

PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Concert Choir

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY
BEFORE SIGNING!**

“Singing is a basic means of human expression. Song permits people to experience life as others have found it and to share themselves with others in an expression that transcends the physical and psychological boundaries of life. . . A student who sings learns about life.” (Kenneth Phillips, Teaching Kids to Sing, 1996) My life has been richly blessed by my musical experiences and I look forward to having more of these life-enriching experiences with you this year.

Vision of Excellence

Ponderosa High School Choir students are expected to always perform at a high level of excellence throughout the year, as a group and individually. This includes being on time to class, coming with pencil in hand, and participating energetically in our rehearsals. It also encompasses their behavior on trips and in relation to other people with whom they come in contact. Advanced Concert Choir members who are not willing to put their effort and heart into our choir should consider taking another choir class. “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore is not an act, but a habit.” -Aristotle

Course Description: Concert Choir (Period 2)

Concert Choir is an advanced performing ensemble. Vocal technique is assumed to be solid as a prerequisite for admittance into this choir. Choral techniques such as balance, intonation, and blend will receive greater focus, as will expression and interpretation. Sight-singing will also be practiced and assessed. Students in this course can expect to perform at least twice per semester in a concert setting, and on their own in class. Students in Concert Choir are invited to attend Heritage Music Festival in the spring. Through the course of the year we hope to better answer the “WHY” questions about music and develop within each student qualities of an independent musician.

Student Objectives:

Because of how our classes are structured, we have some students entering Concert Choir with one year previous experience (usually men from Acafellas) or two plus years of

experience (in the case of someone who successfully completed both previous womens chorus classes-GraceNotes and Acabellas). Because of this, we are offering two tracks of study to our Concert Choir students, a blue track and a red track. The blue track would be expected for a student who is in his or her second year of choir and the red track would be for students who are in their third or fourth year of choir and have already accomplished student objectives for year two. This will be decided within the first week of school based upon student preferences and performance on a sight-singing skills pre-test. Below are the student objectives for both blue and red tracks.

BLUE TRACK:By the end of the year, each student should be able to:

1. Have working understanding of basic music terminology from Year 1 and add: all tempo markings, articulation vocabulary (legato, staccato, marcato, crescendo, decrescendo, accelerando, ritardando, etc.), vocal tone vocabulary (core, ring, vibrato, etc.)
2. Produce a clear, efficient tone in one and a half octaves of their range, able to sing four measures per breath, with the following habits: always project while opening everything, pure and spacious vowels, exaggerated consonants, correct and healthy posture, mixed voice to ease transition between chest and head registers, follow conductor, appropriate and energized body and facial involvement.
3. Adding to the standards from Year 1, students will sight-read and notate rhythms that include sixteenth note and dotted eighth sixteenth note combinations and be able to conduct beat patterns of 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 2/2, 6/8, and 9/8.
4. Sight-sing and notate melodies using Maj and Perfect intervals in any major key with simple rhythms.
5. Be able to notate and label key signatures, and play any major scale on a keyboard.

RED TRACK: By the end of the year, each student should be able to:

1. Sight-read using all intervals in any major key and sight-read stepwise in any minor key with 90% accuracy using all notation and time signatures from previous years, adding quarter note triplets, 12/8.
2. Notate the above melodies or rhythms after three listenings with 80% accuracy.
3. Produce a clear, efficient tone in two octaves of their range, able to sing four measures per breath, with the following habits: always project with open everything, pure and spacious vowels, exaggerated consonants, correct and

healthy posture, mixed voice to ease transition between chest and head registers, follow conductor, appropriate and energized body and facial involvement, independent musicianship in the phrase, knowledge of and intelligent approach of intonation and pitch traps. Students will demonstrate these skills singing alone as well as in small groups.

4. Perform simple songs on a keyboard with left and right hands together in the any Major or minor key and be able to play simple chord progressions from Roman numerals in each.

5. Identify minor keys from a key signature and build a natural or harmonic minor scale, and find La.

Supplies: To be brought to class every day.

