  
16-20-Missoula Theater-*The Jungle Book*

## December

10-Middle School Band/Chorus Concert at 7:30 p.m.  
13-High School Band/Chorus Concert at 2:00 p.m.  
23-End of 2nd Quarter

## February

8-Parent/Teacher Conferences  
9-MHS Band/Chorus Pops Concert  
11-Middle School Mid-Winter Concert @ 2:00 p.m.  
17-20-North Central Chorus Festival in Sioux Falls  
24-Reg. 3 HS Solo/Ensemble Contest (Watertown)  
28-Piano Festival in MHS Theater at 1:30 and 3:15  
28-Mar. 4-Artist in Residence  
(Jamie Buttke-MHS Graduate)

## March

8-Middle School Festival of Young Voices in  
Brookings, SD  
14-Start of 4th Quarter

## April

3-4-Senior Band/Chorus Members to Chanhassen  
8-Chautauqua Concert in MHS Theater  
*Mack Bailey*  
9-Piano Contest (Helpers NEEDED!)  
9-Tentative Honor Choir Auditions in Sioux Falls  
15-16-Grades 5-8 Band Contest in Milbank (Helpers  
NEEDED!)  
27-HS Large Group Music Contest in Milbank  
29-Chautauqua Concert in Ortonville  
*Link Union Family Band*

## May

10-Middle School Choir Concert at 7:30 p.m.  
15-Bacc. @ 6:00 p.m. (Choir to Perform)  
17-High School Band/Choir Concert @ 7:30 p.m.  
22-Graduation @2:00 (Choir to Perform)  
24-Last Day of School

# 2015-2016 mHS Vocal Music

## Course Description:

Milbank High School is a choral ensemble that focuses on the development of choral musicianship primarily through the performance experience. Members will be exposed to a variety of music with an emphasis on high quality performance and understanding. The ensemble performs regularly throughout the year.

## Course Goal:

The goal of the teacher/conductor is to assist in the development of performing, creating, reading, listening and understanding music.



## Miriam Schwenn, Teacher/Conductor

**E-Mail:** Miriam.Schwenn@k12.sd.us

**Home:** 432-9519 **Cell:** 605-880-1816

**School:** 432-5546, ext. 132

**Website:** <http://ms031.k12.sd.us> -Presently under construction!

I'm again going to utilize *Remind*, a one-way texting program for students/parents that are interested in receiving text messages pertaining to important choir happenings this 2015-2016 season!

If you send a text to: **81010** with the message:


**@mrsschwenn,**

you will automatically be added to the "class"!

## ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on the following criteria and any student receiving marks in the “below” columns will be notified to meet with the teacher and/or principal. Parent/guardian (s) will also be contacted if necessary. In addition, an unexcused absence (student has no valid reason or failed to give notice for the absence) earns no points for any goal scheduled for that day.

### 1. Rehearsal Expectations:

|   | <b>Meets<br/>3 pts.</b>   | <b>Approaching<br/>2 pts.</b>   | <b>Below<br/>1 pt.</b>   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Punctuality</b><br>“ <b>Eighty percent of success is showing up.</b> ”<br>-Woody Allen                                 | Student is early or on time to rehearsal.   | Student is not in assigned seat by the rehearsal start time but is in the classroom and/or brought a signed pass from their teacher.            | Student is late to rehearsal without a pass.<br>A tardy slip will be given..   |
| <b>Organization/<br/>Preparation</b><br> | Student picks up music folder at the beginning of class and puts it in assigned slot at the end of rehearsal. Unnecessary items are placed under chair and mouth is free of gum/food.                 | Student needs to be reminded to get and return music folder and/or get rid of unnecessary items.  | Student doesn't pick up or return his/her music folder and continues to have or use unnecessary items even after a reminder.   |
| <b>Participation/<br/>Attitude</b>  | Student shows a willingness to sing and displays an attentive attitude by participating in class activities. Student follows directions and responds to the cues of the conductor without a reminder. | Student shows a willingness to sing but needs to be reminded to follow directions by staying focused and attentive.                             | Student is distracted and disrupts learning of others (talking, moving, bothering neighbor, etc.) and/or is unwilling to sing. |
| <b>Vocal Technique/<br/>Musicianship</b>  | Student demonstrates good posture and breath support for singing. Student shows musical knowledge and skill during rehearsal  | Student shows musical knowledge and skill during rehearsal but needs to be reminded to demonstrate good posture and breath support for singing. | Student demonstrates poor posture and breath support with no improvement in musical knowledge and skill.                       |

- School Activity Absences: 10 out of 12 points will be given with opportunity to supplement the missed rehearsal points if so desired.
- Open Noons: Open noons are great fundraising opportunities /rewards. Unfortunately, they fall during our class time. Open noon choir participants must be back for class by 1:12. (No exceptions). If you are late, you will lose rehearsal points and the privilege of the next open noon.

**LESSONS:** All students in the vocal music program are required and given the opportunity to take vocal lessons before, during, or after the school day. They are scheduled from the director after students have completed a survey of time and day preferences. The number of required lessons will be set at the beginning of each school year based on number of participants, grade level, and choir selection. Quarterly Singing Quizzes count as a lesson and will be assessed during your scheduled time.

