

MVHS CHOIR

2024-2025 Disclosure Documents

Teacher: Mr. Brett S. Taylor
Room/Phone Extension: 169
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Consultation time: by appointment only

Chamber Choir

A CAPPELLA

Con Brio

MAN CHOIR

CONCERT CHOIR

Motive

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The choirs of Mountain View High School provide students with high-level choral training and performance opportunities. Students will learn fundamentals of healthy vocal production, basic and advanced musical literacies, music history, and successful performance and rehearsal habits. Students will perform frequently outside of class in both solo and ensemble settings. In addition, students will interact with and find meaning in music by listening, understanding and creating.

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

Students are to have the following in their seat with them every day of class:

- Assigned music and folder (provided by choir program)
- Pencil (sharpened or filled; provided by student)
- Water bottle (provided by student)

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be focused and work hard in class. The refining of music is not an easy task and requires great patience and attention to detail. It is our intention that students learn to “find fun in being focused.” The following guidelines will ensure success and satisfaction for all:

- Students will make all necessary bathroom stops before class.
- Students will leave all personal belongings (except required classroom materials) along the front and sides of the classroom. Students will not bring their backpacks or books to their seats with them.
- Students are to be in the room when the tardy bell rings, and in their seats with the necessary materials by the time stretching begins (10-30 seconds after the tardy bell).
- No cell phones are to be used during class, except when given permission.
- No food, gum or drinks (except water) are permitted in the choir room.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is paramount to our success as a choir. Anytime you miss class for any reason, the entire choir is affected. We have to repeat instruction at the next rehearsal for your sake and our overall progress is hindered. Of course there will be unavoidable conflicts and these should be communicated promptly to Mr. Taylor. Students will make an effort to be at every class rehearsal. Parents should avoid pulling their student from school during instructional time except when absolutely necessary.

If a student misses class for any reason, they are expected to spend 30 minutes practicing on their own to make up for the 80 minutes of missed rehearsal. Visit mvhschoir.org/misc for the make-up form; this contains ideas for how to rehearse in meaningful ways.

AUTO-FAIL & AUTO-DROP POLICY

If a student has more than 10 absences in a single term, they will automatically fail the term without opportunity for makeup. Only unexcused and parent-excused absences will be counted. Medical and school-excused absences will not count toward this total and can be made up by communicating directly and promptly with Mr. Taylor.

If a student is in one of the three advanced choirs (Chamber Choir, A Cappella Choir, and Motive) and crosses the 10-absence threshold, they will be expected to drop the class at the end of that term.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

GRADING SCALE

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	0-59.9%

GRADING CATEGORIES

Rehearsal Self-Evaluation	50%
Performances & After School Rehearsals	30%
Assignments/Quizzes	20%

REHEARSALS

The polishing of choral music is a group effort. Each member of the ensemble is vital to the group's success. Each singer must be present, punctual, and focused in rehearsals, receiving the same instruction so that we may perform with unity. Nothing is more important than daily participation in our rehearsals. Every two weeks, student will complete a rehearsal self-evaluation where they reflect on: Attendance, Punctuality, Materials, Cell Phone Policy, and Rehearsal Etiquette. These assessments account for approximately 50% of the overall term grade.

PERFORMANCES

The performance is the culmination and celebration of months of hard work and focus. Each member of the choir is vital to the success of the performance and attendance is essential to success. Families are expected to plan accordingly so as to allow their students to fulfill their commitment as members of a performing ensemble. After each concert, students will complete a performance self-evaluation where they reflect on: Attendance, Punctuality, Physical Preparation, Musical Preparation, and Audience Etiquette.

DRESS REHEARSALS & AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS

The day before each concert, students will stay after school for a dress rehearsal. Other after school rehearsals will be calendared, particularly in preparation for November's fundraising concert. Chamber and A Cappella Choirs hold a fall and spring retreat outside of school hours that are also required. Combined with Performances, these after school elements account for approximately 30% of the overall grade.

QUARTET REHEARSALS

Chamber Choir members are required to rehearse weekly for 30 minutes with their assigned quartet. The members of the ensemble will arrange a time and a location that is mutually agreeable in order to accomplish this. If a student is unable to attend their planned rehearsal, they may make it up by rehearsing for 60 minutes on their own.

COMFORT ZONE ASSIGNMENTS

Students will complete a Comfort Zone assignment once every term (or once per semester for A Cappella Choir). The CZ Assignment is designed to build the confidence necessary for successful choral performance. Students are to identify a situation that would put them out of their comfort zone (with the stipulations that it not be illegal or against school policy) and then willingly and consciously step into such a situation. Students then write a reflection describing the event and its significance to them.

CANVAS

All assignments must be reported or submitted through Canvas. Failure to do so by the assigned deadline will result in a deduction of points, 10% per day late. All ongoing assignments are due a week before the end of the term.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

CHAMBER CHOIR – DRESSES AND SUITS

Chamber Choir performs in assigned formal concert attire. Women will be sized and fitted for a dress, while men are measured for a tailored suit. Both are ordered and purchased through the school. The cost of a new dress is \$70 (this includes jewelry); used dresses are available for \$35. The cost of the suits varies but generally is around \$250 (includes tie and white shirt).

In addition to formal performance attire, Chamber Choir members are sized for a cardigan. These will be used throughout the year for informal performances. The cost of the cardigan is approximately \$40.

A CAPPELLA – ROBES

A Cappella Choir members will be assigned a robe, stole and garment bag. **This robe is to be worn for performances only, never for personal use.** When not in use, always hang up the robe with the stole placed over the shoulders of the robe. Always keep your robe in the garment bag provided. There is a \$50 robe fee (\$25 per semester), which covers the maintenance of robes as well as periodic robe, stole and garment bag replacement due to wear and tear. Fines will be assessed for any lost or damaged robes. The replacement cost of each robe is \$250.

