

PONDEROSA HIGH SCHOOL

MEN'S CHORUS

“Acafellas”

Disclosure and Syllabus- Lucy Nisbet

Please read this entire document before signing!

Core Purpose

If I cannot fly, let me sing. -Stephen Sondheim

Congratulations on joining Acafellas! It's going to be an exciting, FUN year with this group of young men! Our core purpose is JOY! Singers are always expected to strive for excellence, but **the end goal is to find joy growing as individual musicians, joy collaborating as a choir, and joy sharing our music with family and community.** All our daily habits of excellence, kindness, personal responsibility, engaging in learning, hard work, and creativity contribute to this core purpose. It is my goal to help each student have a great experience this year!

Choir Theme 2019/2020

**LEAD OUT,
LIFT UP!**

Course Description/Objectives

- sight singing, rhythm, harmony, and music theory
- vocal technique focussing on breath management, vowels, tone, and resonance
- performance skills; multiple performances per semester, competitive festival
- choral singing focussing on balance, blend, diction, and divers genres

Supplies Required to brought to class each day:

- 1” Black Binder for music, Preferred: Staples 1" 3-Ring Better Binder, Black
- A pencil
- Water bottle

Grading Scale

A+= 98-100%

B+ = 87-89%

C+ = 77-79%

A = 93-97%

B = 83-86%

C = 73-76%

A- = 90-92

B- = 80-82%

C- = 70-72%

If students are present and fully engaged in learning, completing assignments, behaving appropriately, and attending all concerts they will receive high marks. I am happy to give my students the A grade that they deserve! I am also available to offer lunchtime and after school help. Please check Aeries.net frequently and talk to your student first if you have questions about a grade. After that, please feel free to email any time with grade concerns or questions.

Google Classroom For school work and communication with students, I predominantly use google classroom. **The code to join Acafellas google classroom page**

is: k7e7jc9 students should join by the end of the first week of school. You will also receive and invite to join as a parent. This is where I put part recordings for students to work on at home. And where they can upload recordings and turn in assignments.

Grading System Grading will be based upon the following:

- **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.
- **Quizzes:** Small quizzes to check understanding of music theory and choral literature. Quizzes can be retaken at lunch to improve score.
- **Part Listening/Skill Checks:** Sight-reading, rhythms, parts, memorization, etc. Students will listen to part recordings at home and assessed in class.
- **Concert Attendance:** (Described below)
- **Other Assignments:** Various assignments will be given throughout the year.
- **Extra Credit:** Various opportunities throughout the year.

Choir Codes of Conduct

#1 Be Excellent & Exact

#4 Be Focused on Learning

#2 Be Respectful & Kind

#5 Be Gritty & Positive

#3 Be Disciplined with Talking & Phone

If there are issues with behavior or cell phones, students will be given a verbal reminder. On the second cell phone infraction, students will be asked to place their cell phone in their backpack. Second occurrence for cell phones or behavior issues will result in a loss of participation points for that day. Persistent disruptive behavior will result in detentions and referrals.

Concert Schedule and Attendance Requirements

The attached schedule includes concert dates and other activities currently on the calendar for the year. **Please make a note of them on your calendars, particularly the concerts in bold.** We try to get everything set on the calendar for the year, but there are always changes and additions. I will attempt to give as much prior notice as possible when adding a required event to the calendar. Up-to-date performance information can also be found on our website: **www.bruinchoir.com**

Concerts

Every singer is valuable to our ensemble and performing is a crucial part of our learning process and are like a final exam. **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. Nisbet. If a student has a schedule conflict, they must turn in an Absence Request Form to Mrs. Nisbet **TWO WEEKS** before the concert (a copy of this form can be found on our website and in the classroom) to receive make-up work for partial credit. Mrs. Nisbet will inform students if their request is accepted or denied. 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 after school Chorale rehearsal on Wednesday the week before a concert. These are held in the choir room 2:30-4:00 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 due to a conflict, they must inform Mrs. Nisbet TWO WEEKS before the rehearsal using an Absence Request Form. Again, this form can be found online and in the classroom.

Uniforms

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 returned damaged, a fine will be incurred by the student.

MEN- All men will receive a green tie.

IN ADDITION to the tuxedo, **men will be asked to provide their own :**

- **black dress pants**
- **white, long sleeve dress shirt**
- **black dress shoes (no vans or sneakers)**
- **black socks appropriate for tuxedo (not a suggestion, required)**

If a student cannot provide attire, we will do our best to fit them from remaining choir uniforms.

