

Valley High School  
Vocal Music Department



# Choral Handbook

---

2017-2018

Andraya Perron  
Vocal Music Director  
Phone: (970) 350-4263  
E-mail: [perrona@wcsdre1.org](mailto:perrona@wcsdre1.org)  
[aperron@weebly.com](mailto:aperron@weebly.com)  
Planning: 6th hour

## CONTENTS

Note from Mrs. Perron.....	2
Ensemble Information.....	3
Choir Member Responsibilities.....	3
Viking Virtues.....	4
Objectives and Goals.....	4
Grading Policy.....	5
Attendance Policy.....	5
Choir Dues.....	6
Concert Attire.....	6
Music Boosters.....	6
Lettering in music .....	7
Parent/Student Commitment Form .....	8
Schedule of Events.....	9

## A Note from Mrs. Perron

Welcome to the Valley High School choral program! We have an exciting year ahead of us. Please take the time to read through our handbook. You will need to hold onto the calendar of events. Put it on your refrigerator and plan ahead for each required event!

It is my job to ensure that while in choir, you are challenged and successful, and that your voice is heard. We will work together to create a safe environment where you can feel comfortable to contribute, listen and work together to create the best music we can. Similarly, it is your responsibility as part of our team to ensure that you are contributing and supporting the rest of the ensemble. Being in an ensemble requires a unique sense of community, camaraderie and collaboration.

This class may push your boundaries and you may have to take risks! The high expectations that I have for you in choir will lead us to high quality music-making as long as we work together as a team. I ask that everyday when you walk in to choir you leave everything else at the door and come in with an open mind. Music and music-making have a tendency to permeate your mind, body and soul. As long as you put forth your best effort and keep an open mind, we will make wonderful things happen in this room.

Please read over this handbook carefully and keep the calendar of events as a reference throughout the year. Choir is a performance-based class, therefore you are required to be at every scheduled event. If something changes in the schedule I will do my absolute best to relay the new information to you in a timely fashion. Also, please consider having your family members volunteer for Music Boosters. Our department and the things that we are able to do would not be possible without them. We meet monthly and are always looking for new members!

Please let me know if you have any further questions after reading the handbook. This handbook was created to ensure that we uphold the high standards of the Valley High School choral program and that you have a successful year. Please return the attached form no later than Friday, August 18. I cannot wait to begin making music with you!

Best,

Mrs. Andraya Perron

## Ensemble Information

Vallettes Women's Choir - This performance ensemble is open to any Valley High School female student and requires no background in music or singing. We master 2 to 4 part women's pieces from many genres (classical, multi-cultural, folk, pop, etc.). Vallettes performs in 2 performances per semester.

Valley Singers - Membership in Valley Singers is by audition only. This advanced choral singing group requires a background in music and singing. We sing advanced music from every genre (classical, folk, pop, jazz, sacred, world, etc.). The Valley Singers perform many concerts throughout the year and also performs the National Anthem at many school sporting events.

Students in the choral program participate in:

- Fall Concert
- Winter (Holiday) Concert
- Choral Music Festival (working with renowned conductors)
- Performance at the Homecoming Football Game
- Multiple performances of the National Anthem at sporting events
- Singing Valentines
- Jazz Cabaret
- Performance at Valley's graduation ceremony
- Opportunities to audition for Honor Choirs and All-State Choir

## Choir Member Responsibilities

- Be in your seat on time with your folder and pencil in hand, ready to begin when the bell rings.
- Leave all personal items under along the side or back of the room. If your cellphone is out, it will be confiscated and daily participation points will be lost.
- Food, gum and drinks should be left outside of the classroom. A water bottle is encouraged.
- 100% respect to your classmates, Mrs. Perron and other adults in the classroom is required. We are a team and we work as a team.
- It is your responsibility to your classmates and yourself to be in regular attendance and be prepared to strive for your best every day. This means full participation in class and doing the necessary work outside of the classroom.
- Taking notes and writing in your music is expected. Random checks of your music may happen!
- Care for your voice. Your voice is your instrument and cannot be set aside or put away. It is your responsibility to yourself and to the choir to stay hydrated and refrain from smoking and yelling.

- Students will be expected to follow Valley High School expectations.

