

INSTRUCTOR

Mark Lehnowsky

mark.lehnowsky@tvcs.org

(352) 259-0044 ext. 1326

DESCRIPTION

Chamber Singers is a year-long course in music designed to develop advanced skills in choral singing. The expectations for Chamber Singers is high. Rehearsals are focused and rigorous. We will perform for the community throughout the year, compete at MPA, and strive for excellence in everything we do. Remember that we are highly visible representatives of VHS. The course will have three main areas of focus: choral singing, sight-reading, and general music. We will have **mandatory** after school rehearsals and performances. Please see the schedule below for details. Don't let this syllabus scare you. We will have a lot of fun!

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CLASS

- your folder and music as provided
- a pencil (at all times)
- your Chromebook
- a notebook and staff paper
- correct concert attire (for concerts only)

MATERIALS YOU SHOULD LEAVE AT HOME

- food and drink other than water
- cell phones (please do not use them unless I tell you that you can)

GRADING

Per VHS grading policy, 10% of your grade will be based on compliance and 90% on mastery. We will use an additive grading process. In order to get a 100%, you need to collect 100 compliance points and 900 mastery points in each marking period. Points are easy to earn.

Ways to earn points

Compliance: We will have a bellringer at the beginning of every class. Each bellringer is worth 2 points (for 90 possible points per quarter). You may only collect points if you are present at the beginning of class. You cannot make up bellringers if you are tardy or absent. I will also provide opportunities to collect 10-20 additional points for various assignments throughout the quarter. It may be possible to earn more than 100 points in the compliance category.

Mastery: You can earn mastery points in one of three categories—exams and assignments, participation, and performances. The ratio of these categories may vary by quarter, but there will always be at least 950 available mastery points.

Participation: You can earn up to 10 points every day just for being present, participating, and doing your best. *N.B. Doing your best implies striving for excellence, so individual and collective achievement is part of your participation grade.* There are 45 days in the marking period, so you can earn up to 450 points just for working hard in class every day. If you are late to class, the most you will be able to earn that day is 8 points. Similarly, if you do not have your materials for class, the most you can earn is 6 points. If you are not in class, you cannot earn any points that day; however, I may, on an individual basis, provide opportunities for up to 50 attendance-related make up points.

Performances: After school rehearsals and concerts are mandatory. Quarterly performance points will meet or exceed the amount necessary, when combined with exams and assignments points, to equal 500. You will receive points for being present and doing your best in performances. Choir is the ultimate team endeavor. If you miss, it impacts everyone else in the ensemble. It is imperative that we are all present for all performances. It is unfair to everyone if someone misses. **IF YOU HAVE AN UNAVOIDABLE CONFLICT, YOUR PARENTS SHOULD CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** There is no guarantee that your absence will be excused, but in the event that it is (and **only** in the event that it is), you will have to complete an alternative graded assignment to receive points. Alternate assignments will be extensive and time-intensive. In an emergency situation, documentation may be required in order to be eligible for an alternate assignment.

Exams and Assignments: Exams and assignments will make up the balance of your mastery grade.

TOTAL: You will notice that there are more than 1,000 possible points per quarter. Excellent work deserves excellent grades, and I expect everyone in Chamber Singers to demand excellence of himself/herself and of each other. Work hard and be rewarded. Choir is supposed to be fun, not stressful. If you are worried, come talk to me; however, I am providing opportunities for extra points because I am not willing to haggle over grades.

END OF YEAR EXAM

There will be an end of year exam, but if you have a 93% or better in Chamber Singers for the year and meet other VHS requirements you will be exempt. Since you are in Chamber Singers, I expect that this is your goal. We want 100% exemption so that we do not lose rehearsal time. I will give you details as we get closer to the end of the year.

MUSIC

You will be provided with scores for many of the pieces we will sing. Please take good care of them. You will be responsible for returning them in good condition when we are finished with them.

UNIFORMS

Concert attire is mandatory and will no longer be provided by the school. If you will have difficulty getting a uniform, let me know as soon as possible so that we can find a solution. Please plan ahead so that your parents are not in a panic the week of the concert.

Men will wear:

Black dress pants

Black jacket (matching the pants)

Black shoes and black socks

Black dress shirts

Solid green or gold ties (I will provide a link to the exact ties we will use, so please wait to purchase the tie)

Women will wear:

Black pants suit including a jacket

Black shirt (matching the pant suit)

Black, closed-toe shoes

Black hosiery

SUBTLE TVCS green accents (belts, earrings, necklaces, etc.)

CONCERTS

There are fees for most of our concerts. I will provide more details as the dates for those concerts approach.

PI HOURS

If you are interested in PI time, opportunities may arise during the year. Please keep an eye out for updates. There will be a lot of ways that you can help.

SCHEDULE

Please see the attached schedule. You are only responsible for the dates marked for Chamber Singers.

AMENDMENTS AND ADDENDA

I reserve the right to modify this syllabus throughout the year, but I will provide adequate notice for any substantive changes. I will try very hard not to make any material changes, but as the year progresses, I may sometimes provide additional information about upcoming assignments.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you. I will work hard to make sure you learn a lot and have fun doing it. Come to class ready to work, and we will have a great year!

Chamber Singers Signature Sheet

Please have a parent sign this sheet and return to me by August 17th.

I have read and understand the expectations for Chamber Singers. I understand the grading policies. Every day, I will come to class ready to work hard. I understand that attitude and participation are critical to my grade. I have recorded after school commitments in my calendar and understand that they are mandatory. Absences from those events will have a significant deleterious effect on my grade. I know that I am responsible for my uniform and that I need to have my complete uniform for all performances unless otherwise notified.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Preferred phone number

Most convenient email address (if used)