

Pacific Trails Middle School Vocal Performance Course Syllabus

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Course Overview: Vocal Performance is designed to provide students with 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* - take pride in the work that you do and share it willingly with the wider school community. Handle course materials, equipment, and instruments with care. *Respect yourself* – make personal wellness a priority, work to the best of your ability, conduct yourself professionally on and off campus, come prepared with necessary materials and concert attire.

Grading:

Assignments (30%) Students will be expected to perform as soloists and in small groups in front of the class. Students may be also asked to work as individuals or in groups to find examples of music which meet a particular criteria, compare and contrast musical examples, or reflect on a topic related to music appreciation.

Class Participation (30%) 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), and participation in class performances.

Practice Logs (20%) Students are expected to practice outside of class for a minimum of 50 minutes per week. Weekly practice logs should be submitted through the Google Classroom. Mindful practice is how we improve as musicians – reflections should be take seriously.

Tests and Quizzes (20%) 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. Students will also 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).

Cell Phone Policy: “If I see it I will take it.”

Electronic devices must be turned off or silenced and placed – along with earbuds – in backpacks for the duration of the class, including breaks. Phones DO NOT go with you to the restroom. Phones/devices may be used within the classroom at teacher discretion ONLY for academic purposes, including but not limited to: Researching on the web for class assignments, using educational apps or curriculum links for class assignments, using Google Docs for an assignment, making recordings to assist with practice. .

Consequences (THERE WILL BE NO WARNINGS): First Strike: Your phone will be taken and given to the office for pick-up at the END OF THE SCHOOL DAY. Second Strike: Your phone will be taken and given to the office for pick-up BY YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN. Third Strike: An action plan will be established either through ADMINISTRATION or through Ms. Mitchell.