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 whatever you can give. (*Spring Trip costs are not included*)

Sheet Music \$20

Choir T-Shirt for new singers \$10

Concert Attire Rental \$30

Various Festival Costs \$10

Total Suggested Donation = \$70

You can pay this with:

- **Check made out to PHS Choir Boosters OR**
- **Credit Card on our website www.bruinchoir.com/choirs/class-donation/**

Choir Boosters Please consider participating in our parent run Choir Boosters organization. This group of volunteers turns “choir class” into a *choir program* with rich

depth in opportunities for our student musicians to grow and have fun. It's a rewarding opportunity for parents to be involved in their students high school experience. More info at our Mandatory Parent Meeting by Choir Boosters Wed., Aug. 28th 7-8 pm.

Fundraising No student is required to fundraise- however, all are invited and welcome to participate as our program cannot operate fully without these additional funds. If a student facing financial hardship, would like to be considered to receive financial assistance to cover choir costs, we ask that they assist us in our fundraising efforts by volunteering their time, selling tickets, helping to advertise, etc. Some of the fundraisers for 2019/2020 are: Quick Quack car wash, dine-outs, pancake breakfast, Pondo's Got Talent, and of course Cabaret!...

Cabaret Cabaret 2020 "Showstoppers!" Feb. 21-22 is more than a fundraiser, it's a highlight performance of the year! All choir students participate through dynamic musical entertainment at a themed performance with food and drink, lively "desert dash" and silent auction. All students are expected to sell tickets and market the event. The funds raised go toward program costs such as transportation for Choir Tour to Anaheim, CA and program scholarships. This event is super fun; we look forward to getting to know all our choir parents as you fulfill volunteer opportunities.

Spring Trip We are thrilled to announce our **Choir Tour this year: March 26th-28 Heritage Music Festival in Anaheim, CA!!!** Our trip will include college tour/s, clinics with collegiate choir directors, competitive festival performances, awards ceremony, and a day in Disneyland! This will be an incredibly rich learning and bonding experience for your students. There are student costs associated with the trip. Information packets will be available at our Mandatory Parent Meeting by Choir Boosters Wed, Aug. 28th 7-8 pm.

e-SCRIP & Amazon Smile You can and should enroll in e-Scrip and Amazon Smile. Super easy way to raise funds by shopping! Instructions to enroll are on our website, click on forms/links, scrip.

Communication/Remind App Updates throughout the year will be sent out via email. For this reason, please be sure to clearly write your email to which you would like choir information sent in the following document. Also, please download the **Remind App to get helpful choir reminders or simply:**

- **Parents: text** this number: 81010 and send this message: @1819pon
- **Students: text** this number: 81010 and send this message: @pondochoir

Choir Website Bookmark www.bruinchoir.com any information sent out will be posted as well as a calendar, concert info, donations link, etc.

Teacher Contact information Feel free to talk to contact me anytime at lnisbet@eduhd.k12.ca.us.

SIGNATURE AND VOLUNTEER PAGE (FRONT AND BACK)

Please return this form and your choir donation for your student by
Friday August 16th (Keep the information packet for your own records.)

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. I understand that ALL students will be filmed during concerts, and these recordings will be made available for purchase to choir students and their families only. I give permission for the choir to use pictures or videos of my student in the yearbook, promotional materials or on their website.*

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/guardian)

Parent Email(s) _____

Parent Phone(s) _____

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

I will donate to support the Choir Program and my donation of _____ is being returned with this signature page or was already paid online. (**Chamber 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.

I will attend the Mandatory Parent Meeting by Choir Boosters Wed., Aug. 28th 7-8 pm.

I have filled out the required permission forms for trips and transportation.

Choir Volunteer Page/Donations of Goods

In a program the size of our choir, many hands 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 and/or alterations
 Handyman/woman- throughout the year
 Part Recordings

Concert Concert Volunteers

- Riser Crew- meet two hours before the concert to set up, take down after concert
 Welcome/Ushers/Supervision- pass out programs and help with choir stage flow
 Bakers- bring baked goods for our concert bake sales

Chaperones/Drivers

- Choir Tour Chaperones, March 26-28
 Choir Drivers/Chaperones for day trips scheduled throughout the year

Cabaret Volunteers Feb. 22nd-23rd

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

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Server Supervision | <input type="checkbox"/> Ticketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Auction/Giveaways |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Supervision | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Stage/Venue Setup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Truck Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign-up Genius Guru |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising/Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up | <input type="checkbox"/> Host/Greeters |

Donation of Goods

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

- Pencils, ticonderoga preferred
 Blue Painters Tape
 Bottled Water
 Binders, preferred: Staples 1" 3-Ring Better Binder, Black

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

If you have any questions or concerns, or if there is something I should know about your son or daughter, please write it below: _____
