

PARKERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR SYLLABUS “A PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE”

Congratulations on being selected to a program of choral excellence. For many years, many young men and women have participated in the PHS choral program with pride. Now it is your turn to wear the robe, carry the candle singing “O Come Immanuel”, and uphold the tradition of excellence. It is your obligation to demonstrate the highest standards possible, both on and off the stage, and pass on the musical torch to the next group of singers.

As your director, I am excited to continue the great excellence that the choral program has set. I look forward to meeting each one of you and working with you throughout the school year. I ask that you welcome all with warmth and excitement for the coming year. We are all a part of one of the best choral programs in the state—let’s do our best to keep it that way! The bond that we share in this room will create memories for ourselves and the audiences that will hear us in the coming weeks and months.

We must work together to learn, grow, and keep our families and community proud of the tradition that is the A Cappella Choir.

REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

You are expected to be at ALL rehearsals and performances. Included with this syllabus is a calendar of tentative dates in order for you to schedule appropriately. Monthly schedules will be given in advance for you to request off work or schedule your appointments appropriately. Please schedule work, appointments, tutoring, private lessons, etc. around rehearsals and performances. Emergencies will occur, and they should be kept to a minimum. A Cappella will rehearse most Thursdays at 6:30 PM. Occasionally, rehearsals will fall on a Monday or Thursday. Your presence is necessary for the group to be successful.

FUNDRAISING

Fund raising is a necessary part of every program at PHS. The monies raised in this group help cover costs such as: equipment, risers, robes, travel, extra opportunities, accompanists, special music orders, student recognition, and many other items.

You will be asked to help raise the money necessary to support our program. A student account will be established in your name. Part of the profit you earn for the choir will go into the account for future use on a trip. For this to be successful, EVERYONE must do their part. Several fund raisers have been planned for this year. Stay tuned for more information to come!

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Goal 1: The choir will increase learning by establishing critical thinking and high-quality activities.
- Goal 2: The choir will increase student learning by improving communication between the school and community through public performance.
- Goal 3: The choir will emphasize that students actively engage in the questioning and the analyzing of music.
- Goal 4: Students will develop their singing ability to their fullest potential.
- Goal 5: Students will be exposed to an appreciation for high quality vocal literature.
- Goal 6: Students will develop musical reading skills.
- Goal 7: Students will understand and interpret musical symbols within a musical score.
- Goal 8: Students will develop tools necessary to evaluate performances of ourselves and other ensembles.
- Goal 9: Students will participate with musical focus and be actively involved in every rehearsal.

GRADING

Grades will be issued using the countywide A-F grading scale. Please refer to the handbook for more detailed information.

Students' participation grades are based on students': **F**ocus, **A**ccuracy, being on **T**ask, and **E**nergy (**FATE**).

Participation grades are given daily at a value of 10 points per day and varies from quarter to quarter.

Each performance is 100 points in addition to any current participation grades.

Please note: the teacher has the right to remove a student from class if he or she does not uphold the standards and expectations of the school and/or choir.

COMMUNICATION

Good communication is essential to the running of this program. If parents have questions, please refer to the booster booklet for the proper contact. Mr. Dubs is **BEST** reached via email at Joshua.dubs@k12.wv.us. You may also leave a voicemail at the school (which are forwarded to email) at 904-420-9595 ext. 180.

TRIPS

Each year, the A Cappella Choir takes a trip to compete against other choirs. This offers musical and educational opportunities for singers in our choir. This year, we will attend a competition trip in Atlanta, GA. Students will be given information as details become available. Students are expected and encouraged to participate in the trip. Students who need assistance should contact Mr. Dubs immediately.

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

ACDA JH/SH Honor Choir

Date: Audition (SH): November 12th, Conference: January 26th-28th

Location: Charleston Civic Center

Cost: \$100 plus meals

Process: Students seeking an excellent choral experience are invited to audition for the JH/SH Honor Choirs. Junior High (9th Gr) students are selected by invitation of the director with no formal audition necessary. However, audition may be used to determine the best musician, if needed. Students are responsible to learn the selections on their own and in after school rehearsals. Senior High (10th-12th Gr) students undergo a formal audition held at West Virginia University's Morgantown campus. In addition to learning the selected pieces, students must also practice sight singing, rhythm clapping, and minor scales.

Solo and Ensemble

Date: February 4th, State Recital: March 2nd or 3rd, 2023 (during WVMEA)

Location: Ripley High School, Charleston Civic Center (state recital)

Cost: Free

Process: Students wishing to perform solo or small ensemble works are invited to select a piece and learn it with some assistance from Mr. Dubs. All students must perform their selections for Mr. Dubs before the festival to ensure adequate preparation. Students may ask Mr. Dubs to accompany with adequate notice or ask for help to find an accompanist. Students who receive a rating of 1-Superior may be invited to record their piece to be considered for the State Honor Recital, held in March at the Civic Center. This is a distinct and high honor.

All State Choir

Date: Audition: February 14th, Conference: March 2nd-4th

Location: PSHS, Charleston Civic Center

Cost: \$100 plus meals

Process: Eight upperclassmen will be selected by the director to learn pieces in preparation to audition for the All State Choir. Students are required to learn the pieces on their own and as well as after school in combined rehearsal with the director. The students will audition together at Parkersburg South High School with the director