1. Black Music folder (provided)
2. Theory packet (provided)
3. A pencil
4. Notebook paper
5. Water bottle

Grading Scale

A = 93-100%

B+ = 87-89%

C+ = 77-79%

A- = 90-92

B = 83-86%

C = 73-76%

B- = 80-82%

C- = 70-72%

No student should receive a grade lower than a C if they are present and participating in class and doing their assignments. I am more than happy to give all of my students the A grade that they deserve! Please check Aeries.net frequently and talk to your student first if you have questions about a grade. After that, please feel free to call or email any time with grade concerns or questions.

Grading System: Grading will be based upon the following:

1. **Participation:** Each student receives five (5) points per day that they are on time, prepared, and participating in class. In a performing ensemble, every person is needed EVERY DAY. In the case of ANY absence (excused or unexcused), students can use a practice room before or after school and complete a Make-up Practice Record to receive points for the day they missed. If the Make-up work is completed within two weeks of the absence, they will receive full points for the day missed. After that, they will only receive half points. (A copy of the make up practice record can be found on our website and at the front of our classroom.)

2. **Quizzes:** I do not believe in big comprehensive tests, but I do give frequent, small quizzes to check understanding. Any quiz can be retaken as many times as needed to master the material.
3. **Pass-offs: 20 points** Sight-reading and other vocal techniques will be measured in frequent pass-offs. These are opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned by singing a melody or speaking a rhythm. Part-testing will also be included in our pass-offs this year.
4. **Mini-Lessons: 20 points** Every student will receive a short, mini-voice lesson with either me or one of our section leaders at least once a quarter. These will be graded on improvement and proficiency in the habits and techniques we work on in class. The purpose of these mini-lessons together is not to judge a voice but have every voice in the choir improving each term and help each individual work on their own personal goals for his/her own voice.
5. **Vocal Evaluation: 40-50 points 1st semester, 80-100 points 2nd semester.** Each student will show the progress they have made throughout the semester by performing a piece for Mrs. Bailey. Students may choose a piece from selections given them in their packet or something they would like to work on independently. Students in their second year of choir are expected to perform at a level of 4 or higher on the rubric, while students in their third or fourth year of choir are expected to perform at a level of 5 on the rubric. (A copy of the rubric can be found on our website.) Second semester students may choose to prepare a small ensemble performance instead of a solo, no more than two people on a part.
6. **Concert Attendance: 100 Points** (Described below)
7. **Other Assignments:** Various assignments will be given throughout the year.

Concert Schedule and Attendance Requirements:

The attached schedule includes concert dates and other activities currently on calendar for the year. Please make a note of them on your calendars. We try to get everything set on the calendar for the year, but there are always changes and additions. Notice will be given at least two weeks prior to adding an event to the calendar for students to be required to attend. Up-to-date performance information can also be found on our website: www.bruinchoir.com

Concerts: Concerts are our opportunity to assess what we are learning and are like exams. Every singer is valuable to our ensemble and grows immensely from performing. **Concert attendance is a huge grade requirement. Non-attendance will result in a grade drop of two whole grades. (A to C, B to D, etc.)** Transportation must be arranged to and from events. If a student must miss a concert for a reason such as illness or a death in the family, parents must contact Mrs. Bailey on her cell phone at (801) 362-8792 and leave a message if she does not answer. If a student is going on a previously planned vacation or has a schedule conflict, they must inform Mrs. Bailey

TWO WEEKS before the concert using an Absence Request Form (a copy of this form can be found on our website and in the classroom) to receive make-up work for full credit. If a student informs Mrs. Bailey a week before, make-up work can still be completed but 20 points will be taken off. And any student informing Mrs. Bailey less than three days before will only have the chance to make up half of the points possible. No make-up work will be given to No-Calls/No-Shows for concerts.

Combined Rehearsals: Please note on the schedule, there is always a combined rehearsal the Wednesday a week before a concert. These are held after school in the choir room and are worth 50 points. These are very important as we don't often get a chance to perform all together as a large combined choir. Please help your student remember them and arrange transportation home. Again, if a student needs to miss because of a planned vacation or other conflict, they must inform Mrs. Bailey TWO WEEKS before the rehearsal using an Absence Request Form. The same rules apply as for concerts, and this form can be found online and in the classroom.

