

VICTOR J. ANDREW H.S.
CHORAL HANDBOOK
2019-2020

CHRISTOPHER MOAN, CHORAL DIRECTOR

Email: cmoan@d230.org

Twitter: @musicmoan

Website (coming soon!): www.vjamusic.com/choir

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ANDREW MUSIC

Pride in Performance



The mission of the Victor J. Andrew Music program is to promote and facilitate musical excellence in our ensembles, rehearsals and performances. We will establish a safe and encouraging learning environment, develop musicianship, and improve music literacy.

We hope to develop a relationship between art and the everyday so that our students leave the program with a critical sense of purpose, and an infectious passion for music that we hope will be life-long.

Core Values:

P - Purpose

R - Respect (for all people, places, things and music)

I - Identity

D - Dedication (to musically expressive performances and to the group)

E - Energy - Enthusiasm - Efficiency

STAFF

Christopher Moan, Choral Director

Sandra Tuazon, Accompanist

Robert Potsic, Voice Instructor

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to participate fully in rehearsals, sectionals and performances. Students will interact with peers, teachers, and guest clinicians in a respectful manner. Students demonstrating a collegial work ethic, as well as model conduct in rehearsal and performance, will be eligible for advancement in the program. Students participating in groups that meet outside the school day are expected to adhere to all school policies.

VJA CHORAL ENSEMBLES

- Cantabile Choir: Entry-level chorus. Students will build healthy choral and vocal techniques such as forming proper vowel shapes, developing internal rhythm, blend, music literacy, sight-reading, and solfege.
- Concert Choir: Intermediate mixed groups consisting of both female and male students ranging from first to fourth year. Due to the wide range of student experience level, an equally wide variety of choral considerations will be taught including healthy voice production, note-reading, vowel shape and blend, solfege, rhythm reading and performance. The concepts of corporate sound and how to utilize the voice in a large group will also be a focus.
- Bel Canto: Advanced auditioned women's chorus consisting of second through fourth year students. The focus of this group is to build upon previous choral experiences and utilize those expanded capabilities to dive into more challenging treble literature and advanced choral techniques.
- Chorale: Advanced mixed, auditioned chorus. All previous concepts and fundamentals of choral singing apply to the *fullest*. Being the premiere ensemble, the musical, rehearsal, and performance expectations are all set at a much higher level. This group also functions as the touring choir, when such opportunities are presented, and a greater time commitment is assumed upon selection.
- VJA Cappella: Advanced mixed, auditioned pop/jazz octet open to all students. The focus of this group will be to learn proper stylistic treatment of pop/jazz literature while fully *performing* and entertaining through song. Rehearsals will be held once a week in the evening. Be on the lookout! Auditions

will be held after curricular choir placements. Come out and audition -- you'll have a blast!

VICTOR SISTERS: All-level auditioned female ensemble made to foster pop and jazz vocalization. Consider it VJA Cappella without the men!

MAN CHOIR: All-level, non-auditioned male choir established to foster good vocal habits and machismo bonding in a highly musical atmosphere. Huzzah! Added emphasis will be placed on the development of the male voice and having a great time.

ATTENDANCE

Students must attend all functions and activities that their organization is included in unless excused in advance by the director. Daily rehearsal attendance will be taken and recorded. Choirs that rehearse outside of school hours will also adhere to these regulations. Failure to exhibit good attendance day-to-day will affect the overall grade received and in the case of extra-curricular choirs, possible dismissal. **Performances are mandatory.**

Performance opportunities include: concerts, festivals, competitions, administrative functions, as well as school and community events.

Remember: one voice *always* makes a difference.

GRADING

Grading will be based upon the following criteria:

1. Daily participation (attitude, cooperation, attentiveness, punctuality, and preparedness).
2. Attendance at sectionals, special rehearsals, and performances.
3. Behavior during rehearsals, concerts, special trips, and activities.
4. Tests and music assignments including written examinations, concert reviews, and individual/group vocal recording samples.
5. Vocal growth

Each day students will receive five participation points that count toward their final grade. Those who do not contribute their time and energy to rehearsal will be docked a number of points per infraction. Students who are appropriately excused from school or class will not be penalized. Unexcused absences or breach of rehearsal etiquette could result in a zero for the day.

