

# Welcome to Choir!

## Instructor Contact Information:

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### REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

(to bring with you to each class session)

2 -#2 pencils (sharpened and with erasers!)

1 – Water Bottle (filled with water ONLY)

1 – Composition Book

Alfred's Complete Essentials of Music Theory  
workbook

Peak to Peak Writer's Handbook

### GOALS FOR THE CLASS:

To work hard (and have fun!)

To learn new things about music

To become a better singer

To become a better musician

### WHAT I EXPECT FROM YOU:

To do your best

To show respect for yourself and others

To show up for class and performance(s)

To work hard

To complete your assignments

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME:

My best

A lot of information and new things to learn

Encouragement

Clear expectations and guidelines

A listening ear

### Peak to Peak Music Department Standards:

1. Students sing or play on instruments a varied repertoire of music, alone or with others,
2. Students will read and notate music.
3. Students will create music.
4. Students will listen to, analyze, evaluate and describe music.
5. Students will relate music to various historical and cultural traditions.

### This syllabus includes the following:

1. Goals for choir
2. Grading policy
  - a. Performance/vocal assessments, written assessments, quizzes and projects
  - b. Weekly class grade
3. High School Lettering Policy
4. Rehearsal Protocol
5. Music
6. Performance

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## 1. GOALS

Excellence in performance

Enjoyment in performance

Learning New Vocal Skills

\* Using healthy vocal habits

\* Sustaining a consistent quality of tone throughout one's dynamic ranges, vocal ranges, and basic vowels

\* Articulating appropriate diction

\* Exhibiting professional stage deportment

\* Hearing melodic and harmonic intervals, including tonality and key relationships, intonation errors

\* Maintaining one's part against other voice parts

\* Identifying and interpreting key signatures, tonal centers, musical symbols, and terminology

\* Interpreting simple and compound rhythmic patterns

\* Sight-reading melodic lines

\* Identifying musical patterns, phrases, and forms

Study different periods of music and styles of vocal performance

## **2. GRADING**

- \* 70% of your grade is performance/vocal and written assessments, quizzes and projects
- \* 30% of your grade is the weekly class grade

### **A) Performance/vocal assessments, written assessments, quizzes and projects: (70% of grade)**

**Performance/vocal assessments:** Students will be graded on all concert performances. In addition, students will have in-class vocal assessments on pieces of music and techniques being studied in class.

Vocal Assessments may include:

- \* Singing a simple prepared piece a cappella (without accompaniment)
- \* Singing one's vocal part in a multi-part piece (with or without the other parts) accompanied or a cappella
- \* Sight-singing
- \* Interval matching
- \* Rhythm drills

#### ***Written assessment, quizzes and projects:***

Students will have written music theory & history unit tests and cumulative multi-unit exams.

Assessments and tests may include:

- \* Theory unit tests and cumulative multi-unit exams
- \* Music history tests
- \* Ear-training tests

### **B) Weekly Class Grade: (30% of grade)**

A student may achieve 100 points in a 5 day week. Here is the break down of points per week:

Participation and Effort	60 pts.
Homework	30 pts
Materials in class	10 pts
(pencil, music, theory & notebook)	

Each unexcused tardy will count as 20 points off your weekly grade.

Any food (gum included) or drinks other than water will count as 10 points off your weekly grade.

*Please note:* Late homework will receive a maximum of 50% credit, except in the case of an excused absence. Preplanned absences place a significant burden on the student and should be avoided. Students who miss class due to illness are allowed two days per absence to turn in late work. When possible, students are expected to call their section leader and check homework online in order to keep up with the class. In the event of a preplanned absence such as a doctor's appointment or holiday travel, students are expected to find out their assignments in advance, and be prepared to turn them in upon return to class. Any work not turned in on time will receive an "M" until the assignment is made up, and will calculate in the gradebook as a temporary zero. Missing school on a block day (Wednesday or Thursday) is the equivalent of missing two days worth of instruction. A blank in the grade book means that the assignment has not yet been graded.