Costs:

NO STUDENT WILL EVER BE DENIED PARTICIPATION BASED UPON FINANCIAL NEED

We are happy to have a thriving choir program with many interested students! There are many costs to running a quality program of our size. Below are the costs that will be incurred for your student over the year. The total is our suggested donation for singers. We would appreciate each family to look through the list and see how much they can give. If you can give more, it always helps another family in need. And if this is your year to give less, we appreciate so much whatever you can give. (Heritage Festival costs are not included in this list and will be explained further down.)

Sheet Music \$20

Choir T-Shirt for new singers \$10

Concert Attire Rental \$30

Sac State Womens Chorus Festival/Real Men Sing Chorus Festival \$10

Total Suggested Donation = \$70

You can pay this with check made out to PVMPBC (Ponderosa Vocal Music Program Booster Club) or you can use a Credit Card through the donation portal on our website www.bruinchoir.com. It's easy! ☺

Uniforms:

All choir uniforms are on a rental system from the school and will be issued to every student at the beginning of the year. All concert attire should be used only for concerts, dry cleaned when needed, and hung neatly in your closet. The Monday before Finals

week in the spring, all concert attire will be returned in good condition. If attire is not returned or it is returned damaged, a fine for the replacement or repair of the item will be incurred by the student.

WOMEN- Women will receive a machine washable black dress. IN ADDITION to the dress, women will need to provide their own black nylons and a pair of black, closed-toed low-heeled dress shoes. Black nylons are not a suggestion- they are part of the concert uniform. Also, do not wear pants underneath your dress- it is tacky.

MEN- Men will receive tuxedo jacket, pants, shirt, cummerbund, and bow tie. IN ADDITION to the tuxedo, men will need to provide black dress shoes and black socks appropriate to be worn with the tuxedo. Black socks and dress shoes are not a suggestion- they are part of the concert uniform. Black vans or sneakers are not dress shoes.

Heritage: More information will be sent out later in the year with specific details, as we receive details from Heritage Festivals. Heritage is an away trip where we perform for a rating and receive critique from judges, we observe other choirs, we may attend a cultural event, and we attend Great America on the last day. This year the dates are Thursday, April 20th to Saturday, April 22nd. We will leave some time after school on Thursday and return late Saturday night. Our Cabaret fundraiser in February offsets a large portion of the cost of this trip. The amount leftover for students to pay can range anywhere between \$150 to \$300. We want every student to be able to come and have this amazing opportunity. Scholarships are available from our Booster club to those students that want to go but are in need. However, this is a great opportunity to help our students learn to save for things they want. Car washes, bake sales, recycling, and eScrip are just a few ways that your student can earn money. Experience has shown that students who earn part or all of their trip money themselves have a better appreciation for the trip. If you would like to be a chaperone for Heritage, we invite you to send an email requesting application materials for that. You must be available for the full weekend to apply.

Fundraising

No student is required to fundraise- however, all are invited and welcome to participate. In the fall, we do a community Pancake Breakfast. In the winter, we do a See's Candy Fundraiser and a Community Caroling Sing-a-thon, and in February we put on our largest fundraiser, dinner, and show, Cabaret. See the dates on the attached schedule for the year.

Cabaret: Cabaret is a fundraiser that all students participate in and all profit goes straight to student costs for Heritage. It is a themed dinner and show fundraiser where the students perform. It is quite a large undertaking and we need everyone's help to make it successful. We invite you to sign up for a way to serve for that event. Last year

our students received over \$100 toward their Heritage fee by participating in Cabaret. Auditions are in November and are listed on our schedule.

e-SCRIP: You can and should enroll in e-Scrip and receive a percentage of your purchases to go directly to your student or you can designate it to go to the Vocal Program Fund here at PHS. It is highly recommended that you use Scrip, as these donations add up quickly in the course of the school year. One of our students in the past had \$120 in scrip money that went directly to his Heritage account because his parents signed up for e-scrip. We have attached the form here for your convenience and at any time you may call Kelly Parker at the District Office (622-5081) for help setting up your account.

GOING GREEN!!! Updates throughout the year will be sent out via email. I am hoping this is the last paper I will send home. For this reason, please be sure to clearly write your email to which you would like choir information sent. During the first month of school a test email will be sent out and we will need each student and parent to respond that they received it so we can verify that all information is correct.

