

PVMS Choir

Course Disclosure

2014-15

Class: Choir

Room: 105

Director: Mr. Lanners

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PREFACE

This handbook has been written for the Pine View Middle School Choir Members and their parents with the hope of giving information regarding the purpose, procedures, and activities of the choir program. ALL CHOIR STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE URGED TO READ THE ENTIRE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH THE POLICIES STATED HEREIN.

I am very excited about being the new choir director at the Pine View Middle School. Pine View has set a high standard of excellence in the past and I look forward to the continuation of a high quality program. I am sure that the enthusiasm of the students is going to make this a great year.

Course Description

This course provides opportunities for advancement and refinement of musical potential, higher level thinking skills, aesthetic judgment, and nurtures music appreciation. Emphasis will be placed on refining ensemble performance skills, recognition of musical styles and historical periods, the study of literature for choir, and creative development.

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

Singing is a skill. Skills need to be practiced to improve. Singers at PVMS are also musicians. Singing, like most skills, becomes more fun as one's abilities increase.

1. Every choir member will work to increase his/her individual music skills.
2. Choir is a group effort--we will work together to achieve our goals.
3. We will strive to give quality performances.
4. We will work to develop healthy vocal habits for life-long voice use.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through the rehearsal process, students will be able to:

- Distinguish and apply unison and part singing in an ensemble
- Recognize and use standard musical terms and markings within the choral repertoire.
- Recognize and apply proper vocal techniques (head/chest voice, tone quality, intonation, diction, phrasing, and care of the voice)
- Demonstrate awareness of and tolerance for the diversity of choral repertoire. We will explore various genres and styles including: folksongs, secular concert, sacred concert, multicultural, spirituals, music theatre, pop, solo and duet repertoire. (Please contact me with any questions about music)
- Develop sensitivity toward musical text as it relates to meaning and emotional quality
- Evaluate musical performances (recordings, live performances and their own performances).
- Demonstrate appropriate stage presence, proper performance and audience etiquette and correct microphone technique.
- Participate in a variety of public performances in varying performance styles.

Parental Support

- Help you get to our concerts on time and enjoy listening to them.
- Listen to you sing and encourage you
- Be supportive of any practicing.
- Encourage you to come to me with any questions or to get help to improve.
- Check PowerSchool for assignments and your progress.

CHOIR MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Follow all PVMS choir rules, as well as all school rules. Learn to accept the consequences of your behavior (*positive* and negative).
2. Be in your seat on time, with your music and a sharpened pencil (No pens).
3. Have the proper respect for those in authority as well as your fellow classmates.
4. Show the proper respect and care for all choir equipment and music. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REPLACING MATERIAL THAT YOU DAMAGE OR DESTROY**
5. You are responsible for being at **all** required concerts and performances. They will constitute a major portion of your choir grade.
6. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily. Build a habit of success.
IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO MAKE CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT, NOT NECESSARILY TO BE THE BEST.
7. It is expected that each student conducts himself/herself properly regarding his/her actions, manners, and dress. Each student should always remember that his or her actions represent the choir program, as well as Pine View Middle School. There will be no cell phones, mp3 players or any other device that may cause a distraction in class.

Discipline Plan

1. Verbal Warning
2. Loss of half of participation points
3. Loss of all participation points
4. Schedule a detention time (explained below)
5. On third detention: meeting with administrator, parent, teacher and student.

Detention

After three "strikes" in class, the student will meet with Mr. Lanners at the end of class to schedule a detention. This detention will take place after school of the day of the student's choice, excluding the day of the infraction. This will give the student time to inform their parents and schedule a pickup from school. On rare occasions, if needed, a detention may be served before school, but it must be scheduled at 6:30AM (due to Jazz Band) and is only to be used as a last resort.

The detention will last exactly 30 minutes. If the scheduled detention is violated, an additional detention must be served (two total). If a student ever has to serve three (3) detentions, a meeting will be scheduled with an administrator, the student, parent, and teacher to evaluate the student's behavior and future in this performing group.

GRADES

Grades will be posted online a minimum of once a week.

If a student is failing Mr. Lanners will call, e-mail and/or send a letter to the parents to work for solutions.

Attendance/Participation - 40% of grade

20 points per day.

