

2018-2019

# UPPER ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL HANDBOOK



UAHS VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

[www.uavocalmusic.org](http://www.uavocalmusic.org)

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Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Upper Arlington High School Choral Program! We are excited for everything that the vocal music area has in store for this year as we continue the program's tradition of musical excellence. We look forward to meeting all of the family members at our concerts, booster meetings, and open house (Thursday, August 30, 2018).

Students, our overarching goal in the choral department is to give you the tools to become self-sufficient musicians so that, post-graduation, you have the ability to continue singing successfully in whatever capacity you choose. As such, we will not only be preparing music for concerts, but also learning the foundations of sight-singing, theory, and history to support our performances. Becoming musically literate and well-versed opens so many exciting doors, and we are eager to assist in empowering you in that way!

This handbook has been created to inform you of all of the events in which the choral students will be involved. Our hope is that your questions and concerns will be addressed here. We understand that communication between students, parents, and directors is of the utmost importance if we are to maintain our level of excellence.

Parents, please take the time to read through the handbook and discuss its contents with your student. After you are finished reading, please use the link found

in the newsletter on Schoology and register your family's information by **September 1<sup>st</sup>** .

You can also find a calendar of events for the year, and this calendar should be printed out and signed and turned in with your \$35 choral fee no later than Friday, August 31.

Again, we are very excited for this year, and we look forward to working with you!

-Ms. Smith and Mrs. Leacock

**CALENDAR**

- Open house is Wed. 8.30.18.
- UA Vocal Music Booster meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm beginning 9.11.18.

**CHORAL FEE - \$35**

Each student will be provided a 3-ring binder, dry cleaned choir robe and stole or glee club / chorus jacket and tie. The fee also assists in covering the expense of having an events photographer



## BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

All students are responsible for reading and abiding by the Students Rights and Responsibilities. In addition, conduct in the choral area is as follows:

1. Have a teachable positive attitude.
2. No food, beverages, or gum in rehearsal or performance areas.
3. Students will be in assigned seats with music folder and pencil by the designated time. Backpacks and other belongings that are not needed for choir should be placed underneath your seat.
4. Rehearsal time is for rehearsal only. No exceptions.
5. Stay seated and quiet during rehearsal. Be respectful of those who are trying to learn. If you have a question, please wait to be called on before speaking or getting out of your seat. Remember - you are dismissed by the teacher, not the clock.
6. Use the restroom before or after class. Only in cases of emergency will passes be given.
7. Respect school property. Be proud of our room and facilities. If you drop something, pick it up. If you move something, put it back where you found it when you're done.
8. Follow the Golden Rule: Treat others as you yourself want to be treated!

Disruption or any kind of misbehavior may result in one or more of the following consequences:

1. Verbal warning and loss of participation points
2. Detention
3. Parental phone conference
4. Office referral
5. Removal from class / choral program

## IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

In class each day, we will typically do two or more of the following:

*Daily warm-ups / vocal exercises, sight - reading / rhythm reading, singing choral arrangements from sheet music, listening exercises, and theory worksheets.*

Every student should keep a pencil in their (provided) 3-ring binder containing everything presented in class (music, completed worksheets, calendar, notes, etc.) A cabinet in which you can keep your folder will be made available for you, should you choose to use it .

## GRADES = SKILLS BASED GRADING

### **Participation (Approximately 50% of 9-week grade):**

Students will be given a daily class grade based on their participation and readiness for class. This means coming to class with all materials (yes, this includes both your music and your pencil) and actively participating in the singing process in order to receive full credit.

*Glee Clubs / Chorus: Missing from glee club / chorus only is considered an unexcused absence. You are only excused from glee club / chorus if you are officially excused through the attendance office from 1st period on.*

### **Written Tests / Quizzes and Sight-Reading and Part-Reading Tests / Quizzes (Approximately 20% of 9-week grade):**

Students will be learning about note-reading, musical expression, musical terms, correct singing techniques, etc., and will be tested at various times throughout the year. Students will also be tested on pitch and rhythmic accuracy, using sight-reading examples, as well as the songs we are preparing throughout the year.

### **Performances (Approximately 30% of 9-week grade)**

Our performances are where we share our hard work with friends and family. If a student is going to miss a performance for any reason, a note or email from his/her parent should be given to the directors at least two weeks in advance. If a performance is missed for an unexpected emergency, the student must present a note or email from his/her parent the next school day. Everyone is encouraged to make performances a priority!

