

Canyon High School Vocal Music Department

**Handbook
2016-2017**



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WEBSITE: www.canyonchoir.weebly.com

GENERAL CHOIR CALENDAR

Dates in **bold are mandatory for all students.*

Sept. 21: Coffee House Auditions, 2:40-4:00

Sept. 29: Coffee House, 7:00 PM

Oct. 6: Fall Solo Auditions, 2:50-4:00

***Oct. 13: Fall Concert, 7:00 PM, 5:30 call**

Oct. 25-26: *YANKEE CANDLE SALE BEGINS*

***Dec. 7-8: Performing Arts Winter Concert, 7:00 PM, 5:30 call**

***Dec. 15: Winter Concert, 7:00 PM, 5:30 call**

Feb. 10: Valentine's Dessert Concert, TBD (Chamber Singers)

March 6: Spring Solo Auditions 2:50-4:00

***March 16: Spring Concert, 7:00, 5:30 call time**

March 29: Meeting for Showcase Student Choreographers, Lunch

April 19: Showcase Solo Auditions 2:40-5:00

May 3-4: Choir Auditions for 2017-2018, 2:40-5:00

***May 24: Showcase Dress Rehearsal, 3:00-5:30**

***May 25-26: Showcase Concert 7:00, 5:30 call time**

June 2: Choir Banquet 7:00-9:00 PM, CHS Cafeteria

June 15: Graduation (Chamber Singers)

****Calendar is subject to change. Students are responsible for changes when given advance notice.**

Dear Singers and Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting year of vocal music! It is my pleasure to have you as part of the Vocal Department at Canyon High School. I am looking forward to making fine music with you this year.

Each choir class is designed to give you all the necessary tools to improve your skills, knowledge, and confidence as a singer. These classes not only teach students musicianship, but also support social and personal skills, develop professionalism, encourage teamwork, and build a profound appreciation for the arts. Vocal music encompasses math, science, history, culture, languages, social skills; the list goes on. It also offers a wonderful physical and emotional outlet, cultivating the expressive part of our personalities in a positive manner that will carry into adulthood.

It is up to each individual student to bring their personal best to each class to continue the tradition of excellence here at Canyon. The only requirement is that you show a sincere commitment to singing, a readiness to learn, and an attitude of tolerance, respect, and cooperation. I am looking forward to getting to know you as a valuable part of our choral family!

The following handbook outlines the objectives, expectations, content, grading, schedules, and rules of the Canyon Vocal Department. **Please read all information carefully.** Please sign the Document of Understanding and return signed form by Friday, September 2nd. Welcome to the Canyon Vocal Family!

Sing-cerely,

Mrs. Ariel May
Director of Vocal Music
alambrecht@orangeusd.org

ENSEMBLES

BASS CLEF & TREBLE CLEF CHOIRS are open to treble clef singers (soprano & alto) or bass clef singers (tenor & bass). These courses focus on building fundamental musicianship skills including healthy vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and performing choral literature for the beginning/intermediate ensemble. Students will learn to sing in a variety of vocal styles, including classical, jazz, pop, and musical theater. This class is a year-round course and is UC approved.

CONCERT CHOIR is an intermediate mixed choir that requires a thorough audition showcasing the singer's ear, vocal range, and familiarity with music. This course focuses on building fundamental musicianship skills including healthy vocal technique, music theory, sight reading, and performing mixed choral literature for the intermediate/advanced mixed ensemble. Students will perform a variety of vocal styles, including classical, jazz, pop, and musical theater. Students may participate in choral festivals, competitions, and other travel opportunities. This class is a year-round course and is UC approved.

ADVANCED TREBLE & CHAMBER SINGERS are advanced choirs which require an extensive audition including sight-reading, musicianship testing, and solo singing. These advanced courses focus on SSAA and SATB literature from all periods of music. Students will develop advanced vocal and musicianship skills, as well as sight-reading and music history training. Students will learn to sing in a variety of vocal styles, including classical, jazz, pop, and musical theater. Students may participate in choral festivals, competitions, and other travel opportunities. These classes are year-round courses and are UC approved. Students must maintain good academic standing, reliability, & respect or they will be removed from the ensemble.

A CAPPELLA, BARBERSHOP, & BEAUTYSHOP are advanced ensembles that meet at least once per week during lunch. Students must demonstrate excellent sight-reading skills, strong vocal technique, and must work well with others.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will gain knowledge of the following:

- A. Performing a varied repertoire of music
- B. Proper singing technique, including posture, breathing, and tone.
- C. Reading and notating music.
- D. Sight-singing, including solfege syllables and Curwen hand signals.
- E. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.
- F. Evaluating music performances using academic language.
- G. Stage presence and professionalism.

The goals within this course align with California's VAPA Music Content Standards, grades 9-12.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to come to choir with a good attitude and willingness to learn, work hard, and work with others. As a choir member, it is your duty to uphold the integrity of the vocal program. There is zero tolerance for cheating, harassment, or disrespectful behavior of any kind.

