

Falls Church High School

Choral Department

# *Choir Handbook*

2014-2015



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Choral Director

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## I. THE FALLS CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM

The FCHS Choral Program include three choirs:

**Concert Choir:** Beginning/Intermediate level mixed choir- no audition required

**Bella Voce:** Intermediate/Advanced level women's choir- audition required

**Chamber Singers:** Advanced level mixed choir- audition required

All choirs are designed to teach the following aspects of music: vocal technique, musicianship (reading music), general music history, basic compositional components of the choral genre, the components of ensemble singing, and the principles of rehearsal and performance in the choral settings. These various components are evaluated through the grading process, which is discussed in the next section. Placement in a choir is based primarily on level of musicianship skills, unless coming in as an incoming freshman.

**II. GRADING--** Grades are based on a point system. The total number of graded assignments determines the amount of points that can be earned in a year. (Class participation is also graded - see below).

**A. CLASS PARTICIPATION-** 10 points per week

This consists of active involvement during class, following established classroom procedures (see page 4). Regular attendance, punctuality, having all required materials, and on-task behavior all constitute appropriate class participation, and will all be factored into this grade. Also, it is the student's responsibility to arrange to make up any work missed due to excused absences.

**B. ORAL AND WRITTEN TESTS-**

Total points determined by number of items on each exam. Assessments will be both oral and written.

**C. CONCERT/REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE**

**Dress Rehearsals-** 75 points (equal to two test grades)

**Concerts-** 150 points (equal to four test grades)

Students will be expected to participate in all required rehearsals and concerts. The Calendar of Events is attached with all performance dates listed. (Punctuality, wearing of appropriate concert uniform and on-task, disciplined, appropriate concert behavior are also factored into the points earned.)

## CONCERT/REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE (cont.)

### 1. Definition of Absence Types (for rehearsals and performances)

Examples of Excused Absences

\*Death in the family

\*Commitments made

before signing choral policy

\*Personal severe illness

\*Religious Holidays/

\*Special Observances

\*Catastrophic events

Examples of Unexcused Absences:

\*Social engagements

\*Work

\*Homework

\*Oversleeping

\*Forgetfulness

\*Outside performances

\*Auditions/Tryouts

\*Community Sports

\*Transportation problems

\*Babysitting

\*Commitments made after  
signing choral policy

### 2. Rehearsal/Concert Absence Procedures

#### a. Excused Absence Procedure:

- Contact (call or e-mail) Ms. Robinson about the absence well in advance if possible (Also, in the case of a last minute emergency, call or e-mail immediately if at all possible).

#### b. Unexcused Absences From Final Dress Rehearsals:

- Student will not be allowed to perform in the concert and will lose both rehearsal and concert points.

#### c. Unexcused Absences from Concerts:

-Student will lose concert points- in this case there is no opportunity for make-up work.

III. CHOIR UNIFORMS- Each student will be fitted for his/her uniform within the first few weeks of the new school year. All students will be provided with formal attire through the Choral Boosters. Students are required to provide their own black shoes, black socks, or black hose. If there are any financial issues that prevent purchasing these items, parents/guardians should immediately contact the director. Any communication of this nature will be kept completely confidential. **Women are also responsible for making sure their dress is hemmed at the proper length.**

IV. CHOIR FEES- Each student is responsible to pay a choir fee that will help cover departmental costs such as: accompanist, festival fees, choreographer, and uniform rental/maintenance. The price is based on the participation of approximately 70 students.

#### **Total Fee: \$50**

\* **IMPORTANT**- Students on free or reduced lunch are not required to pay the course activity fee, but the family **MUST** fill out a "consent to share" form (last page of the packet) and send it to the following address: Fairfax County Public Schools, Office of Food and Nutrition Services, 6840 Industrial Road Springfield, VA 22151-9922. Failure to submit this form will require payment during the spring semester.

V. PLACEMENT PROCEDURES FOR CHORAL ENSEMBLES- Auditions for all choral ensemble will take place in the second half of the spring semester. Some of the auditions will involve after school or before school time. Audition information will be announced in class well in advance of the audition dates.

#### VI. MUSIC AND FOLDERS

The “textbooks” for each choir are the choral scores (sheet music) that are distributed to the students, along with notebooks in which to store these scores. Students are to treat these materials responsibly and with care. Students will pay a replacement fee if these materials are damaged or lost.