Choosing not to participate in performances could also adversely affect your grade. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in an automatic zero and may not be made up. Only family emergencies, extreme illness, or otherwise extreme circumstances will be considered an excused absence.

Please refer to the choir calendar for all mandatory dates.

Students who earn a grade lower than a “C” will be asked to utilize the new Advisory time to meet with Mr. Moan in an attempt to complete any assignments that may be delinquent, or for choir-related vocal practice.

Grade Distribution/Percentage:

99 - 100 = A+
92 - 98 = A
90 - 91 = A-
88 - 89 = B+
82 - 87 = B
80 - 81 = B-
78 - 79 = C+
72 - 77 = C
70 - 71 = C-
68 - 69 = D+
62 - 67 = D
60 - 61 = D-
0 - 59 = F

Grades are calculated by taking the total number of points accumulated and dividing it against the total number of points possible.

50% Performances/Vocal Growth

Professionalism is expected of you at all performances. Consider them choir exams. Being late to a call-time without prior notification, wearing unapproved attire to a concert, being unprepared or not memorized, adhering to proper performance etiquette will result in an appropriate deduction from your concert grade based upon the severity of the infraction.

30% Concert Reviews/Tests/Assignments/Recordings

Are you efficiently learning your voice part? Have you completed all assignments?

20% Class Participation

Are you participating when instructed to do so? Are you focused each day on the task at hand? Are you using the required physical gestures during warm-ups and/or rehearsal? Are you taking required notes to improve your musicianship and advance your knowledge?

SUPPLIES

Every choir student will be supplied with music, a folder, and a pencil. It is expected that these materials are present for every rehearsal, sectional, or workshop. If any of the materials are lost or damaged, it is the student's job to replace them at their own cost.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Every choir student is required to purchase their concert attire. All choirs have the same concert dress requirements. The music department is making a change to concert gowns and tuxedos. More information will be shared as final cost and rental estimates are finalized. Parent helpers will be assisting in taking measurements at school during choir in the coming weeks.

Checks for choir concert attire should be made payable to the
Andrew Music Parents Organization.

LEADERSHIP INFORMATION, A START...

CONSIDER A CHOIR LEADERSHIP POSITION!

POSITIONS

CHORUS MANAGER

ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH CHOIR

STUDENT DIRECTOR(S)

CREW CHIEFS (TBD)

REQUIREMENTS FOR LEADERSHIP

WHO SHOULD LEAD?

W- THOSE WHO ARE AWARE.

H- THOSE WHO ARE HONEST.

O- OPEN TO CRITICISM, CHANGE, FAILURE

WHAT DO THEY DO?

W - UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN AND THE WANTS AND DESIRES OF OTHERS.

H - CAN BE HAPPY PEOPLE ESPECIALLY WHEN MAKING OTHERS HAPPY.

A - HAVE AN ATTENTION TO DETAIL.

T - UNDERSTAND TRADITION AND ITS NEED FOR EVOLUTION AND ADAPTATION.

CHARACTER CONTENT:

- WHAT IS YOUR VOCAL ABILITY LEVEL?
- DO YOU TAKE PRIVATE LESSONS?
- HAVE YOU MADE DISTRICT CHORUS OR ALL STATE CHORUS?
- HOW IS YOUR SINGING SKILL, POSTURE/CARRIAGE IN REHEARSAL?
- IS YOUR MUSIC MEMORIZED EARLY ENOUGH?
- HOW IS YOUR REHEARSAL FOCUS/LISTENING TECHNIQUE?
- ARE YOU A POSITIVE COMMUNICATOR?