During rehearsals, students will be expected to:

- Be in their seat with their materials before the bell rings
- Be respectful of others, including the teacher and classmates
- Follow along in their own musical score while other sections are singing

During concerts, students will be expected to:

- Arrive on time for their call and stay for the entire concert.
- Refrain from yelling, cheering, or clapping while someone is performing.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE & STANDARDS

These policies ensure a sense of professionalism when representing Canyon HS. It shall be the responsibility of each member to appear in proper performance attire for each occasion. Members may not perform with the choir unless the uniform standards are met.

SHOES

Black closed-toe dress shoes: heels or flats (no casual boots).
Black nylons or black socks must be worn.

HAIR- Pull all hair out of your face. No accessories.

JEWELRY- No bracelets or necklaces. Stud earrings are okay. No large hoops or dangly earrings.

BASS CLEF, TREBLE CLEF, & CONCERT CHOIR

PANTS OPTION

Black dress pants or slacks (*no jeans*) with a black button down dress shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. A bow tie will be available for purchase or to borrow.

DRESS OPTION

Black dress with sleeves (length must be to the knee or longer with black nylons) OR a combination of the following:

Top: Black top either with sleeves or a black cardigan

Bottom: black slacks (no jeans or leggings) or long skirt.

ADVANCED TREBLE & CHAMBER SINGERS

Uniform choir dress, choir suit, or choir tuxedo (more information will be distributed during class)

**No student will be excluded from choir if they are financially unable to pay for their choir outfit. Students who are unable to purchase appropriate concert attire must see Mrs. May at least 2 weeks prior to a concert for assistance.*

Materials

Music and choir folders will be provided for you. Music should be kept in your folder at all times. You are responsible for your folder and music, and will be charged for a replacement if they are not returned or if there are any damages. Folder replacement: \$12, Music: \$5 per score.

GRADING POLICY



Daily Attendance & Participation	50%
Evaluations	20%
Concert Performances	30%

Daily Attendance and Participation

50% of your grade will be based solely on the effort you put forth during class each day. When you are absent from school, you cannot make up that class time. Up to **5 points** are given every day based on participation. Students will lose participation points for the following:

- * Poor behavior, including talking
- * Chewing gum or eating during class
- * Non-participation or Unpreparedness
- * Unexcused tardies
- * **CELL PHONE USE:** the use of cell phones is prohibited during class unless otherwise noted by the teacher. Students who use their phone without permission will receive zero points for the day. CHS Electronic Device Policy will be strictly enforced.

Evaluations

Listening Journals, theory/history assignments or tests, in-class assessments (memorization checks, sight-reading, quartet testing, etc.), class final.

Concert Performances

Attendance & participation at all choir concerts is MANDATORY!!

- * Students will not receive credit for missed performances or rehearsals.
- * An examination of dedication will be conducted with the student, parent, and Mrs. May.
- * Students will lose attendance points for tardiness to rehearsals or concerts.

Excused absences

- Severe illness with a doctor's note (not a cold!)
- Death in family
- Court appearance or Religious holiday

Unexcused absences

- Work
- Transportation problems
- Religious service or event
- Family plans
- Minor illness
- Games, practices, rehearsals, or



concerts

*Students who miss a performance or like to make up the points, they may be to 7 pages in length. This paper will be **School policy on plagiarism will be strictly enforced.***

rehearsal will not receive credit. If they would assigned to write a research paper that is up due within one week of the missed event.

Extra Credit

Students may receive up to 5 points extra credit for attending an approved choral or vocal concert. Students must turn in a program from the event as well as a 1-page reflection on the performance within 2 weeks after attending. Please see Mrs. May to confirm that the performance qualifies for extra credit. Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced.

Dear Parents and/or guardians,

The Canyon High School vocal program can be successful **only** with the support of our parents and guardians. We do not receive adequate funds from the government, the district, or the school. Please consider helping to keep our program alive and viable for this school year. Your tax-free donation will help create an outstanding vocal music program for your student!

Your donation will help fund the following expenses:

Accompanist Fees- absolutely necessary for the Choral Music Program!

Piano tuning and repair

Sheet Music

Festivals and workshops- registration fees

Bus Fees- exchanges, workshops, performance opportunities

Supplemental Education Materials

Music folders

Advertising

Programs and tickets

Concert refreshments

Performance recordings

Stage decorations

Microphones and parts

Webpage

Choir Banquet and Awards

Every donation makes a difference!

Suggested donation: \$150 per student., however, donations of any amount are welcome.

*Please make checks payable to: CHS Vocal Music

**CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

Document of Understanding

ASSIGNMENT #1:

In order to receive 10 points, your parent or guardian must fill out the Parent Survey on www.canyonchoir.weebly.com by Friday, September 2nd. Hard copies are available upon request.

ASSIGNMENT #2:

In order to receive 10 points, you must turn in the bottom portion of this handbook (signed by you and your parent/guardian) by Friday, September 2nd.

We, the undersigned, have read the 2016-2017 Canyon HS Vocal Department Handbook and understand the conditions of participation in the vocal program.

Student Name (Print)

Choir

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date