

PUTNAM CITY
NORTH

CONCERT CHOIRS

2017-2018
HANDBOOK

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Identify, define, and use correctly in a musical context notes, forms, and musical terms, as well as aspects of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, phrase shape, and articulation
- Read and notate music at a basic to advanced level, as appropriate
- Follow the conductor at all times
- Sing with expression and technical accuracy in 2 to 8 parts
- Develop proficiency in singing both accompanied and unaccompanied pieces in tune and on pitch
- Employ and internalize tenets of proper vocal technique, including effective singing-posture, and apply them daily so that they become habitual
- Practice sight-singing regularly, using *solfege* (*do, re, mi*, etc.) in several key signatures and meters, which will develop musical literacy and musical independence
- Demonstrate well-developed ensemble singing skills, such as balance, blend, unified vowels, corporate and precise attacks and releases, and in-tune chords
- Gain experience in singing a variety of choral literature from various historical periods and in various styles
- Expand one's appreciation of several different styles of music, including "classical" music
- Discover the historical and cultural context for songs and apply that information to shape one's interpretation of the piece and perform it in the correct style
- Examine the meaning of text, and identify its role in shaping compositional characteristics and the communicative nature of songs
- Practice and develop aural skills by identifying various types of intervals, chords, rhythmic patterns, and melodies
- Listen critically in order to diagnose musical problems and provide one or more technical solutions
- Using specific criteria, describe, analyze, and evaluate musical compositions and performances
- Approach every rehearsal with focused concentration, energy, optimum effort, and enthusiasm, in order to form proper rehearsal habits
- Develop stage presence, poise, and proper performance conduct
- Develop a team-concept and positive atmosphere within the membership of the entire ensemble
- Employ both sides of the brain in the learning process, using both critical thinking skills and creativity

*We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.*

~ Aristotle

REQUIRED MATERIALS -

1. Black binder – provided by choir department (replacement cost - \$3)
2. Workbook – provided by choir department (replacement cost - \$7)
3. Pencils – these will be used for marking music and written work; NO PEN may be used *Students may elect to store their choir materials in the choir room storage cabinets. Each student will have an assigned slot. However, these cabinets are not locked, so students may prefer to carry their folder to and from class each day. It is the student's responsibility to have all required materials for class regardless of where they have been stored.*

CHOIR DUES – Each choir student is expected to contribute a certain amount to help cover program costs. Students are given fundraising opportunities to meet this amount. Choir dues are the additional funding that allows our choir program to thrive! While the district provides enough funding to cover a portion of our music purchasing needs and some other basic supplies, there are lots of other costs that fundraisers help to cover, such as:

Choir department shirts	Website costs
Choir folders	Program printing
Uniform expenses	Posters & flyers
Guest instrumentalists for concerts	Contest recordings
Choral clinicians	Equipment purchases
State choir contest entry fees	Piano tuning
Some OSSAA large ensemble fees	Choir parties
School memberships--OCDA & OMEA	Transportation costs
Practice CDs	OSSAA membership

PCN stickers, World's Finest Chocolate, and Zips Car Wash card sales will begin August 21st. The amount due per person for the 3rd and 4th period students is \$ 80.00, and the amount for 2nd, 5th, and 6th periods is \$ 50.00. Fundraising must be completed by September 14th, 2017. For those who choose not to fundraise, personal checks may be made out to PCN Choir.

ONLINE COMMUNICATION – Each choir student and parent is strongly encouraged to follow one of the choir program's forms of ongoing online communication. The same information is circulated through each of these sources, so it is only necessary to follow one of the three, depending on what is most convenient for you.

- 1) Website: www.pcnchoir.com - *This is also where you will find the choir calendar, links to honor group websites, and much more information about the PCN choir program.*
- 2) Facebook: Putnam City North Choir - *This is also where we post most choir pictures.*
- 3) Twitter: @pcnchoir

REMIND 101 – Each student is also encouraged to sign up for the Remind 101 for his or her choir(s). To sign up, text the corresponding code to 81010.

Men's Choir @pcnjvmen	Showstoppers @pcnjvshow
Women's Choir @pcnjvwomen	Show Choir @pcnshow
Varsity Women's Choir @pcnvwomen	Jazz Choir @pcnjazz
Una Voce: @pcnunavoce	

ELIGIBILITY - One missing student alters the blend and balance of the entire choir. Therefore, it is vitally important that students maintain passing grades in all classes so they can be academically eligible for contests and daytime performances. **The choir department's rule is that a student must be academically eligible beginning 2 weeks prior to an event in order to participate.** Failure to meet this deadline may result in removal from the event. If this becomes a chronic problem, then the directors will recommend a schedule change into another class as soon as it is feasible.