**AWARDS:** Currently, the following awards are presented:

- \* **Milltones Scholarship**-Traditionally - \$250-\$500
- \* **Fine Arts Student of the Week Awards** (Selected by Fine Arts Teachers with pizza, movie, and Milbank Mall Certificates)
- \* **Choral Awards** (National School Choral Award, Arion Award, Outstanding Chorus Member Awards)
- \* **Justin Maass Award** (Motivating Enthusiasm for the Vocal Program)
- \* **4 year Choral Pins**                      \* **Show Choir/Jazz Choir Pins**
- \* **Section Leader Pins**                      \* **Accompanist's Certificates**
- \* **Solo/Ensemble Medals**                      \* **All-State Pins**
- \* **Major Letters and/or Bars** -Determined through the following activities:
  - President/Section Leader (10 points)
  - National Anthem (solo-10 pts., ensemble-5pts. )
  - All-State/Show Choir (Audition-Max.10/Member-Max. 20)
  - Small Group Contest (solo-20, ensemble-10)
  - Musical (Audition-10, Singing Role-20)
  - Honor Choir (Audition-10, Member-LETTER)
  - Concerts (5 per concert)
  - Office Worker (10 pts. per Quarter)
  - Church/Community Performance (solo-10, ensemble-5)
  - Extra Help
    - Football Concessions (5 pts per game)
    - Door Worker at Weekend Events (up to 20 pts.)
    - Lg. Group Contest Worker (5 points)
    - Misc. Duties in Music Office (5 pts. per hour)



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Please sign if you have read and reviewed the information in the MHS Vocal Music Handbook:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return bottom portion of this handbook page ASAP (5 Pts.) and keep remaining information for future reference.

Here is what the MHS Vocal Music Program has to offer:

**CONCERT CHOIR:** A group of mixed voices that rehearse during Period 6B (1:02-1:32). Members are also required and given the opportunity to take voice lessons.

**ALL-STATE CHOIR:** Open to students in grades 9-12. Milbank is allowed 2 quartets of SATB where participation is determined by an audition. Students are often offered college scholarship invitations on their membership into this choir.

The 2015-2016 site is in Rapid City, SD on Oct. 29-Oct. 31.

**SHOW and/or JAZZ CHOIR:** This is an auditioned group of 5-20 singers currently involved in the Vocal Music Department. This group will meet outside of the choir hour and/or during regular choir. Music will include madrigal to contemporary styles of music. Choreography will also be used when appropriate. This group will perform at concerts and other "out of school" appearances, and in years past has been one of the main attractions at the annual Pops Concert.

**HONOR CHOIR:** Competitive auditions for this prestigious choir are based on a prepared solo, a written exam, sight-singing and tonal memory exercises. You must be a sophomore or junior to enter and it is a very fun filled week of musical activity usually the last week in July or the first week in August. (Ask Rebekah, Ellie, Chris, and Jeremy)

Auditions are set for April \_\_, 2016 in Sioux Falls, SD.

**SOLOS/ENSEMBLES:** Every high school chorus student is given the opportunity to do some type of vocal performance for the solo/ensemble contest on **Wednesday, February 24, 2016 in Watertown**. Musical selections are based upon the student's interest, ability, and suggestions by the teacher. A good portion of the preparation is done during the allotted voice lesson times. **Large Group Ensemble Contest is held in Milbank on Wednesday April 27, 2016.** This contest requires all Milbank Choir Students to participate.

**THE SINGING OF THE "STAR SPANGLED BANNER":**

This can be sung as a solo, duet, trio, etc. at varsity sporting events. Arrangements must be approved/heard by Mrs. Schwenn before a performance with points given towards a Major Letter/Bar.

Sign-up opportunities will be posted in the chorus room.

**SPRING MUSICAL:** The 2015-2106 musical is \_\_\_\_\_! Performance dates will be held on April 15, 16 OR April 21, 22, depending on a few items. You do not need to be in choir to be part of the show but if you are interested in a singing, acting, and/or behind the scenes role, sign up with your friends and be a part of creating some of your greatest musical memories at Milbank High School!



2. **Quarterly Singing Quizzes:** Quizzes are announced in advance and are demonstrated during the allotted voice lesson time.