## Viking Virtues

### All Valley Vikings....

- are ON TIME and PREPARED (in seat with all appropriate materials assembled)
- visibly wear their school provided ID
- use RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE and treat each other with DIGNITY
- turn in QUALITY WORK, ON TIME
- use TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATELY
- COMMUNICATE proactively and professionally to maximize academic success

## Objectives and Goals

Through a balanced repertoire of high quality music representing diverse genres and eras, the student will learn the versatility to perform music in a stylistically appropriate manner, with emphasis on accuracy, consistency, and the highest potential quality. The student will also learn to craft intelligent critical appraisals of performances, to become a functional connoisseur of all types of music.

### Objectives:

- To learn about and develop the voice as a musical instrument.
- To learn about the elements and function of the vocal mechanism and how to perform artistically.
- To develop singing, rhythm, and music reading skills necessary to perform artistically.
- To learn how to follow a musical score and to develop knowledge of the composer's use of musical elements, form and style.
- To learn to appreciate music through exposure to a variety of quality repertoire.
- To develop self-discipline and responsibility as musicians in a musical ensemble.

### Goals:

- Students will be encouraged to actively participate in the production of musical works.
- Students will be encouraged to practice the singing and musical skills necessary to improve their musicianship.
- Students will be expected to perform or demonstrate their knowledge and evaluate the results of their efforts.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate a disciplined and professional approach daily, whether it is in rehearsal or performance.

## Grading Policy

### 35% Performances

All performances are mandatory. A performance is considered an examination of the material that has been covered in class. Concert points are determined by knowing your music, punctuality, arriving in appropriate concert attire, performing professionally, any clean up duties, as well as self and group evaluations.

### 50% Class Participation/Attendance/Daily Classwork

Daily rehearsal points are designed to help reward efforts towards punctuality, posture, good behavior, leadership, musical contribution to rehearsal, preparedness, and having daily materials ready. Daily work may include written assignments, worksheets etc.

### 15% Assessments, Sight Reading and Theory Assignments

Quizzes, Finals, Sight Reading and Music Theory Assignments

## Attendance Policy

- Daily attendance in class is expected. We function as a team and are therefore only as strong as our weakest link.
- Absences from daily rehearsal will require a note from a parent/guardian.
- Any student with an excused absence will be able make up work for full credit.
- Any student with an unexcused absence from daily rehearsal will be able to make up work for partial credit.

### Performances:

- Outside-of-school rehearsals and performances are mandatory. An absence will result in a reduction of grade and possible removal from performance opportunities.
- An excused absence for an outside-of-school rehearsal or performance is defined as: a death in the family, or a medical emergency. Excused absences from performances will require a doctor's note.
- Excused absences from performances may be made up by reflection, essay or with a recording or performance by the individual of their concert music.
- Unexcused absences are things such as: work, driver's ed, transportation, sports etc.
- Unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for that concert.

## Choir Dues

Each year we ask that every new choir member contribute \$50 to their Music account. This is a one-time fee that goes towards necessary materials such as their choir music and performance apparel. All new members are provided with a choir dress or a vest and bowtie. This fee will cover that cost. Checks can be made out to Valley High School. Please return your choir dues with your commitment form on Friday, August 18. Checks can be made out to Valley High School.

## Concert Attire

Concert dress is required for all performances. Our excellence and reputation comes from not only the way we sound but how professional we look and act on stage.

Girls - Ladies will be required to order a matching black formal dress. Ladies are encouraged to wear flat closed-toed black dress shoes. No jewelry should be worn to distract from the performance (i.e large necklaces, earrings or headbands).

Guys - Gentlemen will be in charge of providing their own black dress pants, black dress shoes, black socks, and a button-up, collared white dress shirt. Gentlemen will need to order a matching vest and will be given a bowtie to wear.

## Music Boosters

The Music Booster Club is made up of parents who support the music program and its directors at Valley High School. Boosters are involved in a variety of activities which assist and support our programs. Please think of how you might be involved! There is a place and a need for everybody to lend their talents and ideas. Whether you can make phone calls, input data into a computer, chaperone field trips, write grant proposals for senior scholarships, pin a hem, hand out programs at a concert, hang a sign, build a shelf... We need you! All are welcome! We know that most parents work and have very limited free time so if everybody takes on even a couple of hours' help on a one time basis, we will be in GREAT SHAPE!

