

MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL

CHORAL DEPARTMENT

HANDBOOK

Welcome to the school year 2018-2019!

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to what promises to be a *spectacular* new school year here at MVHS! I am incredibly excited about the 2018-2019 school year, and know that it promises to be filled with *exciting opportunities* for all of our young singers!

As we begin this new year, I pledge to you (students and parents) that this will be a wonderful year of engaging, meaningful, and rigorous work in our classroom, along with some fun and special times through a plethora of musical events.

During this 2018-2019 school year, we will continue to build upon and refine our foundation of good work and many worthwhile traditions. Our vision? Simply put: *Embrace Opportunities . . . Unlock Potential . . . Inspire Excellence!*

I look forward to a very positive and productive year together! And I extend a special, yearlong invitation to our parents to join us/volunteer at music activities and events whenever you can. We want . . . we need . . . and we value your involvement and support in your child's education! For it is key to the success of your young musician during his/her school years.

Please also know that I highly value home/school communication. It is vital and plays an integral role in each student's success. Please do not hesitate to contact me if/when the need arises. I will do likewise. I want and encourage our parents to stay *in the know* about their child's studies, assignments, assessments, and school activities, as well as other events and happenings.

Again, we welcome you to the MVHS Choral Department . . . a place alive with much energy . . . enthusiasm . . . and a high standard of *excellence*! It is, indeed, a place where opportunities abound! Here's to an AWESOME new school year . . . and seizing each and every moment!!

Sincerely,

Marty Bell

Marty Bell
Choral Director, Mount Vernon High School

Chorale meets 3rd period every day. They prepare a variety of literature, which varies depending on the time of the year. Sightreading and sightsinging techniques and exercises will also be a part of the curriculum. The chorale will be in formal attire. The men will be in black pants, white dinner jackets, white tux shirts, black bow ties and vests. The tux pants, jackets, vests and ties have been purchased by the Music Booster Organization. The ladies will be wearing a black, formal dress that will be purchased by the new members and can be worn each year in the group. There may be used dresses for sale (at a reduced price) at the beginning of the year. Ladies dresses (purchased new) are **\$57.00**. May Fiesta shirts will be ordered at the end of the year and worn for that concert. For Fiesta, ladies will also need to have a floor-length formal gown. Any color or style is acceptable as long as the dress meets school dress codes. Guys will also wear their tuxes. **There is a \$25.00 participation fee per year that is due by the end of the year.** This will be paid through the main office. More details will be made available at a later date.

Women's Choir meets 2nd period every day. They prepare a variety of literature, which varies depending on the time of the year. Sightreading and sightsinging techniques and exercises will also be a part of the curriculum. This year, the Women's Choir members will be wearing the black choir robes for concerts. Choir members will need to wear a skirt or dress and black shoes. For Fiesta, ladies will need to have a floor-length formal gown. Any color or style is acceptable as long as the dress meets school dress codes. May Fiesta shirts will be ordered at the end of the year and worn for that concert. **There is a \$25.00 participation fee per year that is due by the end of the year.** This will be paid through the main office.

Solo and Ensemble Contest. Anyone wishing to prepare a solo for the event will need to be studying with a private teacher on this. Forms for this contest will be due before December break. Only students scheduled in the class during the second semester are eligible for this event even though rehearsal time may begin during the first semester.

Grades will be based on the following criteria for each student for each nine weeks period.

A	92.5 – 100	C	72.5 – 77.49
A-	90.0 – 92.49	C-	70.0 – 72.49
B+	87.5 – 89.00	D+	67.5 – 69.99
B	82.5 – 87.49	D	62.5 – 67.49
B-	80.0 – 82.49	D-	60.0 – 62.49
C+	77.5 – 79.99	F	below 60

Points will be earned for the following activities and performances:

Concert Attendance	40%
Recording Requirement	30%
Daily Participation	20%
Written Assignments/Quizzes/Moodle	10%

Extra Credit – Extra credit may be earned during the nine weeks as follows:

Attendance at other choral performances	5 points
Concert Solos	5 points
Solo and Ensemble Participation	10 points
Other possibilities may be added by the director as opportunities arise.	