|                                     |   |   |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <b><u>Posture:</u></b>              | <b>5</b><br>Excellent posture maintained throughout the performance   | <b>4</b><br>Occasional lapses in proper posture.  | <b>3</b><br>Inconsistent posture during performance. (Student needed to be reminded.)  | <b>2</b><br>Directions for standing or sitting were not followed. |
| <b><u>Notes/Intonation:</u></b>     | <b>5</b><br>All pitches were performed accurately.  | <b>4</b><br>Student demonstrated minimal pitch difficulties. (1-2 pitch errors.)                        | <b>3</b><br>Student had difficulty maintaining correct pitch/intonation and often performed flat or sharp.                     | <b>2</b><br>The pitches did not match the printed melody.         |
| <b><u>Rhythm:</u></b>               | <b>5</b><br>All rhythms were properly on the beat and of proper length.   | <b>4</b><br>The majority of the rhythms were performed correctly. (1-2 rhythmic errors)                 | <b>3</b><br>Inconsistent rhythmic performance.   | <b>2</b><br>Numerous inaccuracies in rhythm.                      |
| <b><u>Tone Quality:</u></b>         | <b>5</b><br>Tone was beautiful and well supported across ranges. Resonance and vibrato were exhibited.                | <b>4</b><br>Resonance and desirable tone quality were generally produced. Some breathiness was evident. | <b>3</b><br>Tone quality lacked resonance and support. Breathiness was common and student lacked consistency across registers. | <b>2</b><br>Tone was weak but student showed effort.              |
| <b><u>Articulation/Diction:</u></b> | <b>5</b><br>All the words were clear and lyrics were easy to understand.  | <b>4</b><br>The lyrics were understandable, but there were one to two words that were unclear.          | <b>3</b><br>The words were not clear but parts were understandable.  | <b>2</b><br>Words and lyrics were unclear.                        |
| <b><u>Musicianship:</u></b>         | <b>5</b><br>Student exhibited a high degree of artistry, observing dynamics and phrasing and performing expressively. | <b>4</b><br>Student observed most dynamics and phrasing but lacked artistry and expressivity.           | <b>3</b><br>Dynamics and phrasing were inconsistent. Passages lacked interpretation and expression of text.                    | <b>2</b><br>Student did not observe any dynamics or phrasing.     |

3. **Written Work:** Written work will be assigned and assessed after presentation of material (Varied Points).

4. **Performance Expectations:** (100 Points Per Concert)

Conflicts MUST be cleared through parent/guardian contact as soon as the conflict arises to help alleviate an unbalanced and unpolished performance. Performances cannot be duplicated but supplemental activity/assignment points may be earned for planned and excused absences.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Punctuality</i><br><i>20</i>                 | Student is early or on time for the concert call time.  |
| <i>Attire/<br/>Preparation</i><br><br><i>20</i> | <p>Student is dressed in appropriate performance uniform and unnecessary items (gum/candy/cell-phones) are left at home, placed in locker, or away from the performance venue.</p> <p><b><u>CONCERT DRESS:</u></b><br/>The concern here is to avoid having individuals call attention to themselves and away from the choir as a whole.</p> <p><b>For robed performances, students are required to wear the following:</b><br/> <b>MEN:</b> A plain white T-shirt, black slacks, <u>black shoes</u>, black socks, and no distracting jewelry.<br/> <b>WOMEN:</b> T-shirt, black slacks, black shoes-low heel, and no distracting jewelry.</p> <p>As a member of the MHS Choir, a \$10.00 robe fee is assessed every year for the cleaning process. Please make every effort to pay before or at our first concert on Oct. 20, 2015.</p> |
| <i>Performance Skills</i><br><i>20</i>          | Student demonstrates skills-(posture, intonation, rhythm, tone quality, diction and musicianship) with confidence.  |
| <i>On Stage Behavior</i><br><i>20</i>           | Student follows the cues of the conductor when entering, performing, and exiting the theater or place of performance.   |
| <i>Off Stage Behavior</i><br><i>20</i>          | Student is respectful of other performers by listening , not talking and displaying appropriate appreciation and support of others.   |

**Extra Credit, Make-Up Opportunities**

Earned Points will Vary

- Music Article Clippings in Newspapers/Magazine (Brief comments attached)
- Solo/ensemble singing at church, civic, or family event (Parent/leader signature)
- Attend a live concert (Musical comments on program)
- Private music lessons other than MHS (Teacher Signature)
- Music Event Help (Concessions, Contests, Fundraising, Publicity, Programs)
- Music Office Organization (Music, Robes, Folders, etc.) **A=93% and above**
- Composer Information Sheets **B=84-92%**
- Theory Worksheets **C=72-83%**
- Other? See Mrs. Schwenn **D=65-71%**  
**F= below 65%**

**CHOIR OFFICERS 2015-2016**

**President - \_\_\_\_\_**

Assisting conductor through leadership responsibilities/ opportunities!

**Section Leaders -**

**Soprano: Shauna Pauli, Rebekah Tuchscherer, Abby Wollschlager**

**Alto: Heidi Bergquist, Whitney Falk, Hannah Rick, Brianna Schreurs**

**Tenor/Bass: Jeremy Dalldorf and Chris Loutsch**

Each section leader is willing to serve as a model to those in her/his section. Multiple leaders within a section will be assigned a specific role such as taking attendance, demonstrating vocal techniques, or playing the piano for part learning.

**MUSIC BOOSTERS**

**(Parent/Guardian Support Organization)**

Please consider offering your time and effort and/or donations in participating in our strong volunteer organization. Forms were available at registration but will also be sent home or emailed to music students if needed.

Additional music forms can also be accessed through Mrs. Schwenn's or Mrs. Karel's website. Monetary donations will be used in assisting students in attending music camps, travel expenses, supplementary music purchases, guest clinicians, technology advancements, etc. We appreciate all your support and look forward to working with you this 2015-2016 Season!