

Park Vista Community High School



Chorus Handbook 2017 - 2018

**Park Vista Community High School
Choral Department**

I. Philosophy

It's hard to imagine a world without music; it's everywhere! Music is in our homes, in the car, at school, on TV, and even in elevators. Our lives would be very dull without music to liven it up. The musical experience is best described by the following quote: "*Music expresses that which cannot be placed into words, but must not remain silent.*" – Victor Hugo

Music is a "hands on" experience, and the rewards earned are in direct proportion to the performer's level of participation. Music should not be a spectator sport, but involve both performer and listener in a mutual aesthetic experience.

The Park Vista Community High School Chorus Department is guided by the ideal that in order to provide a complete and balanced school curriculum, a basic study of music is essential for all students. The choral department provides choral music classes on all levels so that there is something for everyone. The choruses at **Park Vista Community High School** shall be open to all students, regardless of grade level, gender, or musical experience, provided that the student has a desire to participate, cooperate, and contribute his/her talent to the ensemble.

II. Goals and Objectives

- To provide, promote, and encourage interest and participation in choral music.
- To develop the individual voice and an understanding of its relationship to a choral ensemble.
- To foster confidence through creative self-expression.
- To increase musical skills and knowledge.
- To develop an appreciation for aesthetic beauty and musical artistry.
- To channel individual energy to achieve a constructive, valid result.
- To upgrade the cultural level and awareness of the arts within the community.
- To prepare the student for the experiences available in higher education, and to encourage future musical leaders.
- To instill the value of effort, sacrifice, cooperation, conformity, fellowship, self-discipline, and dedication.
- To always strive to best serve the interests of the student, school, and community.

III. Expectations

Aside from school policy governing class attendance (refer to your PVCHS student handbook), each member's presence in rehearsal will be an extremely vital factor in the organization's success. Absence should be only in cases of extreme illness or other serious reason.

EACH STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO:

1. Be Respective of Director and each other.
2. Start every rehearsal with a clear mind and a positive attitude
 - a. Feel free to address any concerns that you have
3. Be prepared
 - a. With all necessary materials
4. Give 100% 100% of the time!
5. End Rehearsal with Group Reflection!
6. Strive for Maturity
 - a. Maturity is knowing how your decisions/actions/behavior/attendance/ attitude/words/affect others.
7. Attend rehearsal
 - a. Communicate in advance when absence occurs
8. Know the Standard!!
9. Have Fun
 - a. Fun = Choral excellence
10. Mission Statement
 - a.

Violation of any of the above procedures will result in the following disciplinary steps:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Loss of daily participation points (as outlined in section VII).
3. Phone call to parents.
4. Disciplinary referral.
5. Permanent expulsion from chorus department.

Never let any situation escalate past Step 1!

IV. Handling of Music

- A. Each student in Encore and Dolce will be assigned a folder, music, and a folder slot with corresponding numbers.
- B. Each Student in Brava and Voice Male will be given a paper folder that should be brought with them to every class. 2 point will be decided if student does not have material for class.
- C. Students may elect to either store the folder in its slot when not in use, or to take the folder home for practice.
- D. The folder and all music should be present at each rehearsal.
- E. A pencil should be kept in the folder at all times. Markings will be requested by the director and should be made lightly in pencil only.
- F. Music is expensive, and must be taken care of. Lost or destroyed music will result in a replacement fee.

Weekly graded folder checks will be made to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

V. Handling of Choral Department Equipment

- A. The music department is very fortunate to have a large collection of pianos, electronic keyboards, and computers in the classroom and keyboard lab.
- B. Permission to use any of the above mentioned equipment must be obtained from the director.**
- C. Pianos and electronic keyboards are for making music; **not for banging, sitting or eating on.**
- D. The computers in the computer lab may be used when the lab is not occupied for class for music projects, internet research, and word processing. **It is not to be used for game playing, audio/video streaming, or accessing inappropriate material.**
- E. The stereo, and video projector in the main chorus classroom is strictly off limits to student use. Unless otherwise instructed by director.

VI. The Music Facility

The chorus facility will be open during lunch this year for all chorus students. You will be able to rehearse, study, or relax in the air conditioning with quiet conversation. However, if the room is left messy, or behavior becomes rowdy or inappropriate, the room can and will be closed for a length of time to be determined by the director.

