

***Chantilly High School
Choral Department
Handbook
2014-2015***



Director:
Evan Ayars
evan.ayars@fcps.edu
703-222-8155

Mission Statement:

This program is designed for any student in any grade with a desire to sing. It endeavors to create individuals who are active performers. The program fosters a love of music from diverse cultures, time periods, and genres while enabling students to learn and use musical notation, sight reading, and listening skills. It also puts an emphasis on choir as a group of individuals who, through a love of music, can form a community of caring individuals dedicated to sharing quality music with everyone they meet.

Course Descriptions:

Men's/Women's Concert Choir – These choirs meet separately. They will perform gender-specific repertoire as well as combine for competitions. Students will begin to develop good vocal techniques. They will develop their ability to sight read, sing in a group with blended tone, and their understanding of rehearsal technique. They will develop skills in singing 3 and 4 part harmonies. Through group performances, they will learn and practice good concert etiquette and performance skills.

Chantilly Chamber Chorale – This mixed auditioned ensemble represents a high level of musical achievement. They will continue to master vocal technique, while furthering their skills as sight readers, and choral musicians. They will continue to develop skills in singing 4 and 5 part harmony. An advanced level of performance skills are expected and practiced during their performances for a wide variety of audiences.

Chantilly Showstoppers – This advanced show choir represents a high level of musical achievement. They will continue to master vocal technique, while furthering their skills as sight readers, and choral musicians. Additionally, a high level of dance ability is expected, and they will be challenged daily to further these skills. They will continue to develop skills in singing 4 and 5 part harmony. An advanced level of performance skills are expected and practiced during their performances for a wide variety of audiences.

Choral Department Fees: A participation fee is expected of each student of a co-curricular class in order to achieve the goals and objectives of each course, and to maintain Chantilly's high standard of excellence in music education. These fees are specifically for the cost of uniform and equipment purchase, replacement, and maintenance. Through these fees, provide uniforms for every student in every ensemble. Additional materials are also needed to assist the students as they work to function properly in the classroom and performance settings. No one will be denied participation for a true shown financial need. **All Fees are due by Friday, September 12th.**

Fees	
Choir Name	Fee Amount
Concert Choir	\$90
Chamber Chorale	\$100
Chantilly ShowStoppers	\$300

Required Materials:

Pencil – EVERY DAY, you MUST have one as part of being prepared

Black Music Folder – This will be distributed by the department

All choral music currently being rehearsed – this will be distributed by the department and must be returned after every concert

Choral Website: www.chantillychoral.org

The choral website will be an integral part of the school year. It will be used for all forms and documents both to save paper and to help streamline the process of paperwork. It will have the department calendar and any updates to it throughout the year. The choral handbook can be found at any time there. Announcements will be posted periodically in addition to listening and practice tracks. It will also link to Charms, which will have additional information. Please use it often this year.

**Choral Department On-line Calendar
2014 - 2015**

www.chantillychoral.org

Click on the “Calendar” tab at the top

Please put these dates on your family calendar right away, as missing a required performance or rehearsal will seriously impact your student’s grade. If you need a paper copy, please let me know.

Grading Policy:

Concerts and Rehearsals 40%

Daily Preparation and Rehearsal Technique 30%

Theory, Sight Reading, Octet Testing and other work 30%

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes, required rehearsals and performances. Attendance will be taken. Students must arrive in class on time as rehearsal begins when the bell rings. Students must be in their seats with their music and pencils ready or they will be considered tardy.

Concert and Rehearsal Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to be at all required concerts and rehearsals. Because there is no genuine way to replicate the experience of performing for a large audience, students **MUST** participate in all concerts. If there is a serious conflict, it must be submitted to the director no less than 2 weeks before the concert. The student will be able to submit a separate project to make up the grade. Unexcused absences cannot be made up.

Examples of **excused** absences:

Illness the day of the concert: If you are home sick the day of the concert and are not at school, the school will have a record of your absence. If you become sick partway through the day or after school, please call or email the director. You will need a doctor's note to receive an excused absence. Makeup work will be assigned.

Family emergency: In very rare cases there is a serious family emergency the day of the concert. If possible please call or email the choral office. A note from a parent must be brought in explaining the situation and makeup work will be assigned.

Requesting an Excused Absence:

All requests for an excused absence must be made in writing at least 2 WEEKS before the concert, signed by the parent or guardian. The director will review it and makeup work will be assigned if the absence is approved.

