2014-2015 Alta High School Choirs

Disclosure Statement and Policies

**Instructor:** Mr. Griffiths

**Email:** [adam.griffiths@canyonsdistrict.org](mailto:adam.griffiths@canyonsdistrict.org)

**Office Phone:** 801-826-5672

**Choir Website:** altachoirs.weebly.com

Welcome to the Alta High School Choir Department! I am very excited to work with you and share in some incredible music experiences. I hope you will find joy in participating in this program and that it will provide some memorable experiences for you.

**ATTENDANCE**

Alta High School’s attendance policy will be followed. Grades in this class are primarily dictated by attendance and participation, so it is crucial that students attend class as much as possible.

**GRADING**

Grading for all choirs will be broken down as follows:

* 40% Participation
  + 20 points per day will be awarded for **FULL** participation
* 40% Concerts, After School Rehearsals, etc.
* 20% Concert Reports, Practice Records, Quizzes, Assignments

**PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are required to attend and participate in **EVERY** choir performance. A schedule of performances will be handed out with this disclosure. Please put these concerts on your personal and family calendars NOW. If you are already seeing conflicts with the calendar, it may be wise to consider enrolling in another class instead of choir.

If, for a very serious reason, a student is unable to make it to a performance, there is a make up option. However, students will only be able to earn a maximum of half of the points possible, and there is very specific criteria they will have to fulfill. Also, they MUST notify Mr. Griffiths 30 days BEFORE the concert. They will then be given the requirements for the make up assignment. The assignment will be due two weeks after the missed concert, or by the end of the quarter if that comes first. Late make-up will not be accepted. If students find they have a conflict, they must do EVERYTHING THEY CAN to arrange to attend the concert before talking to Mr. Griffiths.

If sufficient notice is not given to Mr. Griffiths, students will not be allowed to make up any of the points.

**CONCERT REPORTS**

A concert report is due the Friday before the end of each term. If it is turned in on time, you can receive up to 100 points. If it is turned it late, or if the full criteria is not met, points will be docked.

Students will attend a classically oriented concert each term. This could include choir concerts, band/orchestra concerts, jazz concerts, musicals, etc. This will NOT include rock/pop concerts, etc. If you have any questions about what qualifies, please ask Mr. Griffiths. The concert attended must be a concert they are NOT participating in, even if they listen to the other performers. You must report on a LIVE concert! You may NOT report on a video you watched on DVD or YouTube. You will type one FULL page about the concert. You must stay for the entire concert. Say something intelligent about it and talk about your emotional response to the music. You may discuss your favorite songs, least favorite, the programming, the emotion of the players, etc.

If you are in multiple choirs, you will only need to turn in one concert report to satisfy all of them. However, if you are in both the choral and instrumental music programs, you may not use the same concert report to turn in for both. If Mr. Shabestari or I find you have used the same report for both of our classes, you will receive zero points in both classes.

The following are the formatting specifics that must be followed to receive full credit:

* 12 point font
* Double spaced
* Times New Roman, Cambria, or Helvetica font
* 1 typed page (FULL page, no large headings at the top)
* State your name and class(es) you’re in
* Name and date of the concert you attended

**PRACTICE RECORDS**

Practice records are due the Friday before the end of each term (the same day as the concert reports). If it is turned in on time, you can receive up to 100 points. If it is turned it late, or if you don’t meet the full criteria, you will be docked points.

You will practice your choir music at home for a total of 60 minutes weekly if you are in an auditioned choir, or 30 minutes weekly if you are in a non-auditioned choir. You may distribute that time between the days how you please. Fill in the box with the amount of time you practiced each day and then on the right column write your total time practiced for the week. Please do not mark the boxes with an X or check mark. You and your parent/guardian must sign it to indicate that you did indeed practice for the time indicated. If they are turned in without a parent/guardian signature, they will not be accepted for any credit. Practice records will be distributed in class and can also be found on the class website.

The due dates for the concert reports and practice records are as follows:

1. Quarter 1 – October 15
2. Quarter 2 – January 9
3. Quarter 3 – March 20
4. Quarter 4 – May 29

**PARTICIPATION**

Choir is a very participation oriented class. Obviously we will be rehearsing music for our performances, but we will also learn various music theory concepts and vocal techniques. It is expected that you will give your full attention and energy in class every day. Each student is required to have a pencil at class everyday and should diligently mark their music in accordance with the teacher’s instructions.

