

Voice Lesson Syllabus

Park Vista High School Chorus Department

2017 – 2018



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the new school year! I will work to ensure that all voice students have a fulfilling experience in singing and music. Students will be trained in *bel canto* singing, the Italian style of operatic singing. Unlike other musicians, singers are unique because *their entire body is their instrument*. Therefore, practicing voice is a journey of musical, emotional, and personal growth.

Please realize that voice lessons are comparable to an academic course. All voice teachers are vocal professionals. Remember that voice lessons are a financial and musical investment. Therefore, all students are expected to approach lessons with **professionalism, diligence, inquisitiveness, passion, and positivity!**

Course Objective

The primary goal of voice lessons is to develop the singer's voice to its fullest potential by utilizing the foundations of vocal technique. Additionally, the voice teacher will strive to improve and strengthen the student's performance and musicianship skills

Course Content

- A. Breathing exercises to maintain sustained breath support
- B. Vocalization exercises to develop a smooth vocal line and technique
- C. Physical exercises to improve posture and strengthen the muscles involved in singing
- D. Performance of art songs in languages including but not limited to Italian, English, German, and French
- E. Occasional lessons in music theory and aural training

Course Materials

Students are expected to bring their assigned music, practice log, and a pencil to all lessons. It is highly recommended that students record their lessons with an electronic device. Additionally, students may be asked to purchase music.

Payment

Payment of \$600 (check or money order) for 30 voice lesson from August until April.

Option 1: Pay in Full on August 25th, 2017;

Option 2: 6 month Payment plan. Due 25th of each month (August, September, October, November, January, February)

additional payment accepted at any time.

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Lesson Scheduling

Voice students receive a one 25 minute voice lesson each week during their class period. If a student will be absent for their lesson, the **voice teacher must be notified by phone or email at least 24 hours in advance.** **Students it is your responsibility to communicate!** Make up lessons will be scheduled accordingly.

Practice

Students will be given a practice log to present to their teacher each week. In the log, students will record lesson notes and details from their weekly practice. All students are expected to practice at least 30 minutes each day. Singing with a good technique requires muscle memory, therefore, **PRACTICE IS ESSENTIAL** for success and progress!

Solo and Ensemble

It is highly recommended that all voice students participate in the District Solo and Ensemble competition in Spring 2016. All participants sing two arts songs in front of a panel of vocal adjudicators and are given a performance ranking (Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor). This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop performance experience and receive feedback on their vocal progress from established voice professionals. **S&E is scheduled for January 26-27th 2018. Mr. Ijames must have your S&E song selections by December 8th 2017.** On Wednesday January 17th we will have a masterclass leading up to District S&E

Diversity Statement

Studying voice requires an appreciation and respect for the music and history of other cultures and religions. In lessons, voice teachers will respect a student's personal, spiritual, and cultural beliefs while fostering an environment of inquisitiveness and open mindedness. Likewise, students with disabilities (including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities) are encouraged and welcomed to enroll in voice lessons. The voice teacher will make appropriate accommodations to ensure that all students have an enriching and enjoyable experience in voice lessons!

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Please sign and return this form to Mr. James by **Monday August 21st 2016**

By signing below, I understand and agree to the terms and conditions for enrolling in voice lessons.

Required Signatures:

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Best Method of Contacting You (Please circle one): phone email

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Student Information:

Student Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

How many years have you studied voice with a private teacher? _____

How many years have you participated in the PVHS Chorus program? _____

Do you play a music instrument? If so, please state your years of private study.

Why do you want to study *bel canto* singing?

Do you wish to pursue music in college? If not, what academic degree(s) or professions do you wish to pursue?

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Voice Lesson Payment Contract

Payment of \$400 (check or money order) for 20 voice lesson from August until January.

Option 1: Pay in Full on August 25th, 2017;

Option 2: 4 month Payment plan. Due 25th of each month

(August, September, October, November, December, January,)

Please return this contract signed by both parent and student with deposit. This will reserve your spot.

Parent _____ Date _____

Student _____ Date _____

Please note students would like to continue voice lessons after S&E the fee remains at \$20/lesson.