### **Bonus Points**

UAHS choral students are encouraged to attend local choral concerts. A list of area high school and college concerts will be posted on the bulletin board in the music hallway. Students will earn bonus points for each concert they attend. In order to receive points, the student must present a brief oral overview of the concert to Mr. Kauffman or Mrs. Leacock the following school day, in addition to bringing in a program from the concert signed by a parent.

### AUDITION PROCESS

Generally, auditions will be observed by a panel of people. The directors will make a final decision in case of a tie. We encourage you to audition for any and all opportunities, and our greatest wish is that you will be supportive of others auditioning and accepting of the decisions that are made. *Auditions are not based on seniority or overall involvement in the choral program.* Our goal is to fairly assess the talents of each person auditioning and place them both where they will most develop musically, and where they will benefit the choral department.

### OFFICERS

We welcome student input and encourage students to take ownership in the program through a leadership role. The choir officer's primary function is to act as a "voice" for the group. Officers are elected by their peers and should always focus on supporting the positive learning environment we are trying to create. If an officer is not fulfilling the expectations of their office, they will be considered for replacement from that office.

### UNIFORMS

Professional appearance is a sign of pride for any fine musical organization. Therefore, we have established a uniform to be worn at all UAHS performances, and the guideline for that attire is as follows: **(Provided by the school) Men's Glee Club Jacket and Tie and/or Choral Department Robe and Stole.**

#### **Men:**

White button-down dress shirt  
 Black dress pants (no jeans!)  
 Black socks  
 Black dress shoes

#### **Women:**

White blouse (no t-shirt)  
 Black dress pants (no jeans or leggings)  
 Black flats or character shoes with no more than a 1 1/2" heel  
 Small jewelry (or none at all)

- Ensemble members are to wear their designated attire for the year and to add the robe and stole for the Symphonic Choir portion of the program
- Men's Glee/Chorus members will perform without the robe or stole
- Please note that if a student is not dressed in the appropriate attire, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the performance.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **Freshmen Choir (Level 1) Course #4910 - *No Prerequisite***

Membership is open to all Freshman boys and girls wanting to sing, regardless of ability level. The course is designed to address the beginning levels of vocal technique and musicianship. It is important to note that this course is designed to still allow freshmen a study hall at least two days a week while the directors work independently with other sections of the Freshmen Choir. The Freshmen Choir will perform at concerts and district / state events throughout the year.

### **Concert Chorale (Level 2) Course #4911**

The course is designed to address the intermediate level of vocal technique and musicianship. Membership is open primarily to 10th and 11th graders who are still developing their musical knowledge base while continuing to develop a healthy vocal technique that will facilitate more challenging literature. The Concert Chorale will perform at concerts and district / state events throughout the year.

### **Men's Glee (Level 2) Course #4914 - *Designed for freshmen / sophomores***

### **Women's Glee (Level 2) Course #4913 - *Designed for freshmen / sophomores***

### **Men's Chorus (Level 3) Course #4924 - *Designed for juniors / seniors***

### **Women's Chorus (Level 3) Course #4923 - *Designed for juniors / seniors***

This course is designed to address the intermediate level of vocal technique and musicianship. These ensembles are a great answer for students whose schedule is completely full, but still want to be involved in a singing ensemble. The courses meet two days a week before school. This also enables members of the band and orchestra departments to be involved in choral music. Literature is chosen specifically for SSA, SSAA, TTB, or TTBB voicings. All groups will perform at concerts and district / state events throughout the year.

### **Symphonic Choir (Level 3) Course #4912 - *Prerequisite 1-2 years of HS music or equivalent as determined by the director***

This course is an intermediate to advanced level performance group. The course is designed to improve the singers' vocal techniques and build upon the intermediate to advance musicianship level. The Symphonic Choir will perform at concerts and district / state events throughout the year.

**Vocal Ensemble (Level 4) Course #4915 - *Prerequisite 1-2 years of HS music or equivalent as determined by the director***

Membership is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors by audition only. The Vocal Ensemble is an extension of the Symphonic Choir (all VE members must also participate in the Symphonic Choir) and will allow advanced vocal students to rehearse and perform music at a higher technical and artistic level. Members must have the ability to sing alone and yet blend with the ensemble. Several programs throughout the year will require the participants to dance as well as sing. The Vocal Ensemble performs evening concerts during the year for school and community events, as well as festivals and district / state contests throughout the year.



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