Choir is an active participation class. Students need to be in their seats ready to sing.

Performances - 35 % of grade

Points will vary

Performances are an important part of the educational process. Performances are not optional. If a conflict with a performance occurs, talk to Mr. Lanners **immediately** and see what can be worked out. It is critical that in a performing organization, Mr. Lanners is informed about conflicts well in advance. Excused absences **MUST** be approved in advance and do not include babysitting or other youth activities, etc. If there is a death in the family which resulted in missing a performance, no make-up will be necessary and no grade reduction will be involved. If the student is ill for the performance, a phone call from the parent to the Mr. Lanners prior to the concert will be needed to be excused from the performance.

If you just forget about a performance, you will have to face the consequences. Make-up is not possible.

Singing Tests – 15% of grade

Points Vary

Words memorized, proper enunciations, proper posture, etc.

The material will be covered in class several times prior to a test. Playing tests will be short and concise. Most tests will be in small groups of students singing at the same time, each receiving an individual score.

My job is to help you succeed.

Assignments – 10% of grade

Points Vary

Includes, but is not limited to the following: Turning in parent/guardian signed papers, listening activities, music theory worksheets, etc.

EXTRA CREDIT:

--Extra credit may be earned for attending almost any type of concert. Points for concerts will vary. To earn your points, turn in a program from the concert with your name on it. I will do my best to keep you informed of upcoming concerts in the community.

--You can also earn extra credit by taking private lessons from a qualified instructor

Tardy Policy

Students must be inside the choir room when the tardy bell begins to sound. Roll will be taken each day as soon as the director begins the warm-up portion of the rehearsal. Any student not in their seat at the time will be counted as tardy.

Grading Scale:

A 93%-100%	A- 90%-92%
B+ 87%-89%	B 83%-86%
B- 80%-82%	C+ 77 %-79%
C 73%-76%	C- 70%-72%
D+ 67%-69%	D 63%-66%
D- 60%-63%	F 59% and below

Citizenship: Determined based on work ethic, which includes the attitude of the student, respectful behavior, and work habits.

H – Honors – Assignments turned in; no unexcused tardies; exemplary behavior

S – Satisfactory – Most assignments turned in; 1-2 tardies; good behavior

N – Needs Improvement – Incomplete work; 3 tardies; behavior needs improvement

U – Unsatisfactory – Incomplete work; 4 or more tardies; unacceptable behavior

Concert Attire

For most concerts, students will be asked to wear full length jean pants with no rips and a black Pine View Middle Music Shirt. The shirts will be purchased through the finance office and are \$8.

The SUPAF concert will have more formal dress attire. Boys will have a white, button up collared shirt, black slacks, black shoes and socks. Girls need a white blouse, black skirt or dress pants, black socks or nylons and black closed toed shoes.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between the choir director and the parent is essential. Last minute “discoveries” are very annoying for parents. The most efficient method of communication between director and parents is email. These emails are very important as they contain important information regarding upcoming performances, rehearsals, or other relevant matters.

PRIVATE LESSONS

The single most important factor in the development of a championship choir program is the development of the individual singer. There are some opportunities in the area for students to take private lessons. Lesson often are 30 minutes once a week. Rates depend upon the private teacher. The amount of individual attention your director can give is greatly limited by the number of students he must teach. All students are encouraged to take private lessons.

Careers related to choir:

Music teacher, music therapist, music publisher, copyright expert, graphic artist, audio technician, music critic, audiologist, studio musician, church musician, composer, arranger, music store owner, sales representative for instruments, talent agent, concert promoter, acoustical engineer, keyboard tuner, studio designer, concert hall architect.

Students please go over this course disclosure with your parents/guardians and have them sign and return this bottom portion to Mr. Lanners. Parents, if there are any questions please feel free to contact me.

It is due AUGUST 19 , 2014. It is worth 20 points!!!

EXPECTED COSTS FOR YEAR *please pay the fees that apply to you as soon as possible.*

Choir Shirt - \$8

PVMS Choir

We have read and understood this disclosure statement. We agree to the policies outlined in this document. We understand and agree to attend all required performances on the Tentative Choir Schedule. We agree to be on time and dressed appropriately for each performance.

Student Name Printed

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature