

## Vocal Music Course Syllabus 2019-2020

### Norsemen Choir

Valhalla High School

*Paul Infantino, Director*

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Welcome to Valhalla's Vocal Music Department. As a member of a vocal music ensemble, you will have the opportunity to perform many different styles of music and develop your skills as a singer, musician, and team player. By studying music in an educational setting, you will gain new perspectives and insights into what makes music such an important part of our lives.

Our class is a great place for you to take your passion and interest in music to a deeper level. Please read through this syllabus carefully and make note of my expectations so that we can make a commitment to excellence together for this coming school year.

### Course of Study

Over the course of the school year, members of each performing ensemble will be exposed to a wide variety of choral music. Standard choral repertoire includes study of both sacred and secular classical literature, in addition to some pop and show tunes. Each student will also be expected to learn basic music fundamentals, such as notational skills, rhythmic skills, and ear training skills in order to encourage sight singing and the ability to learn music more quickly and thoroughly. Music from around the world, in many different languages, will be included in this course of study. Music theory and appreciation will be emphasized through the learning of this literature. It is hoped that each student will develop a life-long appreciation for and desire to pursue music in many forms. Perhaps the most important component in any of the ensembles will be the ability to work as a team in both small and large groups. The student who is able to embrace the concept of "ensemble" in its truest sense will excel.

### Learning Objectives

Our learning objectives are adopted from the California State Board of Education *Arts Standards for Public Schools*. They provide a framework that will guide our study of music. Some of the standards we will cover:

**CREATING—Anchor Standard 1:** Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

**PERFORMING—Anchor Standard 4:** Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation.

**PERFORMING—Anchor Standard 5:** Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.

**PERFORMING—Anchor Standard 6:** Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

**RESPONDING—Anchor Standard 7:** Perceive and analyze artistic work

**RESPONDING—Anchor Standard 8:** Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work

**CONNECTING—Anchor Standard 11:** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

### Supplies

It is your responsibility to bring a **matte black** 3-ring binder (1 inch), pencil and lined paper to class every day. This binder will contain our course curriculum and will function as the textbook for the course. Any folders left out or left at home will result in the loss of rehearsal points. Students will also be expected to obtain a planner/calendar and keep it up to date with vocal music commitments.

## Concert Attire

- All students will wear formal concert attire for the fall, winter, and spring concerts. Pops concert attire is chosen by choreographers in the spring semester. The formal concert attire for Norsemen Choir is as follows:
  - Women will be given blue dresses to borrow for the first three concerts of the year.
  - Women should wear tan shoes of some type (tan character shoes are fine if you have them). Flats, or a small heel (less than 1.5") is acceptable.
  - Men should wear a button up, long-sleeved solid white dress shirt, black pants (not jeans), black dress shoes (not sneakers), and black socks/belt.
  - The department will loan the men a bow tie for the first three concerts.
- All borrowed concert attire must be returned in its original condition. You will be fined for lost or damaged concert attire.
- If you need assistance purchasing/acquiring any parts of the wardrobe, please contact Mr. Infantino via e-mail by Sunday, September 8th.

## Attendance

- Since this is a performance class, everyone must be in class daily in order to succeed. Tardiness will have a negative effect on your conduct grade.
  - Per a Performing Arts department-wide policy, four (4) tardies in a grading period will result in an "Unsatisfactory" (U) conduct mark.
- Period truancies must be cleared by after school detention
- Make-up opportunities will be given for excused absences.

## Medical Excusals

- A parent note is required to excuse a student from singing in a given rehearsal.
- After three days, a doctor's note is required to excuse singing.
- Students should still participate to the best of their ability during class. This includes
  - Following along in the music/speaking the text as others sing
  - Making notes/markings in the music as directed
  - Completing any written work

## Performances & Extra Rehearsals

- The performance and rehearsal schedule will be posted and updated on the "calendar" tab of the Valhalla Vocal Music website, [www.valhallavocalmusic.com](http://www.valhallavocalmusic.com).
- Attendance at all performances and rehearsals, both during and after school time is **mandatory** and is a major portion of your grade. An absence due to serious illness will be excused (with a doctor's note), but you must make up the points missed.
- Any rehearsal or performance conflict must be resolved with the director at least TWO WEEKS in advance.
  - An unexcused absence will result in an "F" for that activity which results in a lowered grade and could be grounds for a drop from the course.
- A student's outside employment is never accepted as an excuse for missing or coming late to a required course function.
- Students who are unexcused from any portion of a final rehearsal will not be allowed to perform in that portion of the concert.

## Sports/Co-Curricular Conflicts

- Reasonable efforts will be made to work out school sports or co-curricular conflicts if enough advance notice is given.
  - It is the student's responsibility to notify Mr. Infantino and the coach of the potential conflict well in advance.
  - Students may wish to show their coaches the choir syllabus and attached calendar as proof of their call times.

## Cell Phones/Electronics

- Phones, computers, headphones, and other electronic devices are not to be used during class time unless permission has been given by Mr. Infantino.
- Phones/electronics used during class will be confiscated and taken to the administration office.

## Grading Policy

Grades are weighted into the following categories:

Daily Rehearsal = 30%

Performances, Tests/Quizzes = 40%

Assignments = 20%

Final = 10%

## Honors Ensembles

- A student may earn up to two years of honors credit when enrolled in an honors ensemble (Men's, Chamber, Advanced Women's or Intermediate Women's).
- All ensemble students will be given music theory instruction, but the honors level student will receive differentiated instruction in music theory and be expected to achieve at least a B average on all theory work in addition to an A average on the regular course expectations in order to receive a 5-point A for Honors Music credit.