SmartMusic:

We use a program called SmartMusic to help with part learning, sight-singing, and other skills. We have three laptops with SmartMusic pinned to them and each student will be issued a login and password that they can use at school. It is not required, but I highly recommend students purchase SmartMusic for home use. Students can purchase it for \$40 and then have access to all the sight-reading books online and a vast library of other music, including the Italian Art Songs. It is a wonderful resource and whether your student excels or struggles with sight-singing, it will improve their skills if used regularly. Check it out at: smartmusic.com.

CHOIR WEBSITE: Please add the Ponderosa High School Choir website as a favorite on your computer. It will have all information sent out posted. It will have a calendar of due dates and concerts, links for students to music theory websites to brush up on their skills, practice recordings, and other helpful things. Check it out at

www.bruinchoir.com

Teacher Contact information

I can be contacted via email at erinkotyk@gmail.com or ebailey@eduhd.net. You can also call me here at school (530) 677-2281 x. 2232. I am part-time this year so it is easiest to get a response from me via email. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

After reading through this information, please initial and sign the attached papers and return by Friday, August 12th. Keep this information packet for your own records. It can also be found on our choir website, bruinchoir.com.

Information and Signature Page (FRONT AND BACK)

Please return this form and your choir donation for your student by Friday August 12th.

Student Name _____ Student Cell _____

Student Email _____

Student: *I have read and agree to the policies in this document and will do all I can to be successful in this class.*

Signed _____ Date _____
(Choir member)

Parent: *I have read and agree to the policies in this document and I agree to help my child succeed in this class however I can.*

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/guardian)

Parent Email(s) _____

Parent Phone(s) _____

**Please list all emails and phone numbers we should have for your student.

I give permission for the choir to use pictures or videos of my student in promotional materials or on their website.

I understand that ALL students will be filmed during concerts, and these recordings will be made available for purchase at the end of the year to choir students and their families only.

I will donate to support the Choir Program and my donation of _____ is being returned with this signature page or was already paid online. (Concert Choir Suggested Donation = \$70, although all amounts are very much appreciated!)

I will volunteer time or goods to the Choir Program and have selected my preferences on the reverse side of this document.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if there is something I should know about your son or daughter, please write it below and I will respond as soon as I can.

Volunteer Page/Donations of Goods

In a program the size of our choir, many hands definitely make light work! Throughout the year, we have varying needs and all parents are encouraged to sign up for at least one volunteer opportunity. You will be called or emailed and given more specific instructions after the school year has started. Thank you in advance for your selfless contribution!

Choir Room Volunteers

- _____ Office Secretary- 1x a week
- _____ Choir Attire Help- garment fitting & hemming at beginning of year, possible repairs later, help with uniform collection and cleaning
- _____ Handyman/woman- build a trophy shelf (or other needs) throughout the year

Concert Volunteers

- _____ Riser and Shell Crew- meet two hours before the concert to set up, help take down after concert (we're thinking manly muscles for this job)
- _____ Sound Technician- set up mics and speakers and run the sound board for concerts
- _____ Welcome/Ushers- pass out programs and greet people before concert
- _____ Decoration Committee- help decorate the gym according to the theme determined
- _____ Winter Cookie Bakers- bring baked goods and hot cocoa for Winter Concert

Chaperones

- _____ Field Trip Chaperones- day trips scheduled throughout the year

Cabaret Volunteers (Feb 24-25)

We need many volunteers for Cabaret. Please put an X in any committee that you would feel comfortable helping.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| _____ Server Supervision | _____ Ticketing | _____ Auction/Giveaways |
| _____ Student Supervision | _____ Decorations | _____ Stage/Venue Setup |
| _____ Truck Transportation | _____ Kitchen Help | _____ Sign-up Genius Guru |
| _____ Advertising/Publicity | _____ Clean up | _____ Host/Greeters |

Donation of Goods

This year our choir is in need of the following things: (please check if you can provide)

- _____ DVD/CD jewel cases
- _____ Gaffers tape
- _____ Water Bottles
- _____ Blank DVD/CDs
- _____ White Board markers
- _____ Pencils (No.2)
- _____ Reams of colored printer paper (light green, goldenrod, light blue, light pink)
- _____ 3 brad plastic folders (green, blue, red, orange)

And as always, extra cash donations always go to a good cause!