Underneath their choir robe, students are to wear all black. Students may choose to wear their black choir shirt or another suitable black shirt in addition to the following:

- Men – Black dress pants (must be able to hold a crease down the front), long black socks, black dress shoes (must be able to hold a polish)
- Women – Long black dress pants or dress (ankle length); black socks, hose or tights (opaque); black closed-toe dress shoes (no heels)

CON BRIO – DRESSES

Dresses for Con Brio are coordinated through the choir program. Women will be sized and fitted for a dress that is ordered and purchased through the school. Used dresses may be available. If the women have not purchased a used dress by the designated time, a new dress will be purchased for them. The cost of a new dress is \$70; used dresses are available for \$35. Girls will wear black flats underneath their dress (provided by the student).

MAN CHOIR – SHIRT AND TIE

Half of the Man Choir performance attire is coordinated through the choir program; the other half is the responsibility of the individual student. The responsibility of the student is to provide black dress pants (must be able to hold a crease down the front), plain black belt (with conservative buckle), long black socks, and black dress shoes (must be able to hold a polish). Through the choir program, each singer is sized for a black dress shirt and gold tie. In order to maintain uniformity, these shirts and ties must be obtained through the choir program. The cost for the shirt and tie together is \$30 and must be paid in full to the finance office before students can pick-up them up.

CONCERT CHOIR

Performance attire for Concert Choir is the responsibility of the student.

- Women – All black with white accents. Ladies may wear dress pants or dresses (must be at least knee length; longer is preferred). Footwear must be closed-toe; no heels.
- Men – Black dress pants (must be able to hold a crease down the front), long black socks, black dress shoes (must be able to hold a polish), plain black belt, long-sleeved white dress shirt (ironed, if necessary). A black skinny tie will be checked out to you on the night of the concert, and must be returned immediately after.

OTHER

FEES

Participation in Mountain View High School choirs requires a \$80 participation fee (\$40 per semester). The participation fee allows our program to run independent of the school's finances. Participation fees cover but are not limited to the following: festival fees, travel costs, t-shirt costs, classroom resources and supplies, accompanist fees, recording costs, guest clinicians' fees, professional organization memberships and conferences (UMEA, ACDA, AEA, UEA, LMA), costumes, props, piano tuning, awards and rewards, room decoration, publicity, guest artists, festival adjudicators, etc.

TOUR

One of the features and thrills of the school year is the choir's annual tour. The two most advanced choirs (Chamber Choir and A Cappella) are invited and expected to participate in tour. Tour location, dates and cost will be presented and vetted in a September parent meeting. We invite all parents to participate in this important decision. Parents will receive information via e-mail as it becomes available. Tour can cost anywhere from \$400 - \$2,200.

RELIGIOUS MUSIC IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"It is the position of MENC: The National Association for Music Education that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience." (<http://www.nafme.org/my-classroom/music-selection/sacred-music/sacred-music-in-schools-position-statement/>)

The study of sacred music at MVHS does not therefore promote any specific religion, its beliefs, intents, or purposes and the study of such music in the choral classroom will be limited to its musical, historical, and cultural elements.

DISCRIMINATION

Mountain View High School offers education to all students and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. Students who have a grievance with another student or any school employee should talk to the school administration or a counselor about their concerns.

2024-2025 CHOIR CALENDAR

Semester 1

August 26	Choir Opening Social (all choirs)
September 5	Parent Meeting (all choir parents)
September 7	A Cappella Choir Camp (A Cappella only)
September 11	Vineyard City 9/11 Tribute (Chamber Choir only)
September 13-14	Chamber Choir Overnight Retreat
September 23	Fall Concert Tech Rehearsal (all choirs)
September 24	Fall Concert (all choirs)
September 27	Homecoming Performance (Chamber Choir only)
October 22	Mega Concert Rehearsal (all auditioned choirs)
October 23	Masterworks Rehearsal (Chamber Choir only)
October 29	Mega Concert Rehearsal (all auditioned choirs)
November 7	Mega Concert Rehearsal (all auditioned choirs)
November 11	Mega Concert Tech Rehearsal (all auditioned choirs)
November 12	Mega Concert Dress Rehearsal (all auditioned choirs)
November 14-15	Mega Concert Performances (all auditioned choirs)
December 4-5	Collaborative performance with MV Dance (Motive)
December 16	Winter Celebration Tech Rehearsal (all choirs)
December 17	Winter Celebration Concert (all choirs)

Semester 2

January 22	Masterworks Rehearsal (Chamber Choir only)
January 28	ASD Masterworks Festival (Chamber Choir only)
February 10-13	MV Vocal/Piano Solo & Ensemble Festival (all choirs)
February 12	Choir Invitational (Man Choir and Con Brio only)
February 13-14	Valentunes (Chamber Choir only)
March 4	MV Cluster Concert (Chamber Choir and Motive only)
March 12	Region Training Choir Festival (Man Choir and Con Brio only)
March 19	Region Solo & Ensemble Festival
March 19	Region Chamber Choir Festival (Chamber Choir only)
April 10	Region Large Choir Festival (A Cappella only)
April 26	State Solo & Ensemble Festival
April 26	State Chamber Choir Festival (Chamber Choir only)
May 5	Final Choir Concert Tech Rehearsal (all choirs)
May 6	Final Choir Concert (all choirs)
May 9	State Choir Festival (A Cappella only)
May 13	Final Motive Performance (Motive only)
May 15	Choir Closing Social (all choirs)
May ??	Graduation Performance (Chamber Choir only)