# Lettering

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ensemble: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Lettering:    \_\_\_ 1st year    \_\_\_ 2nd year    \_\_\_ 3rd year    \_\_\_ 4th year

The purpose of the vocal music letter is to encourage and reward “above and beyond” activity in vocal music and in musical activities related to the curriculum. To earn a letter, the student must complete all of the following:

1. Maintain academic eligibility according to CHSAA guidelines for the entire year. **Yes No**
2. Participation for a full year in a Vocal Music Course, earning a “B” or higher both semesters. **Yes No**
3. Participation in **all** performances and extra rehearsals, including football games and concerts, given by the ensemble. **Yes No**
4. Good financial standing with the program. **Yes No**
5. Accumulate points under the system outlined as follows (55 points to letter):

\_\_\_ Auditioned for Patriot League, Combined League or All State Choir (5 points)

\_\_\_ Selected for Patriot League Choir or Combined League Choir (10 points)

\_\_\_ Selected for All State Choir (20 points)

\_\_\_ Performed the National Anthem at an event as a small group of 2 or more (5 points)

\_\_\_ Performed at an outside of school event (Senior Tea, Rockies Game etc.)(5 points)

\_\_\_ Performed the National Anthem at an event as a solo (10 points)

\_\_\_ Held an officer position (Section leader, President etc.)(15 points)

\_\_\_ Performed Singing Valentines throughout the district (5 points)

\_\_\_ Had a solo at any concert (10 pts)

\_\_\_ Played/Sang in 2 or more ensembles at VHS for a full year (10 points)

\_\_\_ Participated in the school Musical (10 pts)

\_\_\_ Had a lead role in school Musical (10 pts)

\_\_\_ Performed or helped with the Jazz Cabaret (10 points)

\_\_\_ Had a solo at Jazz Cabaret (10 pts)

\_\_\_ Earned an “A or A+” in the class for all grading periods (10 points)

\_\_\_ Volunteered for extra work to help Mrs. Perron or Music Boosters (10 points)

\_\_\_ Took private vocal/instrumental lessons for the entire academic year (10 points)

\_\_\_ Other:

**Total Points Earned:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Valley High School Choir

## Commitment Form

Please complete and return this form to Mrs. Perron by Friday, August 18th.

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Choir Period \_\_\_\_\_

Student T-shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in assisting with choir activities. Please contact me concerning the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone a trip or contest.

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with fundraiser

\_\_\_\_\_ Chaperone a party

\_\_\_\_\_ Assist with uniforms

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide refreshments

\_\_\_\_\_ Sing/play piano (in public)

\_\_\_\_\_ Music Boosters

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent helper at concert

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

“I have reviewed the entirety of the Choral Handbook and agree to ALL of its terms. I understand my responsibilities as a Valley High School Choir member/parent, and I am willing to participate and support the program in every way. I realize that I am/my child is expected to be at every choir performance and that failure to attend will result in a lowered grade. I will contact Mrs. Perron directly with any more questions or concerns.”

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Signature* \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a new member, please include your choir dues.  
Valley High School Choral Department Schedule of Events

September 1	<i>Valley Singers</i> - National Anthem @ home football game, 7 p.m.
September 15	<i>Valley Singers</i> - National Anthem @ home football game, 7 p.m.
September 29	<i>Valley Singers</i> - National Anthem/Halftime performance @ Homecoming football game, 7 p.m.
October 5	VHS Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
October 13	<i>Valley Singers</i> - National Anthem @ home football game, 7 p.m.
October 27-28	<i>Juniors and Seniors</i> -All-State Choir Auditions
November 6	Patriot League Honor Choir, Union Colony Civic Center, All day
November 28- December 1	Spring Musical Auditions
December 7	VHS Band and Choir Holiday Concert, 7 p.m.
February 14	<i>Valley Singers</i> - Singing Valentines
February 22	Combined League Honor Choir, Union Colony Civic Center, All day
February TBD	Weld RE1 Choral Festival
March 15-17	Spring Musical ( <i>tentative</i> )
April 7	VHS Jazz Cabaret, 7 p.m.
April 8	VHS Jazz Cabaret, 2 p.m.
May 10	VHS Band and Choir Concert, 7 p.m.
May 26	Graduation Ceremony, 9 a.m.

*Please note: All performances are subject to change.  
Every effort will be made to communicate changes in a timely fashion.*