

# Welcome to Mixed Chorus 2015-2016

In this packet you will find:

- Course Description
- Grading Policies
- Calendar
- Academic & Discipline Policy/Contract - Due Tuesday, September 1, 2015
- Contract - Due Tuesday, September 1, 2015
- Parent/Guardian Volunteer Form - Due Tuesday, September 1, 2015
- Fee Schedule - Payments due Tuesday, September 1, 2015

# Vintage High School Choral Music Department

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*Liz Amendola, Instructor*

1375 Trower Avenue  
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[lamendola@nvusd.org](mailto:lamendola@nvusd.org)

## **Mixed Chorus 2015-2016 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.
- Evaluate the quality of performances.

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

**Materials Fee:** Pay music materials fees by the deadline. (See attached **Fee Schedule**.)

### **Rehearsal Expectations**

- Do your best.
- Be in your assigned seat on time (with materials).
- Use proper singing posture.
- 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**

Logo wind shirt (to be purchased or borrowed from VHS), good fitting blue denim jeans (to be provided by student), black shoes and socks (to be provided by student).

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## Mixed Chorus 2015-2016 Contract

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Print Student's Name Here

This is an agreement between the student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the Vintage High School Choral Music Department.  
In signing below, I/We agree to comply/have my child comply, with ALL stated conditions, rules, and policies in order to assure a successful choral experience.

**This form must be signed and returned  
by Tuesday, September 1, 2015.**

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date

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Date

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## **2015-2016 ACADEMIC & DISCIPLINE POLICY/CONTRACT FOR CHORAL MUSIC STUDENTS**

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 musical theater rehearsals/performances 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) 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 Mrs. Amendola 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, fees previously paid for these activities are nonrefundable.**

I have read and understand the above provisions related to student participation in musical theater rehearsals/performances and trips requiring absence(s) from other classes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Liz Amendola, Instructor

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

**This form must be signed and returned by Tuesday, September 1, 2015**

## Grading Policies

### **Collaboration – 50%**

Students exhibit high levels of accountability, honesty, and integrity when working towards a common goal with other students.

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 under your chair and your black music folder away in your designated folder slot at the end of each class period.
- Keep your cell phones off during class unless you have the instructor's approval in advance.
- Don't eat/drink in class. 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.

### **Communication - 25%**

Students listen and read effectively in order to articulate their own ideas through speaking and writing.

All students are expected to exhibit common sense and common courtesy.

- Students must communicate ahead of time with Mrs. Amendola about any personal issues or illness that would affect seat assignment or rehearsal manner.
- All students are expected to sing daily. Students unable to sing must speak to Mrs. Amendola before class. Students unable to sing for more than 2 days must present a note from a parent/guardian or doctor to Mrs. Amendola.
- Manage paperwork such as examinations, permission slips, and contracts.
- Set a positive example to peers, community, and the public as leaders and representatives of VHS.
- 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 Mrs. Amendola 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 may be given to any student who fails to perform in concerts and/or required appearances without an approved excuse.**

### **Critical Thinking – 20%**

Students analyze, interpret, and evaluate information in order to solve problems and apply their knowledge.

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

### **Creativity – 5%**

Students apply existing knowledge and use a variety of resources and technological tools to generate new ideas, products, or processes.