Full Participation means no distractions. Do not bring homework you need to get done. Do not bring a book to read. Do not bring electronic devices. **ALL CELL PHONES WILL BE CONFISCATED AND TAKEN TO THE OFFICE IF THEY ARE TAKEN OUT DURING CLASS.**

If you do not fully participate in class and/or you attempt to use any of the above-mentioned items, you will receive ZERO participation points for the day. If you are tardy to class, you will be docked 5 points.

**Any student with a class grade lower than a “B” during each term will not be allowed to perform in the concert during that particular term.**

If you are absent and excused, you will receive zero points for the day, but you will be given the opportunity to make up the participation points you missed that day. Absence Makeup forms will be available in the classroom and on the school website.

Absence Makeup forms must be turned in by the Friday of the week following the absence. The absence must show up on Skyward as excused. Any absence being made up that show an “A” code on Skyward will NOT be accepted. To make up the points, you will practice your choir music at home for one hour and describe your practice. Parents and students must sign the form. Any late forms will not be accepted.

**CLASS FEES AND PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

There is a **$45 class fee** for choir classes. If you are in multiple choirs, this fee will cover all of your choir classes. This does not, however, cover the instrumental music participation fee, if you are involved in that program as well. Class fees cover the cost of music purchases and other materials for the choir program.

Each choir has a performance uniform that they will be expected to wear to performances. These uniforms come with an extra fee.

* The men in A Cappella and Madrigals will be required to purchase a black suit from *Mr. Mac*. The suit costs approximately **$150 before tax**. These are high quality suits that are tailored to each student. The men will be responsible for purchasing a standard white, button-up shirt. They will also be required to purchase a tie for each choir **that will cost** **$10-$20 (exact price TBA)**. Look below for the address and phone number of *Mr. Mac* locations. Please get this suit purchased as soon as possible, as it may take over a week for them to make it.
* The women in A Cappella, Madrigals, and Lyrica will be getting a dress custom made from *White Elegance*. The prices below include free alterations and hemming:
  + **A Cappella - $93**
  + **Madrigals - $93**
  + **Lyrica - $125**
* For Women’s Choir, the girls will be fitted for a custom black skirt **that costs $40**. They will be responsible for getting their own white top. The women may also include a red accent to their attire, whether on their top or some other accessory. The tops MUST BE MODEST, in keeping with the Alta High dress code.
* For Men’s Choir, the men will be required to purchase black slacks, a standard white button-up shirt, and black shoes on their own. They will also be required to purchase a tie **that will cost** **$10-$20 (exact price TBA)**.

The $45 class fee must be paid to the main office **by Friday, September 5.**

The performance attire fees must be paid to the main office **by Thursday, September 18.** Students will not receive their performance attire until it is paid for. You are welcome to pay for these fees as soon as you’d like!

*Mr. Mac* locations:

Midvalley Family Center

5690 S. Redwood Road

Salt Lake City, Utah 84123

801-966-6400

Fort Union

7208 S. Union Park Ave.

Midvale, Utah 84010

801-566-9537

**CHOIR TOUR**

Anyone in an auditioned choir (A Cappella, Madrigals, and Lyrica) will be eligible to go on choir tour. I am currently in the works of arranging a tour to Seattle, WA, where we will participate in the Heritage Music Festival. The tour is scheduled from April 29-May 3, 2015. More information will be disclosed as it becomes available.

**FUNDRAISING**

Fundraising opportunities will be available to those going on tour. No one is required to fundraise. More information will be disclosed as it becomes available.

**SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

All students in auditioned choirs will be required to be involved in Solo and Ensemble Festival. They will prepare a song as a soloist or with a group that will fit the criteria of the festival rules. More information on this festival will be disclosed at a later time.

**MAKEUP WORK**

You will find detailed information about makeup work in the sections of PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY and PARTICIPATION.

**PLAGIARISM/CHEATING POLICY**

Any student who is found cheating in any way will receive zero points for their assignment and may be subject to school discipline.

Disclosure Agreement

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Choir(s): A Cappella Madrigals Lyrica Women Men (please circle all that apply)

My student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (please print) and I have read the grading policy and we understand the procedures used to compute grades in the Choral Department at Alta High School. I have thoroughly read the **Performance Attendance Policy** and agree to have my child present and on time to every performance throughout the year. I have furthermore studied the performance dates on the calendar provided and marked them on my personal/family calendar to ensure that I avoid all conflicts to the performance dates. I understand the cost for my child being involved in this program and agree to pay the applicable fees.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Return this form to Mr. Griffiths by Friday, August 29, 2014 (if enrolling in the fall)\*\*\*