VII. Participation

As stated earlier, **positive participation** is crucial to the success of the chorus ensemble. In addition to in class participation, extra rehearsals and performances will be required beyond the normal school day. They will be announced well in advance; several weeks minimum in most cases. **Problems with transportation, work schedules, family plans, etc. should be resolved by the student to clear up any scheduling conflict.**

- A. Parents and students may assume care will be taken by the director to use discretion in all extra-curricular commitments. In return full cooperation is expected from all students and parents.
- B. If a conflict cannot be resolved, the reason for it should be stated in writing. The director will then reserve the right to excuse or not excuse the conflict.
However, if done properly and in advance, the absence will usually be excused.
- C. In case of last minute dire emergency, a written explanation should be submitted the next school day following the conflict.
- D. **If a student is has an unexcused absent for a rehearsal no points will be given.**
- E. **If a student is absent for a performance, an alternate assignment will be provided by the director. This will allow the student to make up the missing performance grade.**
On a day school is in session, in order to participate in performances of any nature (on school grounds or away), it is necessary that a student be in attendance for a minimum of a 1/2 day and in good academic standing in classes to be missed.

VIII. Communication

- Communication of absences as they pertain to any and all after school events (rehearsal or concerts) is the responsibility of the student or the student's parent. I will only accept third part messages from parents.

IX. Attire

Each student will be required to purchase a choral uniform, and maintain it properly (please see below for examples of the chorus uniform). The uniform is a one time cost, and will be used for as long as you are in the PVCHS chorus. Ladies are required to wear black character shoes, which can be purchased at any area dance store. Hair: must be wore off the shoulders and away from face. Students must arrive properly dressed, or they may not be allowed to participate. Appearances are extremely important in any performance endeavor, and must be given the utmost attention. Choral officers will be checking each student before performances to ensure the proper attire is worn, and will report deficiencies to the director.

PLEASE NOTE: Uniforms will be measured for and ordered at the beginning of the year, with a deposit from each student required to place the order. When the uniforms arrive, the student must pay the balance of the cost in order to receive his/ her uniform. Tux with shoes \$211, Brava/Voices/Dolce \$80, Encore \$100

***Ladies are required to wear stockings and Encore and Dolce must wear black or nude spandex shorts under dressed.



X. Grading

Scholastic excellence is of prime importance, and performance in other subject areas will be regarded as an important factor in the total success of the PVCHS Choral Department. Students who are doing poorly in or failing other subjects simply cannot function effectively as chorus members. Grave scholastic deficiency could seriously affect a member's continued participation in chorus. Currently, a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required for participation.

A point system will be utilized in determining each student's grade for the 9 week grading period. The number of possible points will vary with each grading period, depending upon the number of extra rehearsals and performances. Standard percentages are as follows:

Daily Participation	50 points/ week (40%)	
<i>For each day the student is in class and on time, 10 points will be awarded.(more points on block days) Points will be lost due to unexcused absence, tardiness, or lack of participation</i>		
Written and oral tests on theory, history, & ear training	25 points (15%)	
Performances during the grading period	200 points (40%)	
Music Performance Assessment	300 points	
Outside Festival Participation	100 points (extra credit) (25%)	
Recorded Vocal Pass offs	50 points (25%)	
MANDATORY Rehearsals after school hours	75 points (25%)	
Encore	Every Tuesday	3:00-5:00pm
Dolce	Every Thursday	3:00-5:00pm
Voices	1 st and 4 th Wednesday	3:00-5:00pm
Combined Women's	Once Monthly 3 rd Monday	3:00-5:00pm

XI. Off Campus Activities

The Park Vista Chorus participates in many off campus performances throughout the year, and these performances serve to enrich the chorus experience, and give students a chance to perform for the community. Attendance is encouraged, and for some performances, required. Students must abide by the same rules that they are subject to on the school campus, specifically:

1. Dress code. At all times on a school sponsored trip, each student must adhere to the school dress code.
2. Behavior. Students must conduct themselves with maturity and politeness towards their fellow students, chaperones, and the director.
3. Timeliness: Every trip will have a printed itinerary, and each student is responsible for knowing where to be and at what time.
4. The buddy system: A student is to never be alone at any time while on a school sponsored trip.

XII. District/ State/ National Festival Events

Park Vista Chorus is striving to take its students to the next level...to that end every member of Encore must participate in one of the below listed events! Dolce, Brava, and Voice Male members are encouraged and welcomed to participate in any or all of these events for your enjoyment or to receive extra credit!

1. Florida ACDA Audition **September 15**
 - a. November 2-4 Stanford, FL
 - b. **Travel and Accommodations: student responsibility**
2. FMEA All State Auditions round 1 **Sept 16**
3. Southern ACDA Honor Choir Audition Window **TBD**
 - a. Louisville Kentucky
 - b. February 21st-25th
 - c. **Travel and Accommodations: student responsibility**
4. UNF Jacksonville Sings Choral Festival **Deadline TBD**
 - a. Anyone
 - b. October 5-7, 2017
 - c. Student Cost: **\$45 Registration**
 - d. **Travel and Accommodations: student responsibility**
5. Stetson Choral Festival **Deadline TBD**
 - a. Deland, FL Oct 6-7
 - b. **Travel and Accommodations: student responsibility**
6. FMEA All State Auditions Round 2 **Oct 17**
7. District Honor Choir **Deadline TBD**
 - a. **Oct 25-26**
8. FAU Sing In **Deadline TBD**
 - a. November 16-18
9. FMEA All State Conference
 - a. Tampa, FL Jan 10-13, 2018
 - b. **Travel and Accommodations: student responsibility**
10. Stetson Men's Festival
 - a. Deland, FL Friday Jan 26th 2017
 - b. **All Men**
 - c. **Cost: \$35 Bus and Food**
11. Solo & Ensemble **Jan 26-27 2018**
 - a. Requires Weekly Voice lessons

XIII. Financial Responsibilities

In order to provide a top – notch choral education for each student, we take part in many extra-curricular performances and events which are not paid for by the school or district. The “fair share” program covers these expenses for the entire school year and it is the amount you are **expected to FUNDRASIE**. “Fair share” covers the following items:

Item	Voice Male/Brava	Dolce	Encore
Music purchase:	\$35	\$45	\$65
Supplies:	\$10	\$10	\$10
Membership Dues:	\$5	\$5	\$5
Substitutes:	\$10	\$10	\$10
Concert Accompanist:	\$55	\$55	\$55
Polo Shirt	----	----	\$30
T – Shirt	\$10	\$10	\$10
Chorus Banquet:	\$55	\$55	\$55
Total:	\$180	\$190	\$240

The “fair share” is broken into two payments, as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>September 29th Payment</u>	<u>November 17th Payment</u>
Voices	\$90	\$90
Dolce	\$95	\$95
Encore	\$120	\$120

The fair share, along with uniform and trip costs, will be placed in individual student accounts. **The students will have the option of paying their account outright or earning the money through fundraising activities throughout the year, or a combination of the two.** The account items will be spread out over the school year, but portions will need to be paid by set deadlines.

XIV. Concert Dates

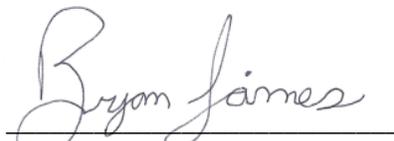
All chorus students are required to attend every performance, as it is not only part of their Chorus grade, but their presence ensures the highest quality performance possible! In addition, Music Performance Assessment, or MPA, is the most important performance we do all year, as we are evaluated on our level of performance and ability. It’s our “FCAT”, and every student must be in attendance - no exceptions!

SEE Calendar Page

This class adheres to the Park Vista Honor Code as is committed to the honorable goals detailed in that document.

XV. Conclusion

We believe this will be an incredible year for the PVCHS Chorus, but our success as an organization depends largely on you, the student. Your level of enthusiasm, participation, and concern for the chorus will determine our level of excellence. Let’s work together to make our Chorus outstanding!



Bryan Ijames, Director of Choral Activities
PVCHS Chorus
561-491-8474
bryan.ijames@palmbeachschools.org