**Beginning Vocal Music**

Welcome to Ms. Puhala’s Beginning Chorus class! I’m very excited to get to know all of you and to sing with you this semester. You will learn the basics of vocal production, choral performance, and music literacy in this class. Below you’ll find everything you need to know before you take the class. Let’s make it a great semester!

Class website: http://blackhawkchorus.weebly.com

**Materials**

-*Pencil*

-Laptop

-Notebook Paper

-Water to stay hydrated

\*Each student will be provided with sheet music and a folder by Ms. Puhala. Part of your rehearsal grade in this class is affected by whether you take care of your music and turn it all back in after a performance. Please be respectful of school property.

**Objectives**

By the end of this semester, you will be able to:

-Produce a healthy vocal tone

-Blend your voice in a choir

-Read, write, and sing simple melodies and rhythms using musical notation

**Attendance**

-See Ms. Puhala after any absence to see what you missed while you were gone. It is your responsibility to schedule make-up quizzes and to complete your make-up work. If you don’t get your work after an absence, you will receive a zero for everything you missed.

-ATTENDANCE AT CONCERTS IS MANDATORY. If you are at school the day of (or the Friday before) the concert, you must attend the concert. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of your grade by **2 letter grades**--NO EXCEPTIONS. Plan rides and back-up rides ahead of time--not having a ride is not an acceptable excuse. Ask off of work far in advance.

-If you have a conflict that was scheduled before one of our concerts is announced, a request to be excused must be submitted in writing 2 weeks prior to the performance date. If your request is accepted, you will write a 3-5 page paper instead of performing. If the request is denied, your grade will be lowered by 2 letter grades.

-There will be a few after-school rehearsals in the weeks leading up to performances in order to get our music together with accompanists, other ensembles, etc. These rehearsals will be short, but they are a requirement for participation in the class.

**Important Dates**--An asterisk (\*) indicates that it is required for all students.

\*\*Spring Concert: March 6th, 5pm (tentative)

Atlanta trip: April 8-9

\*\*Arts Night Out: TBA (April)

\*\*Dinner Theater Dress Rehearsals: May 2, 3, and 4, 6-8pm

\*\*Dinner Theater: May 5-6, 6pm

Check class website frequently for updates: [**http://blackhawkchorus.weebly.com**](http://blackhawkchorus.weebly.com)

**Performance Attire**

-Ladies: White dressy top with black dress pants or a black skirt. Tops should cover the shoulders and should not be low-cut. If you wear a skirt, it must come down below the knee, and must be worn with black tights. Formal black closed-toe shoes.

-Men: White button-down shirt with black pants, black dress shoes and black socks.

**Expectations**

-Respect the classroom: No food or drink other than water. Clean up after yourself. Ask permission to play the piano. No aerosols (perfume, etc.).

-Respect the teacher: Follow all instructions promptly and completely.

-Respect your classmates: Wait your turn to speak. Keep your hands to yourself. Use your inside voice. Keep personal drama out of the classroom.

-Respect yourself: Be attentive in class. Turn your cell phone off and put it away. Give 100% every day.

**Consequences**

-1st offense: 10 points off weekly rehearsal grade.

-2nd offense: 20 points off weekly rehearsal grade and appropriate punishment (e.g. phone taken away).

-3rd offense: 50 points off weekly rehearsal grade and phone call home.

-4th offense: Stay after school 30 minutes. Student will complete an action plan.

-5th offense: Administrative intervention.

**Grading**

Weekly Rehearsal: 20%

Classwork: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Tests/Projects: 15%

Performances: 25%

Please complete and return the attached forms.

**Syllabus:**

I have read and understand the above information.

Student name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Video and Audio Recording:**

During class, it is sometimes necessary to make video and audio recordings of class rehearsals and performances for evaluation purposes. Please sign below indicating your consent for your student to be recorded in this class.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Internet Posting:**

Our class website allows community members to see what students are accomplishing in chorus class. Pictures may be taken of choir members throughout the semester and posted online to illustrate the activities that are taking place for our students. Parental permission is necessary to post pictures of students online--please sign below indicating permission for your student to be included in online postings.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Volunteer Form

Throughout the semester, there will be occasions where I will need help from parents in order to complete some of the work in this department. If you are willing and able to help, please return this form--we would love to have you playing an active role in our department!

Student name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent e-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Where would you like to help? (check all that apply)**

\_\_\_\_ Field trip planning

\_\_\_\_ Field trip chaperoning

\_\_\_\_ Fundraising

\_\_\_\_ At our concert (collecting donations, ushering, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ I can help anywhere--just let me know where you need me!

Thank you!!