#### VII. CONTACTING CHORAL DEPARTMENT

Choral Department Phone Number- Ms. Robinson: 703-207-4104

Ms. Robinson’s e-mail address: [ahrobinson@fcps.edu](mailto:ahrobinson@fcps.edu)

#### VIII. CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Be seated in assigned seats with class materials (pencil, folder, music, ect.) when the bell rings. Students NOT SEATED IN ASSIGNED SEATS when the bell rings will be marked tardy.
2. Dispose of gum, food, or drink before coming into the classroom (or concert venue).
3. Bring music and a pencil to every class/rehearsal.
4. Sit or stand (as indicated by the director) using correct alignment when singing.
5. Be attentive and on-task during rehearsal, eliminating any inappropriate talking and disruptive behavior.
6. Raise your hand to be recognized before speaking out in class/rehearsal.
7. Respectfully comply with all verbal instructions given by the director during class, rehearsals, and performances.
8. Bring completed assignments to class on the date they are due. This includes homework, permission slips, forms, and any other assignments made by the director.
9. Always treat the director and fellow choir members with respect and kindness, remembering that choral singing is a team effort and therefore requires positive, constructive, and supportive team members.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS- 2014-2015

**\*\*BOLD DESIGNATES REQUIRED ATTENDANCE.**

*Other performance information may be added at a later date, and with a minimum of two weeks notice.*

**If there is a known conflict, please contact Ms. Robinson ASAP:**

**703-207-4104 or [ahrobinson@fcps.edu](mailto:ahrobinson@fcps.edu).**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
SEPT. 13	MUSIC DEPT. TAG DAY FUNDRAISER	Falls Church Area (Expected of all choirs)	8:30am-4pm
SEPT. 18	BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT	FCHS Choir Room	7:00pm-10pm
SEPT. 19-20	CHORALFEST-FT (Chamber Singers)	James Madison Univ.	7am-7pm
Oct. 4	VMEA Honor Choir Auditions (seniors only)	Longwood College	All-day
<b>Oct. 21</b>	<b>FC DRESS REHEARSAL</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>2:30-4:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 22</b>	<b>CHORAL/ORCHESTRA/GUITAR FALL CONCERT</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>6:00pm call 7:00pm concert</b>
Nov. 5	TRI-M AUDITIONS	TBA	2:30-6
<b>Nov. 8</b>	<b>DISTRICT CHORUS AUDITIONS (Required for CS &amp; BV)</b>	<b>Mt. Vernon HS</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Nov. 20-22	VMEA CONFERENCE HONOR CHOIR	Homestead	TBA
Dec. 4-6	THE MUSIC MAN	FCHS Auditorium	7:00pm
<b>Dec. 10</b>	<b>WC DRESS REHEARSAL</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>2:30-4:30</b>
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>WINTER CONCERT</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>6:00pm call 7:00pm concert</b>
Feb. 12-14	ALL-DISTRICT CHOIR	TBA	TBA
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>HS/MS/ES CHOIR WORKSHOP</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>TBA</b>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2014-2015 (CONTINUED...)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>PRE-ASSESSMENT DRESS REHERASAL</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>2:30-4:30pm</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>PRE-ASSESSMENT CONCERT WITH LJMS</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>6:00pm call 7:00PM concert</b>
<b>March <u>20</u> OR 21</b>	<b>DISTRICT X PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (all choirs)</b>	<b>Falls Church High School</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>April 16-18</b>	<b>SPRING TRIP **More information to come</b>	<b>ORLANDO, FLORIDA</b>	
<b>April 23-25</b>	<b>ALL-STATE CHOIR (JUNIOR AND SENIORS ONLY)</b>	<b>Woodson HS</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>May 26-28</b>	<b>POPS CONCERT PREP</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>2:30-5pm</b>
<b>May 29</b>	<b>SPRING POPS CONCERT</b>	<b>FCHS Auditorium</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>FCHS GRADUATION</b>	<b>Patriot Center</b>	<b>TBA</b>

## **STUDENTS/PARENT AGREEMENT**

I have read and understand the Falls Church High School Choral Department Handbook for the 2014-2015 school year. My signature below indicates that I shall at all times comply with the policies and procedures specified in the Falls Church High School Choral Department Handbook. I understand that if these procedures are not followed, I will be subject to any appropriate consequences (i.e. lowered grades, referral to administration, loss of privileges, ect.).

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Student Name (print)

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Date

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Student Signature

I have read and understand the Falls Church High School Choral Department Handbook and will support my child's compliance with the policies and procedures specified therein.

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Parent Name (print)

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Date

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Parent Signature

**\*\*Please place all important and required dates on the calendar\*\***

**\*\*\*PLEASE ATTACH YOUR \$50 ACTIVITY FEE TO THIS DOCUMENT\*\*\***

**CHECKS ARE MADE OUT TO: FALLS CHURCH HS**

**\*Students on Free and Reduced lunch are not required to pay this fee BUT please see previous page referring to the "Consent to Share" form needed.**

## Choral Department Contact Form 2014-2015

*Throughout the school year, it will be important that we are able to communicate calendar changes, rehearsal and performance reminders, and occasional other information to you. Please fill this out accurately so that we can have an easy way to reach you when needed.*

STUDENT LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME (1): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT EMAIL (1): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME (2): \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT EMAIL (2): \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS: Check here if email is the best way to get in touch with you \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if phone is the best way to get in touch with you \_\_\_\_