## Extra Credit

Students may attend and critique a concert for extra credit. The concert may be any style or genre of music, professional or amateur. Attending a school musical, band or orchestra production is also acceptable. A one-page write up of the concert and proof of attendance (program or ticket stub) is required to receive the extra credit. If you are interested in completing the extra credit assignment, please ask Mr. Infantino for more details.

## Event Reminders

Remind is a broadcast system that will text students with event reminders. Students will not see the teacher's phone number (and vice versa). Please follow the instructions to receive the reminders:

- To subscribe to Remind via text: Send a text to **81010** with the message **@ChoirPer1**

## Google Classroom

Google Classroom is an online learning platform for distributing and grading assignments. Class resources, homework, and other announcements will be posted on Google Classroom.

- Once logged into Google Classroom: Enter code is: 7hnslep

## Norsemen Choir Concert Calendar

Fall 2019

Date	Day	Event	Location/ Address	Call Time	Concert Time	Attire	Additional Info
9/24/19	Tue	<b>Fall Concert</b>	Foothills United Methodist Church <a href="#">4031 Avocado Blvd La Mesa, CA 91941</a>	4:30pm *4:00pm (soloists)	7:00pm	Formal	Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Children -General Admission -Reserved area for Patrons
12/13/19	Fri	<b>Winter Concert</b>	College Avenue Baptist Church <a href="#">4747 College Avenue San Diego CA 92115</a>	4:30pm *4:00pm (soloists)	7:00pm	Formal	Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Children -General Admission -Reserved area for Patrons

Spring 2020

Date	Day	Event	Location/ Address	Call Time	Concert Time	Attire	Additional Info
<b>TBD</b> 3/6/20 or 3/13/20	Fri	<b>Spring Concert</b>	College Avenue Baptist Church <a href="#">4747 College Avenue San Diego CA 92115</a>	4:30pm *4:00pm (soloists)	7:00pm	Formal	Tickets: \$7 Adults; \$5 Students/Children -General Admission -Reserved area for Patrons
5/11/20	Mon	Pops Concert Blocking Rehearsal	Faith Chapel <a href="#">9400 Campo Rd Spring Valley, CA 9197</a>	5:00pm		Casual (Closed-toed shoes)	Ends approx. 8:30pm. Students will be released earlier if possible.
5/21/20	Thu	Pops Concert Dress Rehearsal	Faith Chapel <a href="#">9400 Campo Rd Spring Valley, CA 9197</a>	5:00pm		Pops Concert Costumes	Ends approximately 8:30pm.
5/22/20 <b>This is the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend. Please plan accordingly.</b>	Fri	<b>Pops Concert</b>	Faith Chapel <a href="#">9400 Campo Rd Spring Valley, CA 91977</a>	5:45pm	7:00pm	Pops Concert Costumes	Tickets: <u>Floor</u> : \$12; \$8 Students/Children <u>Balcony</u> : \$10; \$6 Students/Children -Reserved area for Patrons
5/27/20	Wed	Choir Banquet	Tom Ham's Lighthouse <a href="#">2150 Harbor Island Dr. San Diego, CA 92101</a>	6:00pm	N/A	Business	*optional event* Prices TBD

**\*\*Dates/venues are tentative and subject to change. Updates will be shared online as soon as possible\*\***

Please remove this page from the syllabus packet, complete, and return to school by Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Signature Sheet – Vocal Music Course Expectations**

**Norsemen Choir, 2019-2020**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name), understand the policies and requirements of the Vocal Music Department of Valhalla High School, as stated in the department course syllabus. My parent/guardian has also read the policies and support my participation in the program.

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

### **Email Sign-Up**

All students need to complete the following for our department files. Important information about ticket sales, concert and rehearsal reminders and upcoming fundraisers will generally be sent via email.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student School email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Add a second email address below if you would like more than one parent/guardian to receive email updates about concerts, ticket prices, etc.**

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Rehearsal/Performance Conflict List**

Please review the attached calendar, and check one of the following:

I have no conflicts with any concert/rehearsal dates for the 2019-2020 schoolyear.

I have a conflict with a concert/rehearsal date for the 2019-2020 schoolyear.

Please list and explain any rehearsal/performance conflicts:

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**\*\*\*BOTH SIDES MUST BE SIGNED\*\*\***

Valhalla High School Vocal Music Department

## **Activities and Transportation Permission Slip**

**ALL STUDENTS must have this top portion signed in order to remain in and participate in the department activities:**

For certain performances during the year and when funds are available, the Vocal Music Department may provide transportation on a district or chartered bus to required events or field trips. All reasonable precautions will be taken to ensure your son/daughter's safety. All persons making the excursion shall be deemed to have waived all claims against Grossmont Union High School District, Valhalla High School, their officials, employees and agents, from and against any and all liability for property damage, injury, accident, illness or death occurring during or by reason of the excursion. Commercial, low cost student insurance is available through the school finance office. **By signing this form, parents are giving permission for their son or daughter to participate in all Vocal Department sponsored activities and to ride on such transportation as provided by the district for Vocal Department events.**

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**

**Date**

### **Media Release**

Within this course, there are opportunities to share our learning beyond the classroom. The teacher or other school representatives will use still photography or videography to highlight student achievement, display student products, or chronicling classroom activities. Those images may be used on classroom or school websites or school-related social media accounts. Teachers, administrators, and other staff follow a clear set of Internet and Social Media Guidelines ([bit.ly/GUHSDSocialMedia](http://bit.ly/GUHSDSocialMedia)) when posting to a digital platform. If, for any reason, you do not want your child's work or likeness to be used by the classroom teacher or school, please complete the following opt-out:

\_\_\_\_ I do NOT want my student's classwork to be posted on school websites or social media accounts.

\_\_\_\_ I do NOT want my student's likeness to be posted on school websites or social media accounts.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*This form will remain on file all year in the music office. Please notify if information changes.*