

Vintage High School Choral Music Department

Mark Teeters, Director of Choral Music

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NOTE: Dear Parents/Guardians - Please have one parent/guardian (no students) attend our general choir informational meeting on **Wednesday, Aug 28, 2024 at 7pm in the VHS choir room (MU-1)**. You will learn important details about our exciting year ahead and about volunteer opportunities. Click here to sign up on our electronic [choir events volunteer sign-up sheet](#). Click here if you want to find out more about [working bingo](#) and click here to [sign up to work bingo](#). We will conclude with a meeting about our proposed NYC Carnegie Hall choir tour. I'm excited for a wonderful year with your amazing kids! - Mark Teeters

Chamber Singers Course Description

Goals and Objectives

Students will:

- Demonstrate good posture and breath control.
- Develop a healthy vocal tone.
- Sing an appropriate part in the ensemble accurately, using shaping, phrasing, and dynamic contrast.
- Demonstrate understanding of music theory, reading, and terminology.
- Demonstrate clarity of text through vowel and consonant production.
- Perform classical and other musical styles from various historical periods and cultures.
- Understand the historical and cultural background of the works performed.
- Sing texts in a variety of languages and understand their meaning.
- Perform music with the group from memory throughout the year.
- Express the emotions of each piece through facial expressions, body language, and movement (when necessary) on the risers.
- Perform outside of class several times throughout the year (TBD) at school events and in the community and at the three major choir concerts and their respective dress rehearsals (see [Choir Calendar](#).) Please also frequently check the [Chamber Singers 2024-25 Supplemental Performance Schedule](#) for updates on Chamber Singers' smaller performances throughout the year. These links are also on Google Classroom.
- Evaluate the quality of performances.

NYC Tour

A goal of this class is to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City from March 6-10, 2025 (pending NVUSD Board approval). The group will prepare music at the beginning of the school year and those wishing to travel will join other auditioned high school students from all over the country to rehearse and perform in NYC together. Fundraising opportunities are available for everyone. Attending this proposed trip is not a requirement of the class and student grades will not be affected if students do not participate.

Materials Required in Class: Designated music folder with required music, laptop, and a pencil.

Materials Contribution: Donations are accepted, but not required. Student costumes and uniforms are free for students to borrow for the academic year, however students have the option to purchase choir windshirts and other uniform items.

Choir Websites Used: Google Classroom, Choral Tracks LLC, Flipgrid, EarMaster, Sight-Reading Factory

Rehearsal Expectations

- Do your best.
- Cell phones must be placed in the phone cubby by the time the tardy bell rings and must remain in the cubby for the entire period; no personal ipods, earbuds, or headphones are allowed during class time. Students violating these rules will be given a referral.
- Be in your assigned seat on time (with materials).
- Use your music (unless instructed otherwise).
- Avoid disrupting the rehearsal process.
- Ask permission to leave the room during class time (for any reason).

Performance Attire Required

- Black performance dress (to be purchased or borrowed from VHS); black dress shoes (to be provided by student); modest jewelry (this is optional and provided by student); simple hair/makeup.
OR
- Tail coat and tuxedo pants (to be borrowed from VHS), white tuxedo shirt (to be purchased or borrowed from VHS), burgundy bow tie and vest (to be purchased or borrowed from VHS); black socks and dress shoes (to be provided by student).

Grading

60% daily contribution & participation; 40% performances & other assessments

Students start the semester with an 'A' grade and are expected to uphold the following attributes to maintain that grade:

Work together as a team in small and large groups to effectively learn and perform our repertoire; Maintain respectful relationships with one another so that learning can happen in a safe environment for each person; Exhibit high levels of accountability, honesty, and integrity when working toward common goals; Set a positive example to peers, community, and the public as leaders and representatives of VHS.

Daily rehearsal manners affect the morale and efficiency of the entire group:

- Always participate when you are expected to.
- Have and use your sheet music in class unless instructed otherwise.
- Talk only at appropriate times during rehearsal. Don't disrupt the instructor or other students from achieving common goals by having side conversations.
- Put your music binder and your black music folder away in your designated folder slot at the end of each class period.
- Cell phones must be placed in the caddy during class time.
- Don't eat/drink in class without permission. Clear water is acceptable.
- Absences represent missed work which cannot be made up in choir. When you aren't there, you fall behind the rest of the group. Don't have unnecessary absences.
- Tardies are distracting and disruptive to the instructor and the group. Be in your seat with your music by the time the tardy bell rings every day.
- Contribute musically every day to the best of your ability.
- Have a great attitude and always treat others the way you wish to be treated.

Communicate through body language and facial expressions what should be expressed in the music when standing on the risers as a group.