2019-20 CHORAL CALENDAR EVENTS AT A GLANCE:

(Concerts and administrative events are mandatory)

- 8/30 Student/Parent Contract due (last page of handbook)
- 10/1 ILMEA District and All-State Auditions @Sandburg
- 10/3 Fall Choral Concert 7pm, 5pm call**
- 10/15 Senior Citizen Luncheon (Chorale/Bel Canto)
- 10/30 8th Grade Open House
- 11/2-3 Music Parent Fall Craft Show- *volunteers receive service hours*
- 11/13 NHS Inductions 7pm- Chorale only**
- 11/15 Veteran's Luncheon (daytime Chorale event)
- 11/23 IMEA District 1 Festival - Elmhurst College
- 12/11 Prism Rehearsal- All ensembles, 6-8:30pm**
- 12/12 Prism Concert-All ensembles 7pm concert, 5pm call**
- 1/29-2/1 All-State Festival
- 2/26 Senior Academic Recognition Night 7pm - Chorale**
- 3/2-3 Music Parent Spring Craft Show
- TBD SWSC Choral Festival- Chorale only**
- 3/11 Spring Choral Concert- All Choirs**
- 4/16-18 Spring Musical Performances - *volunteer for service hours*
- 5/13 Senior Scholarship Night 7pm - Chorale**
- 5/14 Finale Choral Concert - All Choirs, 7pm concert, 5pm call**
- 5/20 Graduation - All choirs

*All Concerts/Musicals begin at 7:00 PM

-Performer call-times range between 5 and 5:30 PM.

*Tinley Holiday Market Caroling TBA

PRIVATE VOICE INSTRUCTION

Ensuring vocal growth and musical betterment typically takes time living and learning within an ensemble, but also through private voice instruction. If you are interested in pursuing individualized lessons, see Mr. Moan or voice instructor Mr. Potsic for more information. Voice lessons improve the postures and physical processes of human sound production; a total workout for your instrument.

The focus is on your *solo* voice using a myriad of musical styles and genres. Many students have been able to better their voices to advance in choir placement, prepare for collegiate singing, or practice for musical or IMEA District/All-State auditions. Private voice students very often have achieved a high level of individual skill and typically have a leg up on the competition for auditioned groups or activities.

MUSIC PARENT MEETING DATES

Andrew's Music Parent Organization assists in supporting and funding all initiatives connected to music and musical theatre activities. Please join us in the choir room (room 239) at 7:30PM for our monthly meetings and be sure to volunteer at fundraising events! Parents who attend three or more meetings can be considered for board positions in the following year. Additional information and special events can be tracked at vjamusic.com.

8/20/19

9/24/19

10/23/19

11/20/19

2/11/20

3/18/20

4/14/20

STUDENT/PARENT CHOIR CONTRACT

Please print and return the lower portion of this page by August 30th

By signing this contract, I hereby agree to uphold my responsibility as a member of the VJA Choral program by following the rules and guidelines of this organization:

1. I will arrive at rehearsal on time with my music, a pencil, and a good attitude. Gum chewing will NOT be allowed at any time in the choir room while I am supposed to be rehearsing.
2. The choral schedule is my responsibility and I will keep all dates, as given to me by the directors, open and clear of other responsibilities, unless I have already discussed an absence with my director **in advance**. Jobs and work are not acceptable excuses as most schedules can be altered if considered early.
3. I understand that my grade in choir will be determined by the following:
 - a. Daily participation (attitude, cooperation, attentiveness, alertness, punctuality, and preparedness)
 - b. Attendance at sectionals, special rehearsals, and performances
 - c. Behavior during rehearsals, concerts, special trips and activities
 - d. Concerts, tests, music assignments, voice recordings and vocal growth.
4. I will assume responsibility for maintaining academic eligibility in order to participate in any extracurricular music activities.
5. I assume responsibility for my concert demeanor (on and off stage) and attire.
6. I will return my music and any music department materials by the designated deadlines at the end of the year. I realize that there will be a report card hold if I do not comply.
7. I accept that on the first violation of any of the above guidelines notification may be sent to my parents, and that any subsequent violations may involve administrative intervention.
8. I accept all audition and placement proceedings as set by the VJA Choral Program and the VJA Music Dept.
9. I will follow all school rules and policies as outlined in the VJA Student Handbook.

-----**Detach and return the bottom portion**-----

I understand and accept the responsibilities as stated above in the VJA Choir Handbook.

Please print legibly:

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

STUDENT NAME (**print**) _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT NAME (**print**) _____

[Don't forget to include a check for concert attire! See pg. 7]

Stay current with all things regarding our Andrew Music Parent Organization and the dates for Music Parent meetings and volunteer opportunities at www.vjamusic.com!