

# DV Choir Syllabus 2022-2023

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\*We will be using [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) to send out notifications and updates via text messaging. Please register by texting, following the instructions on the last page of this handbook.

## Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the DVHS High School Choral Music Program! You are now a very important member of an ensemble of superior performance and musical excellence. This choir program can offer many opportunities to the individual student: an opportunity to demonstrate and build his/her musical ability, develop leadership skills, develop a sense of responsibility, meet and make new friends, perform as a representative of DVHS, and discover the unique thrill of performance. We will be constantly working hard to learn music for our performances. The expectation is that you will grow musically, and to continue to develop a strong work ethic. Superior music groups are a result of many hours of hard work as well as a strong dedication and commitment from each member. I am very excited to be working with you. I know that we will have an exciting and successful year.

## Course Description

Curriculum is based upon National Music Content Standards

- \* Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- \* Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- \* Reading and notating music
- \* Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- \* Evaluating music and music performances
- \* Understanding relationships between music, other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- \* Understanding music in relation to history and culture

## Learning Targets for the Class

- Develop fundamental music skills in notation and sight singing.
- Recognize musical elements and demonstrate expressive qualities in varying styles of choral music.
- Develop each singer's solo vocal and choral abilities to the fullest potential: posture, breath support, listening skills and ensemble skills (contribute to the blend, balance, focused tone, intonation, diction, articulation, and quality of the ensemble by singing a part securely).
- Explore music from a historical perspective through the study of choral repertoire of various languages, from various periods.
- Develop confidence in performing by practicing performance etiquette and professionalism.
- Have opportunities for the enjoyment of music through active participation.
- Develop self-discipline and leadership skills by functioning as a responsible member of the organization.
- Experience successful achievement and pleasure through group involvement.
- Develop personal character traits of leadership, poise, and dependability as well as provide an avenue for self-expression.
- Develop a desire to continue musical experiences throughout your life.

## Course Activities

- Students may be asked to sing their parts individually or in a quartet.
- Assignments and quizzes in music fundamentals and theory
- Daily vocal warm-ups and sight-reading
- Critical listening through recordings
- Daily interaction with classmates and director

## Materials

- Be prepared with a pencil, highlighter, black folder, music, and homework (if it was assigned) every day.
- It is encouraged to bring a water bottle to class. No food or drink other than water is allowed in the choir room at any time.
- There will be a fine for lost or damaged music, folders, and uniforms.
- Phones and other electronic devices are to be left in bag unless explicitly stated by the director to be used in class.

## Grading Policy

The teacher does not give Choir grades; the student earns them. 4 factors make up your grade:

- **Rehearsal points** are recorded based upon your attendance, preparation, participation, and attitude. You receive 5 points for every day that you are on time and in your seat when the bell rings. In order to keep these points you need to participate and comply with the directions given in class. If you do not follow class rules, are tardy to class, disruptive, defiant, or unprepared, you may lose some or all of your points for the day and you may suffer disciplinary consequences.

Daily attendance is necessary. This is a participation-based, performance class. When a student is absent the student misses direction and the ensemble suffers. It is impossible to recreate a rehearsal at home or give make-up work that resembles the rehearsal. Therefore, if you are absent for any reason you will not receive your 5 rehearsal points for the day. However, extra credit assignments can be done (by filling out a practice log from time spent practicing at home) to make up some or all of the points from missing a rehearsal.

- **Concert attendance** is mandatory. If you are not in attendance for a concert, you are likely not to pass choir for the semester. Most concerts are on the calendar from the beginning of the school year and notification of other required performances comes with plenty of notice. Concerts are worth 100 points (for smaller performances) or 150 points (for most concerts). DVHS concerts (every 9 weeks) will count toward your final exam grade for each semester.

Performances could be added throughout the year, but you will be given significant notice of the change on the calendar. If the special occasion arises that there is a family or medical emergency, the parent/guardian should contact the teacher personally (by phone or email) in order to ask approval to excuse the absence. Two weeks of notice is expected in most circumstances. The teacher must approve the absence in order for the absence to be considered 'excused'. If 'excused', the student can make up the missed concert points by going to another high school concert and doing a formal report.

- **Homework** is given occasionally in choir. Homework assignments are usually 5 points each. Homework assignments can be made up if the student has an absence on the day it was assigned or due. The student has one week after the due date to make up the assignment. It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignments they may have missed when they were absent.
- **Quizzes** are given in written and performance form. Quizzes can be worth anywhere from 5 - 25 points. Quizzes can be made up if the student has an absence on the day it was given. The student has one week to make up the quiz. It is the student's responsibility to find out what quizzes they may have missed when they were absent.

## Behavior Expectations

We are all here because we have something in common; we enjoy singing. How we sound as a group has a lot to do with how we work together. If you follow the class procedures listed below every day of the

year, the result will be a choral group that truly makes beautiful music. I ask that you come prepared to give all your efforts and emotions during each and every class. I know exactly what to expect from you, and you can expect nothing less from me.

