

Spectrum Course Expectations

Course title: Spectrum

Instructor: Mara Levi (mlevi@pvpa.org, x202)

PVPA Charter Public School, Fall, 2019

Course Description: Spectrum is PVPA's high-level vocal performing ensemble specializing in a cappella (voice alone) arrangements of all different styles of music. If you want to push your vocal capabilities to their maximum, then this class is for you. Explore tight vocal harmonies, complex rhythms, and advanced vocal techniques in PVPA's premier vocal ensemble. Students are expected to take the class both semesters.

Materials: 3-ring Binder (1-inch is big enough), blank notebook paper, pencil

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Execute healthy physical technique and ensemble performance in a variety of settings and styles and can make appropriate changes in response to teacher, peer, and self-assessment
- Function as a member of an ensemble, making meaningful contributions to the work (e.g. preparation, set-up and break-down of equipment, artistic, aesthetic, expressive, reflection, following performance timelines, attending all rehearsals and performances, being on time and leaving only after breakdown is complete)
- Show evidence of personal growth in the areas of stage presence/confidence, and the ability to minimize the impact of stage/performance anxiety
- Demonstrate level-appropriate musical literacy (through completion of reading, writing, and dictation exercises for rhythms and notes)
- Demonstrate level-appropriate literacy in my score reading and interpretation (vocabulary, vertical and horizontal reading, recognition of symbols and directions)
- Demonstrate level-appropriate understanding of technical vocabulary as it relates to the vocal anatomy and vocalization.
- Identify and illustrate common principles, shared vocabulary, and connections between music, music of different genres, the arts and other disciplines (history, ELA, science & math)

Habits of Work and Learning (HOWLs): Students in this course should adhere to the following school-wide expectations:

- Preparation: I am prepared for class and arrive on time with organized materials and any needed attire.
- Participation: I participate in my learning by engaging actively, contributing productively, and collaborating respectfully and safely.
- Personal Responsibility: I manage my school work by monitoring my assignment completion, meeting deadlines for assigned work and revisions, and/or successfully navigating the extension process if necessary.

Units and Assessments: The course will be divided into the following units:

UNIT	ASSIGNMENTS
<p>1. Team building, baseline assessments, sight reading, goal-setting, choosing themes and music <i>After building a safe environment for learning and experimenting, we will choose songs and begin rehearsing. We will also work on improving music literacy (reading notes and scores).</i></p>	<p>Sight Reading worksheets/exercises Participation in classroom discussions Finding and suggesting music that is appropriate for our theme</p>
UNIT	ASSIGNMENTS
<p>2. Sight reading continued; Music rehearsal; Vocal technique; Song arranging <i>Students will rehearse the music we have chosen, will undertake to arrange a song together, and will build vocal technique and sight reading skills</i></p>	<p>Sight Reading worksheets, Dictations, projects Participation in Critical Protocols Participation in Arranging work</p>
<p>3. Sight reading continued; Music rehearsal continued; Expressiveness, blend, and components of a strong performance <i>Students will continue with the skills we have been building, and will discuss the tools musicians have to make their performances interesting and expressive. Students will practice incorporating these tools into their performances.</i></p>	<p>Sight reading worksheets and in-class work Participation in critical protocols Memorization tests (group)</p>
<p>4. Preparing an expressive and musical performance <i>Students will prepare for and experience the culminating performance of their semester's work.</i></p>	<p>Leading warm-up exercises Final performance Performance Reflection Mastery-based project (Honors)</p>

Extensions: Extensions will only be granted to students in good standing in the course (i.e. students who have consistently met the expectations outlined in the school-wide HOWLs). If a student cannot complete an assignment in time due to illness or another valid conflict, they must provide a written note from a parent/guardian and make arrangements with the course instructor in a timely fashion. If an assignment is handed in late without a student having been

granted an extension, the assignment cannot earn a grade of Exemplary. Extensions cannot be granted for performances. **See Missing Rehearsal Form.**

Revisions: Revisions will only be accepted if a student is has turned in a good-faith effort on a project by the assigned deadline and is in good standing in the course (i.e. students who have consistently met the expectations outlined in the school-wide HOWLs). Revisions must be completed and turned in by the assigned deadline. Revisions will not be accepted after the end of the term unless the student and the instructor have made different previous arrangements. Revisions will be required of works that receive a “beginning” grade, and highly recommended to “developing” projects. The final grade for an assignment will be representative of the revised, final draft that a student turns in, and of the progress made since earlier drafts of the work. Revisions cannot be granted for performances. **See Missing Rehearsal Form.**

*****PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES *****

ROSE CEREMONY

Baystate Medical Center

Thursday, December 6 (usually during school)

WINTER MUSIC SHOWCASE

Dress Rehearsals occur during class the week of our showcase - please be present!

Friday, Dec 20 (7-8 Chorus, Singers' Studio)

Saturday, Dec 21 (Spectrum)

Performers are STRONGLY encouraged to support the singers in the showcase the night they are not performing.

Performers are REQUIRED to stay until the end of the performance and to help break down the stage.

There are no excuses for missing a dress rehearsal or performance except extreme emergencies! Please do NOT schedule appointments or vacations during these times. Ensemble performances require the presence of all ensemble members; missing one member can have a domino effect on the group. If you know you have to miss a major rehearsal or performance, please fill out the Missing Rehearsal Form (available in this packet or online) and return to Mara with several weeks' advance notice. Planning time carefully is one of the many habits of a professional performer that is essential for students to practice.

Missing Rehearsal or Performance Form

If you know you are unable to attend an after-school rehearsal or performance for the vocal music department, please fill out this form, have it signed by someone at home, and hand it to Mara (hard copies only!) **at least 1 week before a rehearsal, or 3 weeks before a performance.**

Name _____

Date of Rehearsal or Performance: _____

Reason for missing rehearsal or performance (acceptable reasons include major events that happen once and cannot be moved or difficult-to-schedule appointments, but do NOT include work obligations that can be moved with notice):

Missing rehearsal: I understand that by missing this rehearsal, I am creating more work for all of the other members of my ensemble, and I will take responsibility for learning the material and information that I missed. I will ensure that missing an important rehearsal is something that happens seldom so that I can be a contributing member to the work of my ensemble.

Missing Performance: I understand that by missing this performance I am missing the culminating experience designed for my class and I am altering the ensemble that our class has worked to build. I do not take this lightly and I will continue to be a productive participant in class through the performance. I will take responsibility to complete an alternate assignment that demonstrates my mastery of the skills we learned in class to the same degree a performance would have.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Please read and sign below

I have read and fully understand the rules and expectations for Chorus. I understand that:

- My student will be participating in a concert with potential additional rehearsals added just before the show. My student's attendance at those performances is mandatory, and a large part of the teacher's ability to assess my student's progress.
- My student has received a calendar with specific rehearsal and performance dates (see above). I will put it in a prominent position in my home and I will schedule appointments so they do not conflict with dress rehearsals or performances.

PLEASE SIGN:

Parent/ Guardian Signature

Student Print Name

Student Email address (write neatly, please!)

Student Signature