Concert Attendance - (40% of grade) - Mount Vernon High School Choral Department

It is not possible to physically or aesthetically make up a missed musical performance. A missed performance will result in the loss of the credit given for that particular event.

Members of the choirs are expected and required to attend and participate in all scheduled and related events. Please note the following excused exceptions:

If an absence is the result of: 1) Personal illness or injury 2) Death in the family 3) An event such as a family wedding or family graduation, it will be counted as an excused absence.

If it is illness, PLEASE have a parent or guardian call us PRIOR to the performance so that we know where you are!

If it is a planned event, please give at least THREE WEEKS written notice from a parent so that adjustments – finding a replacement – can be made before the performance.

If the absence is excused, the student will be expected to make a recording of all the music that he/she would have performed and turn in the recording within five school days of the missed performance. If excused, the concert grade will be exempted from their grade for that quarter. If no recording is submitted, or is submitted late, then a zero will be entered for the concert grade. Recordings may be made on CD or submitted digitally to: mabell@mvcasd.us.

If the absence is unexcused, a zero will be entered for the concert grade.

Every effort will be made to avoid conflicts between extra-curricular athletic events and co-curricular programs. In the event that a conflict does occur (i.e.: a re-scheduled baseball or softball game), the student will be expected to fulfill the graded course obligation first.

Recording Requirement - (30% of grade) - – This gives the director an opportunity to hear each student individually and listen for strengths and weaknesses in intonation, tone, rhythm, diction, and part accuracy. Specifications for this assignment will be sent in emails and posted on the bulletin board. Due dates are enforced – points will be deducted for lateness. Late recordings will only be accepted until the last day of the quarter. Extra credit will be assigned for early submissions. Any student that has turned in recordings from the first three grading periods on time may be allowed to skip the fourth quarter recording. In this case, an average of the first three recordings will be used for the grade for the fourth quarter grade. Recordings will be made through the student Charms account. www.charmsoffice.com
Cassette tapes, mini cassettes and flash drives will not be accepted.

Daily Participation - (20% of grade) - – This area includes adherence to classroom rules and behavior, gum chewing, folder use, return of assigned music, and tardiness. Concert music is due during the first rehearsal after the performance.

Written Assignments/Quizzes/Moodle - (10% of grade) - – Short written assignments may be assigned as a means of critiquing, analyzing, examining, or summarizing concert performances. Quizzes may be given, as needed, to establish a groundwork of basic terminology. Written assignments may also be administered as the day's assignment by a substitute in Mrs. Bell's absence.

Bus Transportation - When we travel on the school bus to an event the following policy will be enforced: All participating students are to ride with the group to the event on the bus. If you wish to leave the event before the scheduled bus departure time, you may leave with your parent and your parent only. In this case, a note (signed by your parent) stating your plans must be given to the office for approval and then to Mrs. Bell **prior** to the event. Any requests to leave with someone other than your parent also must be cleared, in writing, by the main office prior to the event.

Choir Calendar of Events

*Tuesday., October 16	7:30 PM	Fall Concert	Theater
*Mon., December 17	7:00 PM	MS/HS Holiday Choir Concert	MVNU
Wed., Jan. 16	6:30 PM	Solo and Ensemble Recital	Theater
Sat., Jan. 26	all day	Solo and Ensemble Contest	Granville
*Tues., March 5	7:00 PM	Band/Choir Concert	Theater
*Friday, May 3	7:30 PM	May Fiesta	Theater
*Saturday, May 4	7:30 PM	May Fiesta	Theater
Sun., May 26	3:00 PM	Graduation (Select Ensemble Only)	Kenyon?

***COURSE REQUIREMENT**