Work with other students in a productive way by communicating in productive ways as necessary throughout the rehearsal process. Communicate with the director, as necessary; For example:

- Personal issues or illness that would affect seat assignment or rehearsal manner.
- Inability to sing; A note from a parent/guardian or doctor should be presented to the director after two consecutive days of not singing.
- Manage your paperwork as instructed (permission slips and contracts.)
- All performances and dress rehearsals (see calendar) are required unless previously excused for an important purpose at least two weeks in advance of the event (except in emergency situations). Students must communicate with Mr. Teeters verbally at least two weeks ahead of time and parent/guardians must support the student in writing by signing a note of explanation. If a student has an emergency and misses a required event, a parent/guardian must respond in writing after that event. Students must be on time to dress rehearsals and performances. Anyone who misses a scheduled dress rehearsal prior to a required concert may be asked not to perform in that concert, depending on the situation.

A final grade of F for the semester may be given to any student who fails to perform in concerts and/or required appearances without an approved excuse.

Respond to notes, rhythms, dynamic markings, and other terms written in our repertoire appropriately through singing. Interpret and analyze the text in our repertoire and incorporate its meaning into performance.

- Exhibit an in-depth understanding of the historical and cultural significance of music studied in class. Actively participate in class activities (both large and small group) to analyze, interpret, and evaluate information. Apply this knowledge to the rehearsal and performance process.
- Students may be tested to demonstrate their ability to hold their own part in a small ensemble.

CHOIR ACADEMIC, ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY/CONTRACT

To help assure that students succeed and make adequate progress in all classes in which they are enrolled, choral music students who 1) participate in outside-of-class rehearsals/performance or 2) trips requiring them to be absent from any of their other classes must adhere to the following regulations:

- 1) Maintain a 2.0 grade point average for the semester (not cumulative).
- 2) Keep attendance in good standing in all classes.
- 3) Not appear on the Non-Privileged List by the end of the first semester.

Students' academic progress and behavior will be monitored on a regular basis at the grading periods. Students should communicate immediately with Mr. Teeters if they think their grade point average might be falling below 2.0 or if they are experiencing behavior issues. Among many resources offered by Vintage High School to help students are tutoring, peer counseling, and counselor referrals.

Students whose participation in musical or trip activities is in jeopardy based on grade point average or discipline issues will meet with a Student Study Team. The team will determine if the particular situation warrants removal from a trip or non-participation in a musical. **Please note: If the student is removed from a trip or participation in a musical or other performance, contributions made toward these activities may be nonrefundable.**

Chamber Singers Agreement

Chamber Singers is an advanced choral ensemble at Vintage High School. Selection for and participation in Chamber Singers requires a heightened sense of responsibility and cooperation from each student.

- Chamber Singers students perform at a number of concerts, gigs, festivals, and other events throughout the year; attendance is required unless express permission to miss has been granted. Chamber Singers students are expected to make Chamber Singers performances and other events their uppermost priority. Excuses for emergencies will be evaluated and dealt with individually.
- Chamber Singers students must attend additional rehearsals outside of class as necessary.
- Chamber Singers students will participate in Chamber Camp at Westminster Woods in Occidental, California November 8-10, 2024. Cost is \$250.00 per student and individual contributions will be due before the trip. Please see the instructor if this is a financial hardship. Students will not be graded on whether or not they attend or are able to pay.
- Chamber Singers students represent Vintage High School and the Vintage choral ensembles at any rehearsal or performance. Behavior and individual responsibility must reflect our reputation for excellence at all times. Daily rehearsal manners are an important model for behavior in the community. Therefore, Chamber Singers students should uphold impeccable daily attendance and take class time seriously, arriving on time with music and other materials.
- New performances: When the instructor gets a request for the group to perform in the community that is not on the original [Choir Calendar](#), students will be given 1 or 2 days to check the date and time on their calendars and with family members. The instructor will then ask students to commit yes or no to the performance. If there are enough members in each section to confirm the request, the new performance will be scheduled and all students who committed will then be expected to attend. These new performances will be added to the [Chamber Singers 2024-25 Supplemental Performance Schedule](#) as they become scheduled throughout the year. If a student does not attend or is very late after being expected, the grade could be negatively impacted depending on the situation.
- Chamber Singers students are responsible for communicating in advance all scheduled and required rehearsals and performances with parents/guardians. They should also be the primary communicator with coaches and other adults if it becomes necessary to work out schedule conflicts of any kind. It is the students' responsibility to be the communicator of schedule conflicts if they should arise. If a student is involved in another sport or activity, they must initiate all conversations and problem solve through every conflict with all parties involved.
- Chamber Singers students should exhibit respect in and outside of the classroom toward the teacher, other students, and adults. They should assume a general leadership role among other singers in the choir program at Vintage High School through model behavior, actions, and positive mentoring.

Please click on this [link](#) which is an agreement between the student,
parent(s)/guardian(s), and
the Vintage High School Choral Music Department.
In clicking on this link and signing, I/We agree to comply/have my child comply,
with ALL stated conditions, rules, and policies
in order to assure a successful experience.

**This must be signed and returned electronically by clicking the link above
by Wednesday August 28, 2024.**

Please do not return any signed paper copies.