

Sowers Middle School Vocal Music Department Syllabus

VIKING CHOIR (non-auditioned concert choir, grades 6-8)

UPTOWN GIRLS (auditioned girls show choir, grades 7-8)

MIXED MELODIES (auditioned mixed show choir, grades 7-8)

TEACHER: Ryan Tan

EMAIL: rtan@hbcasd.us (contact me here or on **School Loop**)

Student Responsibilities

An “A” student is attentive and listens well during rehearsal, focuses on the vocal warm ups at the start of class, comes early to class, and reads the board for the day’s plan. An “A” student is not one of the last to rise and sing; rather, this student is prepared to take a breath with the group and sing the first note. These students are also active participants in this class by having pencil in hand to write in any vowel modifications, breath marks, phrasing, and diction.

Daily Attendance

Students are most successful when they attend and engage in class activities so daily attendance is essential to being successful in this class. Attendance is taken at the start of class and all tardies/absences are reported to the office.

Students need to be in their seats/spots, without their phones & backpacks, prepared with their music and pencil *before* the tardy bell. When working with Mrs. Erica Hartog, students need to be standing, without their phones & backpacks ready to receive and follow directions *before* the tardy bell. If you are not ready by the time the bell rings, you are late!

Classroom Procedures & Guidelines

At the start of class, please leave your cellphone (and other electronics) in your backpack and put your backpack on a spot in the room that does not block areas with lots of foot traffic. Then take out your pencil/eraser, grab your music, go to your spot, and use any free time to study music or warm up the voice.

Much of this class is spent in active, creative, exciting process called rehearsal. During a rehearsal, your attention to instructions and activities is required throughout the process of music making.

In order for this time to be fun and enjoyable for all (students and teacher), please...

- Come to class prepared and on time (before the bell rings). Turn in work before or on time. Be a successful student.
- Be respectful of students, teacher, guests, etc. Be considerate of others’ feelings; inappropriate behavior or disrespectful comments towards others is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

- Be a responsible human being. Treat school property- music, instruments, and any other equipment with respect and care. DO take care of personal matters such as hair/make-up before the start of class. It is also helpful to use the bathroom in between classes to avoid missing something important during class.
- Only water is allowed during class. Consume food & beverages outside of the classroom. No gum! (Choking hazard while singing)
- Bring a positive attitude to the rehearsal. Practice! Practice more! And ask questions!
- Leave this place a little better than you found it.

Essential Classroom Materials

- A black choir folder for music (provided)
 - Music is provided
- Pencils for marking music and taking notes.
- (*suggested*) Something to play recordings and/or CD's for listening and practicing at home.

***Damaged and/or lost materials/equipment will be subject to a restitution charge.**

Grading Policy

Membership in a Performance Group

Choral singing is a *group activity* that requires good citizenship, daily attendance, active participation, responsibility, and common courtesy and respect. There are also dress rehearsals and performance events throughout the year and **attendance/participation at these events are mandatory**. Constant attendance at all rehearsals and performances is very important and frequent absences will jeopardize your grade, and more importantly, your success. Please schedule routine medical appointments, vacations, etc. around the commitments of the vocal music program. If there is a need to change one of our dates, you will be given as much notice as possible. All potential conflicts must be reported to Mr. Tan through Loopmail or Email and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please take time to record all dates for this year's performance schedule and check **School Loop** for information and notifications of events.

Grades

50% - Daily Class Participation

- **Classroom Participation Rubric**
 - Vocal Technique: Sing accurately with proper posture, breath control, tone quality, and intonation.
 - Diction: Manipulate vowels & consonants to achieve an appropriate choral tone.
 - Rehearsal Etiquette: Identify & demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette.
 - Ex.: Arrives on time & prepared, stays on task, does not distract others, etc.
 - Expression: Rehearse & perform with expression appropriate to the music.

25% - Dress Rehearsal/Performance

25% - Assignments/Tests