GRADING

I. DAILY CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADES - 30%

- Class participation grades will be taken at random.
 - Students may earn up to twenty points for each daily grade and will be scored according to the “Four P’s of Participation”:
- 1) Posture (sitting/standing with correct, energized singing posture)
 - 2) Pencil & music (having choir materials and regularly marking music during rehearsal)
 - 3) Paying attention (use focused energy, not talking, be mentally engaged in rehearsal)
 - 4) Procedures (follow all classroom procedures - see pg. 7)

II. CONCERT/CONTEST GRADES - 35%

- Students must be in class on the day of the event in order to perform.
- Each performance is worth 100 points. Punctuality to the warm-up and pre-concert practice time is vital to the success of each performance. Being late to a call time will result in at least 10 points being deducted from the grade. Students who are more than five minutes late will lose at least 20 points. Plan to arrive early!
- Because hearing other ensembles is part of their musical education, students are expected to stay for the duration of concerts. Leaving a concert early, even if his or her performance is complete, will result in up to half of the points for that performance being deducted.
- Students are expected to behave with proper concert conduct and decorum on and off the stage, and failure to do so will result in the performance grade being deducted. Inappropriate concert behaviors (for both performers and audience) include: using cell phones or electronic devices of any kind; yelling, whistling, and calling out; whispering and talking; walking up and down the aisles or moving around the auditorium (it is only appropriate to move around the auditorium in case of a severe situation or emergency, and in this case it may only be done during the applause between songs. **IT IS NEVER APPROPRIATE TO WALK AROUND THE AUDITORIUM WHILE MUSIC IS BEING PERFORMED!!!**). Students are encouraged to share their knowledge of concert etiquette with their families and guests prior to concerts!
- Students must wear the complete and proper choir uniform for performances (see pg. 9). **Students who are not in the complete and proper uniform will not be allowed to perform and therefore will not earn credit for the performance grade.**

III. PERFORMANCE QUIZZES - 10%

- Singing assignments, such as sight-singing and part-singing quizzes.
- Piano playing quizzes.

IV. WRITTEN WORK - 10%

- Written assignments, such as music worksheets, workbook completion, & concert reviews
- *Work is due at the end of the class period on the day assigned unless otherwise instructed. Late work will not be accepted. Work submitted with no name will result in a grade of zero. Each day a student is absent will result in the due date being extended by one day. It is the student’s responsibility to get missed work after being gone.*

V. MASTERY CHECKPOINTS - 5%

- Students may attempt each checkpoint up to three times to improve the grade and should utilize each of these opportunities until a grade of “A” is earned.
- All retakes must be completed before the date of the next Mastery Checkpoint.

VI. SEMESTER EXAMS - 10%

EXTRA CREDIT

Choir students may earn an extra 5 points on a daily grade by:

- 1) Attending a choral event at any church, community venue, or school and bringing Ms. Keegan-Moring or Ms. Murphree the program with your name on it.
- 2) Attending a musical theater production and bringing Ms. Keegan-Moring or Ms. Murphree the program with your name on it.
- 3) Attending a PC North band concert, drama production, or orchestra concert and bringing Ms. Keegan-Moring or Ms. Murphree the program with your name on it and the signature of the conductor/ teacher.

**These extra credit options apply only to events where the student can participate as an audience member. Performing in the extra things is great! ...but since you're required to be there, it doesn't earn extra credit.*

MAKE-UP WORK FOR MISSED PERFORMANCES

A conflict form must be submitted at least two weeks prior to any missed performance!

1) EXCUSED ABSENCES

The student should complete the written make-up assignment if a performance was missed due to:

- illness (a note or call is needed from the parent BEFORE the concert takes place)
- death in the family
- *dire* family emergency (a note or call is needed from the parent)

It is the student's responsibility to ask for a make-up assignment as soon as he/she returns to class. The report is due two weeks from the date of the performance or two weeks from the date she/he returns to class after the performance.

Having to work is not an excused absence because the dates on the choir calendar are given to all students before the end of August (as part of this handbook) and well enough in advance that arrangements can be made with employers. If a student gets a job, it is the student's responsibility to communicate with his/her employer about required performance and rehearsal dates as early as possible.

2) CONFLICT WITH ANOTHER REQUIRED SCHOOL ACTIVITY:

Inform the choir directors (**by way of a conflict form**) and the sponsor/ teacher of the conflicting activity ASAP. It will be the student's responsibility to work with both teachers to arrive at a compromise. Generally, a good rule to follow is to keep a personal calendar, regularly plot commitments on the calendar, and honor whichever commitment is known first. If a student discovers that he or she must miss any part of a performance (including pre-concert warm-ups) because of a conflict with another required school activity, **the student must turn in a conflict form at least two weeks prior to our performance**, and a note or e-mail from the other teacher may be required to verify the conflicting activity. If these guidelines are followed, this will be considered an excused absence.

3) UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

The performance grade may **NOT** be made up if the absence was unexcused, such as:

- job/working
- over-sleeping
- forgetting
- not having a ride
- participating in another event for church, community, work, etc. **Because the Choir Calendar is given to students the first week of school, students have plenty of time to make arrangements to participate in all required performances.**

4) OTHER:

Situations not listed above will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Conflict forms should be turned in as soon as possible and no later than two weeks in advance of the rehearsal or performance to be missed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHOIR MEMBERS

In addition to concerts and required performances, students will have the chance to participate in additional activities to enhance their vocal music experience. At a minimum, 2017-2018 choir students will have the following extra choir opportunities:

- Group performances at community retirement homes
- COCDA (All-District) Honor Choir auditions & clinic
- OCDA and OMEA (All-State) Honor Choir auditions & clinic
- OSSAA District and State level solo & ensemble contests
- Working with professional guest clinicians
- Enjoying performances by visiting artists

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

The following procedures are also posted in several locations in the choir room.

Students SHOULD...

1. Place all belongings (including cell phones & purses!) in floor along mirror when you enter the classroom
2. Have only required class materials with you at your seat
3. Be in your seat with your folder, pencil, and workbook when the bell rings
4. Stay in your assigned place for the duration of rehearsal and participate fully
5. Comply with all instructions given

Students should NOT....

1. Talk while the teacher is talking
2. Talk during singing
3. Leave the room without permission
4. Move around the room during rehearsal
5. Chew gum
6. Have food or drink on the risers
7. Have a cell phone on the risers
8. Go behind the risers
9. Play the piano without permission
10. Move any chairs
11. Enter any peripheral rooms without permission

HALL PASSES – Students may use three hall passes per quarter during choir class, and they may use only those passes issued to them. Permission to use one of the hall passes will not necessarily be granted at all times. When permission is granted, a teacher’s signature will be required in order for the student to leave the room. Hall passes allow students to be absent from the room for 5 minutes. The use of hall passes should be kept to a minimum as it is highly disruptive to the rehearsal process to have people coming in and out of the classroom.

TARDIES – PCN policies regarding tardies and consequences will be followed. If a student is kept late by another teacher, s/he must bring a note from the teacher for the tardy to be excused. Additionally, to avoid being counted tardy, students should be in their assigned seat with their folder when the bell rings.

SICK DAY/LOSS OF VOICE POLICY – When a student is having vocal difficulty, he or she may notify Ms. Keegan-Moring or Ms. Murphree of the problem before class and then continue with rehearsal as usual, doing his or her best without straining the voice. Students are always expected to sit with good posture, follow along, and participate in class to the best of their ability. If a student is too sick to do this, he or she should see the nurse.

COMMUNICATION – Always communicate directly with one of the directors. Never send word with another student. This applies to all situations including, but not limited to, being late, missing a deadline, being absent...everything! Talk to a director yourself in person or via email.

SUBMITTING FORMS, WORK, AND OTHER ITEMS – Turn items in directly to a director in the choir room. Never leave something in the attendance or main office or in our box. Bring it to us instead to ensure it is received in a timely manner.

CHOIR DIRECTOR CONTACT INFO

Stephanie Keegan-Moring, director
smoring@putnamcityschools.org

Angela Murphree, assistant director
amurphree@putnamcityschools.org

Choir Office Phone: (405) 722-4220 ext. 2654

PARENTS' CHORAL CONNECTION (PCC)

What is it?	A booster club for parents, family, and friends of PCN Choirs.
When was it founded?	In 1995, by three PCN choir parents.
Purpose?	For parents and friends of the arts to support the PCN choir program!
Funding sources?	Fund Raising Events: Parent Choral Connection sponsors several fund raising events during the year to further assist with the cost of running our choir program. These events will include a silent auction event, concession & picture sales at the school musical, and the Spring Dessert Revue.

In short, *PCN Choral Connection* is indispensable. We hope that all parents will become involved! Information about meetings will be posted on the choir website.

UNIFORMS

For WOMEN, the concert choir performance uniform will consist of the following:

- 1) ****The choir dress**
- 2) Closed-toe, low-heeled dress shoes that are completely black. Flats are also acceptable. No flip-flops, tennis shoes, boots, sandals, or extremely high heels. Tom, Vans, and Converse are not acceptable. Students will spend a good deal of time standing in these shoes, so they should be comfortable and sturdy.
- 3) All women should wear black hose or tights.
- 4) No jewelry other than earrings which must be smaller than a dime (exception: students may wear necklaces and/or larger earrings for solo & ensemble contests).
- 5) No undergarments may be showing at any time (i.e. sports bra straps or back).
- 6) Hair should be a natural color and pulled back out of the face.