### **3. HIGH SCHOOL LETTERING POLICY**

The following criteria must be met in order to receive a PUMA letter award (or pin) in **PUMA PRIDE** high school choir:

1. Participate in **ALL** scheduled concert and festival performances.
2. Achieve a grade of **85%** or higher at the end of 1st semester and 3rd quarter
3. Earn **three points** from participating in three **different** categories from below:
  - All-State Honor Choir or Jazz Choir (1 point)
  - Colorado Core Knowledge Festival Choir (1 point)
  - Additional Concerts outside of school (not including semester concerts or scheduled festivals) (1 point)
  - Section Leader (1 point)
  - Music Council Officer (1 point)
  - In-School Assembly Concerts, Pep Rallies and sporting events; which includes singing the anthem at home Varsity games (min. 3 anthems to earn points in this category) (1 point)
  - Music Tutoring (1 point)
  - Private vocal music lessons throughout school year (1 point)
  - Attending Concerts outside of school – with written work and program (please see director) (1 point)
  - Other – upon proposal to the director (1 point)

A lettering progress checklist will be sent home at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. **All assignments fulfilling lettering requirements must be turned in two weeks prior to our Spring Concert.**

### **4. REHEARSAL PROTOCOL**

1. Arrive on time. Be in your assigned place, ready to go when the period begins.
2. Singers are expected to have all current music and two sharpened pencils with erasers at each rehearsal. Random checks will take place.
3. For the rehearsal, arrange music in rehearsal order. Rehearsal order will be posted before the rehearsal.
4. Pick up any handouts or homework **BEFORE** the rehearsal begins. In the event of a missed rehearsal, it is the responsibility of the member to contact the teacher for any handouts. Homework will be posted on the whiteboard as well as the Peak to Peak website. If you miss a class, **you are responsible to check with your section leader, the director, or online for assignments.**
5. Remain within the rehearsal area at all times for the entire rehearsal.
6. Water **ONLY** in plastic bottles is permitted in the rehearsal area. No food or other beverages of any kind unless cleared with the director.
7. At all times, honor, respect, and graciousness is to be shown for each other.
8. If for any reason a member cannot actively participate in a rehearsal, she/he is expected to observe quietly and make performance/rehearsal notes in their music.
9. Suggestions, complaints, or excuses to the director or to other singers are to be saved for discussion after rehearsal.
10. Questions are always welcome!
11. Unexcused absences and tardies will be treated per Peak to Peak policy.

### **5. MUSIC**

It is the singer's responsibility to take good care of music and folders and not to lose them. All folders, music and borrowed choir uniforms must be turned in by the last rehearsal. If music, folders or uniforms are lost, damaged, or not returned, the singer will pay replacement cost plus a 15% replacement fee.

- \* Unless notified otherwise, you are to bring music and class materials to all rehearsals,
- \* Please treat printed music with respect (Do not fold or roll music)
- \* All markings should be done lightly in pencil. If for any reason a piece of music is in need of repair, please see the music librarian.
- \* Do not hole-punch scores.

### **6..PERFORMANCE**

As this is a performance ensemble, **participation in all performances is mandatory and part of the student's semester grade.** Absence from a performance will result in a failing grade unless there is a signed note from the doctor or prior arrangements have been made with the director. Students are expected to, and graded on, staying for the entire concert, helping set-up and clean-up, and behavior during the concert as well as performing at the concert.

Attire for all scheduled performances is the choir uniform, unless otherwise advised by the director. Uniform information will be sent home in September. All performers should wear black dress shoes (and black dress socks for the gentlemen). Students in **General Choir** and **Fifth Grade Choir** do not have uniforms at this time. Appropriate concert attire for these students is dark pants or skirts, a white collared shirt or blouse, and dark dress shoes.