**Rehearsals will begin on time**

**Disruptions within the classroom will not be tolerated.**

**Making music will be our first and last goal.**

- Arrive at rehearsal/class with enough time to pick up your sight-reading book, sharpen your pencil, and be in your seat BEFORE class is to begin. Tardiness will result in loss of points. If you are not in your assigned seat at the start of class, you are considered tardy.
- No foul language
- Please have a pencil in your music folder at all times – we will use them all the time.
- Follow all directions given by the director or anyone that has been designated to run the class.
- Be courteous and respectful of others. This includes their personal belongings and all equipment in the choir room.
- Gum, candy, food or drink is not permitted in the choir room at any time.
- Cell phone use is not permitted during rehearsal.
- Please do not play the piano without permission.
- The office is private. Students are granted access to materials through the permission of the director only.
- No conversation, which disrupts the rehearsal and/or class discussion, will be permitted.
- Rehearse in a professional manner.
- Be on time for all events (arrive at least 15 minutes early).

## **Bathroom Policy**

Students do not need to disrupt the class by asking permission to go to the bathroom during rehearsal. If it is necessary for a student to go to the bathroom, the student should sign out, and then leave class in a subtle manner that is not disruptive. Only one student should be out of the class at a time, returning as quickly as possible.

Please try to limit the frequency of bathroom use by varying the times when you go. Please plan your day so that you use the bathroom during lunch, a passing period, or during different classes, so that you are not always going during choir. If you are leaving class more than once a week, and for 10 minutes or more, you are missing material taught in class and could lose grade points, as well as bathroom privileges.

## **Attendance Policy**

It is very important that you attend class every day. This is an ensemble class and every person makes a difference. Your learning is dependent upon what the ensemble learns each day. These skills cannot be learned in a textbook. 2 absences per semester should not affect your grade at all. However, more than 2 will have a negative impact upon your progress in choir. In addition, there is no tolerance for cutting class.

Tardiness will affect your participation points. You are marked tardy if you are not in your seat, prepared, when the bell rings. In addition, if you are tardy you will need to serve detention. If you have a special situation that requires extra time to get to class, this should be discussed and approved with the teacher in advance.

## **Concerts**

Your attendance is required at all performances. Performance dates are located on the included

calendar, choir website, and classroom calendar board. Put these dates on your personal calendar/planner.

Performances will be graded as part of your formative assessment in choir. Choir concerts are designated as an extension of the classroom and are therefore considered **curricular**, as opposed to **extra-curricular**. Any missed performances can be made up through an alternate assignment to receive credit for the performance, if prior permission was granted. You are expected to be in attendance for the duration of the concert. Acceptable excuses from concerts are: conflict with another school function that cannot be resolved through conference between the teachers involved, personal illness, death in the family etc. In the event of illness or family emergency, call or send an email or text message as soon as possible BEFORE the concert. You must notify the director even if you miss school that day. Sometimes students miss class for reasons other than illness. Examples of **unacceptable excuses** are: **vacations, hunting trips, study sessions of any kind, and having to work.** The student and parent must discuss possible exceptions with the director in advance. You will receive no credit for an unexcused absence from a concert. Each missed performance will be discussed and evaluated on an individual basis with the director, and/or Department Chairperson, and/or school administrator.

Students are expected to attend all parts of a concert. This includes those parts in which you are not singing. Students are expected to display their best behavior during the concert. No cell phones, iPods, or any other device will be permitted in the auditorium. If you are seen using it, expect it to be confiscated. Wandering around campus, visiting in the lobby, the choir room, or hallways is not acceptable behavior. **Please do not invite your family or friends back stage or in the choir room before or during a concert.** Students will be in uniform during the concert and will not add or take away from official uniform at any time during the concert. Proper concert etiquette includes **clapping at the appropriate time, and refraining from talking during the performance.** Only the best in performance and in concert etiquette is expected from Desert Vista High School choir students.

## Concert Uniforms

All uniforms provided by the music department must be returned in time for dry cleaning, or dry cleaned (in the dry cleaning bag with the receipt) by the end of the year. There is a fine for lost or damaged items. These fines will prevent students from graduating until paid for at the Bookstore.

*Every student will be issued a school uniform for performances. We will set up a date for the future when the student will have to come to school to get fitted for a choir uniform. Members of our Choir Boosters will be on hand to help find the dress or tuxedo that best fits your student. The uniforms belong to the Desert Vista Choir Program. Each student (and the student's parent or guardian) must sign a contract upon check out of the uniform.*

**Students will have to provide the following to complete their choir uniform:**

**Tenors/Basses:** Black dress socks, black dress shoes and a white pleated wing-tipped tuxedo shirt.

**Sopranos/Altos:** Black *closed toe* shoe, and black stockings.

**Jazzmad:** All black, formal attire. tenor/bass colored tie. soprano/alto knee-length dress and black shoes.

## All Choir Parents

Any parent who would like to chaperone trips or events, or work with our students in any way by volunteering their time, must be cleared through the district in order to be able to serve. This is **mandatory**. But the process is simple. If you want to volunteer this year – in the classroom, during

rehearsals and performances, or as a chaperone – the parent **must** fill out the “Volunteer” packet on the tuhsd website. **If you’ve already completed this process another school year, please email me and I will update your file. We need volunteers! Please consider applying!** Our first trip with A cappella is coming up fast and we need volunteers.

Please read the entire handbook and calendar, and note all concert dates!  
Most importantly, sign the Handbook acknowledgement form due Tuesday, August 2nd, for a grade. If you have any questions, let me know right away. Email is best. I look forward to meeting all of you soon!

\*Please register with [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) by sending a text message to 81010 and put the class code in the body of the message. Here are the class codes:

jazzmad	@gkdkdh3
bella voce	@dag27d7
cantaremos	@69k4ae
a cappella	@dag77a2
vox	@78kf3g8
dacapo	@ak8k26d