

CONCERT CHOIR HANDBOOK 2015-2016

GENERAL INFORMATION — TEACHER: NICK PATTON

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EXPECTATIONS

1. Strive to maintain a positive and focused environment where everyone can learn!
2. Respect your peers, respect your learning space, respect your teacher!
3. Be on time and apply a hard work ethic to our rehearsals.
4. Attendance at all concerts and extra rehearsals is mandatory.
5. Bring a Pencil, 1.5" Binder, and Water Bottle to class every day!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this choir, students will develop various aspects of ensemble vocal music performance, including vocal production technique, expressive technique, music theory, music history, and ensemble and teamwork skills. The choir sings in 3-4 part harmony, and performs repertoire from all genres, styles, and historical periods. This year the choir will perform in approximately 4-5 concerts or competitions over the course of the school year. The choir is open to everyone who would like to enroll!

STUDENT EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated according to the following scoring criteria:

Attendance (classroom, rehearsal, performances): 50 percent

Classroom Participation: 25 percent

Homework and in class evaluations: 25 percent

ATTENDANCE

Since Choral Music is a “team sport,” it is essential that all students are present and ready to work at all classes, rehearsals, and performances. It is also important that students practice professional rehearsal etiquette by arriving early to call times and the classroom, so that they are ready to begin once the rehearsal has begun. If a student misses a rehearsal or class, it is their responsibility to find out what was missed and to rehearse said material on their own or with their sections.

All concert attendance is mandatory. Concert attendance may be excused only in the case of communicated illness, religious holidays, or a death in the family. If circumstances arise where missing a concert is inevitable, please communicate early and frequently with Mr. Patton.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is essential for maintaining a well working, supportive class! I encourage both students and parents alike to let me know of any concerns, comments, or questions they may have at any time. I can only solve problems or address issues if I know they exist, so please do not hesitate to ask whenever something arises. The class is a larger commitment than the entry level course, and although I will never book a concert with less than two weeks notice unless I ask all students first, it is absolutely essential that students check the Calendar on the Choral Website on a regular basis. E-mail is the best way to reach me, and I will respond to phone calls, texts, and Remind communication as I am able to. In addition, handouts will occasionally be distributed in class. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that these handouts arrive home!

VOLUNTEERS

I am hoping to expand the scope of concerts and fundraisers this year, and more things to do means more volunteers are needed! This year, I will need parents interested in serving as drivers to concerts, assisting with fundraising events, and much more. Please consider donating your time to our program, as **WE NEED YOU!**

CHS CHORAL CONCERTS AND EVENTS

The following performances are currently set for 2015-2016. Please make note of these dates!:

September "Tea"-ser – September --
The Sing-A-Thon – October 17th
November Concert – November 14th – 15th

Love In The Air - February 18th
The Farewell Concert – May 19th

Concert Choir will also be required to attend the Holiday Concert on December 10th to provide them with an opportunity to observe the Choral Program as an audience member. Concert Choir students will be admitted to this event free of charge.

Setting expectations like a broken record this year, all of these concerts and any more that will appear are on our Choral Calendar, located at the Choral Music Website! It is essential that students and parents bookmark and/or follow the calendar for easy access to updates and events!

MONEY MATTERS

The goal with every Choir class at California High School is to create a high quality, curricularly relevant, and musically diverse choral experience that all students can participate fully in, and Treble Singers is no exception. Unfortunately, there is no regular source of funding for Choral Music, and as such our program relies entirely on concert proceeds, fundraising efforts, and individual and family donations. The reality is that without the kindness and generosity of our music community through their patronage at concerts and through voluntary donations, the Choir Program would not be able to exist.