Examples of **unexcused** absences:

The WORK excuse: *My boss wouldn't let me off work.* All of these concert dates are set at the beginning of the year to allow you to plan accordingly. Contact your boss more than a month in advance and I am sure they can rearrange your work schedule to accommodate with lots of notice. I am happy to call your boss personally if need be. But if you don't give them appropriate notice, then it may be difficult to get out of work, as schedules have to be made in advance. This is not an excused absence.

The RIDE excuse: *My parents were stuck at work and couldn't drive me.* You have many friends and colleagues in this class. Make sure you have a backup plan if the timing is tricky. Phone a friend and get a ride with them! Call the choral office if you run in to an emergency the night of the concert.

The HOMEWORK excuse: *I had to study for a test and finish a paper.* You receive a grade in choir just as you receive a grade in every other class. Performances are equivalent to a final exam. If you miss a performance it will seriously impact your grade. Plan ahead!

The FAMILY FUN excuse: *It was my dad's birthday.* Because all dates for performances are set at the beginning of the year, special consideration cannot be given to students because of family events, anniversaries, trips, etc. Plan a celebration before or after the concert, but since this is 40% of a student grade, the student must be present.

Classroom Expectations:

Every day, students will:

1. Be ready to work when the bell rings
2. Have MUSIC and a PENCIL every day
3. Sit quietly and respectfully if not working
4. Give 100% of themselves to making beautiful music
5. **No food or drink**, other than water, is allowed at any time, in the Choir Room

Students will be assigned a number and are responsible for keep their music and folder in good condition. Students will return their music when requested. If music is not returned or is damaged beyond repair, the student will be fined the price of the missing or damaged score.

Students who choose not to follow classroom expectations will receive the following consequences:

First Offence: Student asked to correct behavior

Second Offence: Parents contacted; Student asked to correct behavior

Third Offence: Possible detention; Parents contacted; Student asked to correct behavior

Fourth Offence: Student is referred to principal for further action

*Students who frequently choose not to follow classroom expectations may be prohibited from participating in choral events, performances, field trips and honor choirs

Backpacks:

Upon entering class students will put their backpacks and other items against the mirror. **All cell phones** must be silenced and put in the student's backpacks (this is non-negotiable). Student will then get a pencil and their folder with their music and sit in their seat. If the student is not in their seat when the bell rings they will be marked tardy.

Cell Phones:

Phones will NOT be tolerated, **AT ALL**. They are to remain in your backpack during rehearsal. **NO EXCUSES, NO EXCEPTIONS**

Cell phones must remain silenced and in the student's backpacks for the duration of class/rehearsal unless otherwise specified by the teacher.

*If a cell phone is seen during this time it will be confiscated for the remainder of class and the student's daily participation grade will be affected.

Choral Department Contract

As a member of the Chantilly High School Choral Department, I do hereby agree to the following:

1. I will attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances; including after school and/or evening rehearsals. I understand that work schedules and extra curricular activities are NOT considered excused absences for missed performances or rehearsals. I further understand that my grade may be lowered and risk possible dismissal from the Choral Department for unexcused absences. (Students participating in VHSL are excused from rehearsal for one game, but may NOT be absent from a performance.) In the event that I have a game and performance on the same night, the conflict will be resolved with the Choral Director on an individual basis. I am expected to share equal time when rehearsals and practices are scheduled simultaneously.
2. I will be on time for classes, rehearsals and performances.
3. I will support the Choral Department in all facets, giving 100% during all rehearsals and performances.
4. I will mentor, model, pioneer and demonstrate excellence in all CHS activities.
5. I will follow the rules and regulations of CHS, respect myself, adults and my peers.
6. I understand that trip participation is a privilege! If I am performing in the advanced ensembles, I understand that I am expected to perform in all competitions.
7. I understand that the advanced ensembles will require more performances during the school year. I acknowledge that as an auditioned ensemble member, I will be performing the National Anthem for all home Football/Basketball games.
8. I understand that all students in the advanced ensembles are strongly encouraged to participate in District Chorus auditions and the performance.
9. I understand that participation in Choral Festival is paramount.

We, the undersigned parent/guardian and student, have read all contents within the CHS Choral Handbook, the Choral Department Contract and intend to fulfill all of the requirements outlined therein and that of CHS rules and regulations.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Please print name _____