

Pacific Trails Middle School Vocal Performance Course Syllabus

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Course Overview: Vocal Performance class is designed to provide students tools to improve their overall vocal technique and general musicianship skills. The foundations of music notation and music terminology will be explored primarily through ensemble singing, though students will also be asked to sing in small groups and as soloists. Additional areas of study include sight-singing, critical listening, improvisation, and music composition. Repertoire is selected to challenge student's technical skills, and broaden their awareness of time and place as expressed through art. It will include songs in various languages, representing diverse cultures and historical time periods. As the name suggests, Vocal Performance is a *performance* based class – students will be expected to participate fully in rehearsals and both in-class and public concerts.

Purpose of Course: Vocal Performance is a multi-level class designed to develop vocal skills and techniques to prepare students for high school choral or musical theater programs. Students will study the fundamentals of healthy vocal technique, harmony singing, and music reading, which will provide them the necessary foundation to succeed in music at the high school level and beyond.

Concert Attire: Students are asked to dress in **ALL BLACK** for public concerts. Concert attire should be “dressy” but not necessary “formal.” A knee length (or longer) dress with covered shoulders, a knee length (or longer) skirt with a top or sweater that covers the shoulders, or black dress pants and a black dress shirt (short or long sleeved) is recommended. Black dress shoes are expected - conservative heels are fine. The goal is to provide a sense of unity while allowing students to retain a semblance of individual style. Please err on the side of modesty – the audience will thank you.

Class Rules:

Respect one another - be kind, be positive, be supportive, be engaged. It is imperative that we create a classroom environment where students feel safe to experiment, ask questions, make mistakes, and sing out with gusto!

Respect your school - pick up trash, put things where they belong, protect the instruments.

Respect yourself – work to the best of your ability, conduct yourself professionally on and off campus, come prepared with necessary materials and concert attire.

Grading:

Major Assignments (40%) Solo Project, Small Group Project, Winter Concert Reflection, Spring Concert Reflection

Class Participation (20%) Active participation in a performance based class is essential. Ability to participate effectively is measured by preparedness (i.e. bringing pencil and course materials to every rehearsal), active engagement (i.e. completing physical movements and singing with appropriate volume), active listening (i.e. listening attentively and providing constructive feedback when asked.)

Performance Tests (10%) Students may be asked to sing selections of repertoire pieces or vocal exercises either alone or in small groups. Tests will be based on material covered in class. Grades are based on accuracy of pitch, rhythm, tone, and phrasing.

Sight-Reading Tests (10%) Students will be tested on their ability to apply the sight-singing and rhythm reading skills developed in class. Students may be asked to clap or speak rhythms, or sing on Solfeggio syllables (do re mi...), numbers, or neutral syllables (la la la).

Practice Logs (10%) Students are expected to practice outside of class for a minimum of 50 minutes per week. Practice logs can be accessed and submitted through my website. Mindful practice is how we improve as musicians – reflections should be taken seriously.

Written Quizzes (10%) Students will be tested on their understanding of music fundamentals as covered in class.

***See cell phone policy for complete details – in a nutshell, electronic devices should be silenced and put away unless otherwise directed.**

Please log onto our PTMS Music Foundation Website to sign this form digitally. Thank you.

<http://ptmsmusicfoundation.weebly.com/>