As such, we ask at the beginning of the year for Choral Students to consider making a voluntary donation to the Choral Program to help us continue to be able to offer the great choral opportunities we have come to know and love at California High School. A donation of **\$175** helps the choir department cover the following costs:

- Music Purchases & Licensing Fees (~\$75 per student)*
- Festival Registration (~\$10 per student)*
- Choir T-shirt (~\$15 student)*
- Costume Upkeep and Cleaning (~\$75 per student)*

We accept all donations towards furthering our program, and will happily accept any amount that you and your family feel you can give. Students are also able to give back to the Choir Program through fundraising efforts, many of which are tied to performances in the form of ticket presales and donations. Many students and their families choose to go this route in lieu of a voluntary donation. Many students participate in a mixture of both. It is important to note, however, that **all donations are voluntary and all fundraising is optional.**

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising offers a wonderful opportunity for choral students to give back to the program! Participation is optional, and all proceeds from fundraising go directly to students in the form of choral events, music purchases, music technology, and enrichment programs and materials.

THERE ARE MANY FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

FUNDRAISER	PROFIT PER ITEM	WHEN
September Tea-ser	100% of your advance sales	September --
Sing-a-Thon	100% of your pledges	October 17
Poinsettia Sales Wreath Sales	\$4.00 per plant \$5.00 per wreath	October - November
Recording Sales	TBD (More if we get full sponsorship)	Nov-Dec
Advance Ticket Sales for Selected Concerts	\$3.00 per ticket	November, Holiday, Love

Students can see their efforts represented in their account on the Charms Office Assistant website. The Charms Office Assistant for each student will reflect the distribution of fundraising funds and how that directly impacts the running costs of the program. Working with this new account management system is a fantastic way for students to begin to see the positive impact their fundraising efforts has on the Choral Community as a whole in concrete ways, as well as to get a glimpse into the world of budgeting and financial planning (another way in which Choral Music has direct correlation to real world skills.)

Please note: The information reflected in Charms is not a bill. The information is provided this year so students can see the direct impact of their efforts and to assist Mr. Patton with planning of events, fundraisers, and enrichment programs for this, next, and subsequent years by providing a clear overview of the running costs of the program. As we transition to this new account system, we will be working to ensure you understand all the things that can be done with it and the information that is provided. Please contact Mr. Patton if you have any questions. Accounts will be going live for student access at the end of Back to School Night.

CHARMS OFFICE ASSISTANT SETUP

This year, we will be using the Charms Office Assistant to help us stay organized in a variety of ways. The Charms Office Assistant is an organization suite designed with Music Departments in mind. Students and parents can have one portal for an easy place to access the Choral Website and Calendar, keep an eye on what Forms are due or Deadlines are approaching, stay up to date on Events and Fundraisers, submit Rehearsal Logs and Part Testing, access Noteflight reductions on a private Noteflight server, and much, much more. It is my hope that Charms will become an essential hub for the Choral Department in the future!

Once the accounts are finalized, you can check out the Suite by doing the following:

1. Head over to **<http://www.charmsoffice.com/>**
2. Mouse over the Green “ENTER/LOGIN” link in the upper right hand corner.
3. Select: **Parents/Students/Members**
4. Enter the School Code: **californiachoir**
5. On the following page, your password is your **Student’s ID Number**.

A couple of notes:

1. I have manually entered the Student ID numbers and there is a good possibility I entered at least one incorrectly! If you are unable to get into the Charms Account by entering what you believe is the correct password, please send me an e-mail and I will fix the problem for you!
2. Once you’ve accessed your student information page, there is a plethora of information for you to fill out. You are welcome to submit whatever information you feel comfortable sharing. E-mail addresses for both you and your student are incredibly helpful, because it makes it easy for me to create communication lists, allowing me to send updates and messages with the push of a few buttons. Mailing Addresses allow for us to keep up to date with you and your students on events and fundraisers for our choral program. This is especially great to have on our Alumni List. If your student is graduating this year, please consider sharing this information on your Charms Account so that we can keep you in mind (and you can, in turn, keep us in mind!)

WHILE IT IS AN EXTERNAL SITE, OUR DATABASE IS CONFIDENTIAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMILY EDUCATIONS AND RIGHTS PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 (FERPA). NO INFORMATION WITHIN THE DATABASE WILL BE DIVULGED TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT PARENTS OR OF STUDENTS WHO ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE. REST ASSURED THAT YOUR INFORMATION WITHIN THE CHARMS OFFICE ASSISTANT IS SAFE AND CONFIDENTIAL.