For MEN, the concert choir performance uniform will consist of the following:

- 1) ****Tuxedo jacket**
- 2) ****Black tuxedo shirt**
- 3) ****Burgundy necktie**
- 4) ****Tuxedo pants**
- 5) Tall black socks - provided by each student
- 6) Black dress shoes - provided by each student
- 7) Hair should be a natural color and neatly secured out of the face.

****These items** are "rented" from PCN choir. This cost is included in the choir dues, so no additional money will be required. Uniform pieces will be checked out to students early in the year, worn for performances throughout the year, and returned to the choir room by May 11, 2018.

The machine washable dress (inside out, cold, line dry), tuxedo pants, and men's shirt should be cleaned before they are returned and then brought back in excellent condition on a hanger. **DO NOT** put tuxedo jackets in the washing machine! The choir department will have the jackets dry cleaned each year upon return. Students will be responsible for any damages to their assigned uniform pieces (see choir uniform contract).

PCN Choir 2017-2018 Calendar

August

*August 25 – Handbook consent forms, drug testing consent forms, & field trip authorization forms due

September

September 5 – Honor Group Entry Fees Due

*September 20 – Dues payment deadline

September 30 – COCDA Honor Choir Auditions (@ Edmond Memorial High School)

October

October 9 – Fall Concert

October 28 – 1st Round OMEA & OCDA All-State Honor Choir Auditions (@ Enid HS)

October 30 – COCDA All-District Honor Choir festival & concert (@ Council Road Baptist Church)

November

November 10 – Veterans' Day Assembly

November 11 – 2nd Round OMEA All-State Honor Choir Auditions (@ UCO)

November 14 – All-State Jazz Honor Choir Auditions & 2nd Round OCDA Honor Choir auditions

November 20 – Una Voce community performances

December

December 5 – Blacklight Assembly

December 8 – Holiday Concert

January

January 11-13 – OCDA 9th Grade All-State Honor Choir Convention (@ Cox Convention Center)

January 17-20 – OMEA 10th-12th Grade All-State Choir Convention (@ Tulsa PAC)

January 23 – District solo & ensemble entry fees due

February

February 5-7 – Showcase Tech & Dress rehearsals

February 8-9 – Showcase 2017 Performances

February 17 – District solo & ensemble contest (@ Mustang HS)

February 20 – North Area Vocal Festival

February 27 – State solo & ensemble entry fees due

March

March 1-5 – Trip to New York City

March 13 – Spring Concert (State Contest Music)

March 15 – JV After School Contest Rehearsal

March 26-27 – JV After School Contest Rehearsals

March 28 – JV & Varsity State Contest (@ Norman North HS)

April

April 5 – Una Voce State Contest (@ Tulsa Union)

April 20 – State solo & ensemble contest (@ OBU)

May

May 3 – Spring Dessert Revue

May 4-5 – District Arts Festival Choir rehearsals & performance

May 5 – District Arts Festival (@ PCN)

*May 11 – Uniform return deadline

May 16 – Jazz Concert @ UCO Jazz Lab

May 17 – Show Choir Tryouts

May 17 – Baccalaureate

Deadlines that are required for everyone are marked with an asterisk ()

Required events for all choir members are those in bold and italics. Each choir student will also be required to attend state contest with his or her choir (either March 28th or April 5th). Conflict forms must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of any required activity. Please plan ahead!

Other events may be required only for certain choirs. Additionally, many events (such as honor choirs and solo & ensemble contests) are optional for individual singers.

2017-2018 HANDBOOK CONSENT FORM

Handbook Consent: we, the undersigned have read and agree to all the policies and guidelines in this handbook. (Parents: especially note information regarding grading, make-up assignments, uniforms, missed performances, and fundraising expectations.)

****Your child will receive a grade of 100% for turning this in, signed, by the date below. Ten points will be deducted for each day that it is late.**

*****Due Date: Friday, Aug. 25, 2017*****

Student's name (print): _____

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's name (print): _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Cell: _____ Parent cell: _____

Student Cell (optional): _____

Student's T-Shirt Size: _____

Please list the address(es) where you would like to receive PCN Choir e-mails (such as the bimonthly choir newsletter) during the school year.

Parent email #1: _____

Parent email #2: _____

Student's email: _____

Emergency contact phone number: _____

Please fill out BOTH sides

