

Riverview High School
Chorus Department

Vocal Ensemble Handbook 2019-2020

Director: Elizabeth M. Stewart

11311 Boyette Road
Riverview, FL 33569



Class Objectives

- ✓ Grow as a responsible, disciplined member of a performing group.
- ✓ Receive instruction pertaining to the development and improvement of vocal techniques in solo and choral performance.
- ✓ Discover the fundamental principles of music theory and how it is structured in notated music.
- ✓ Learn the historical background of the music that is studied.
- ✓ Understand the role and value of music in your life.
- ✓ Listen to, analyze, describe, or evaluate music and musical performances.
- ✓ Foster creativity in improvisational singing and/or arranging and composing vocal warm ups or songs

Grading Scheme

35%: Class participation, quizzes, quartet formation, and conduct. There will also be random assessments of student progression in music theory, vocal production, harmonization, and musical creativity.

5%: Concert reflections

60%: Participation in concerts and other required performances.

Daily Materials

- ✓ Pencil (no pens)
- ✓ ½ inch black binder
- ✓ College ruled notebook paper
- ✓ Appropriate dance attire (Vocal Ensemble only)

Concert and Performance Expectations

Remember, all school and county rules as outlined in the HCPS Student Handbook apply when at any performance. When you are performing, you are representing the Riverview High School Chorus program. Full participation is expected at all concerts and performances. To receive full credit, you must be on time to all performances and attend these concerts in full, with the appropriate uniform(s).

If an emergency should arise, please contact the at least director 24 hours beforehand. Call time for all off campus events is 30 minutes prior to the scheduled performance. When you arrive to a concert or performance, make sure to check in and check out with the designated student leader. Non-chorus or event participants are not allowed back stage; this includes the auditorium stage, the music hallway, dressing rooms, and classrooms. Performers should arrive fully dressed in their assigned uniform.

*If a student has an excused absence from a concert, the highest grade they can receive for a performance is aa 80%. If you want to excuse an absence, a parent email must be sent 72 hours in advance of the show date. **Sending an email does not guarantee an absence is excused!** Students who have an unexcused absence from a concert will be graded on an individual basis at the discretion of the director. Excessive absences may change the status of an ensemble member (making them an alternate) if it becomes habitual to miss performances or students are not able to maintain grade eligibility. The students status will be reviewed after 2 absences.*

Sheet Music Expectations

Each member will be required to purchase a black binder to store music. This folder will be used for the entire school year. You will be issued music throughout the year. This music should be kept in your folder and be with you in class every day. You will be charged replacement cost for any lost or damaged original music. Music shall be marked with PENCIL ONLY. Replacement costs for each piece of music range from \$1.00 to \$8.00. You will be assigned an unsecured slot in the choir room for folder storage. If you choose to keep it in your slot, you are still responsible for the contents therein. Any folder left out will be collected and placed in the appropriate choir's bin. If for some reason, you do not receive a piece of music, share with your neighbor for the day, then at the end of class, talk to the librarian or Ms. Stewart. Only appointed students will be allowed in the library.

Rehearsal Expectations

- ✓ The Monday Chamber Choir rehearsals are MANDATORY and count 10 points toward your weekly participation grades. The weekly in class grade is 5 points a day.
- ✓ There is to be no talking or disruption of any kind once rehearsal has started unless otherwise directed.
- ✓ When the tardy bell rings, you need to be in your seat with all the needed materials for that day. If you walk into the class after the bell, you will be marked "unexcused tardy" unless you present a pass.
- ✓ Be respectful and professional to all persons in the class. This includes not;
 - Using profanity
 - Making derogatory comments toward anyone
 - Moving from your seat while someone is speaking
 - Talking while another section is working
 - Packing up before instructed to do so
 - Inappropriate public displays of affection.
- ✓ Electronic devices may not be used during rehearsals, before or after concerts. I see it; I take it no questions asked. Any confiscated devices will be turned into the main office and must be picked up by a parent or legal guardian.
- ✓ Food, gum, or drinks are not allowed in class. Bottled water is the only thing permitted in class. Help us keep our carpet clean.
- ✓ Adhere to all procedures and guidelines set out in the HCPS Student Handbook.
- ✓ We work from bell to bell. Please be on time to class every day!

Vaping

This is a friendly reminder that there will be a zero tolerance police for vaping in this department. This includes, but not limited to field trips (even when outside), community shows, rehearsals, or concerts. If you are wearing chorus attire, even if not you are not at a chorus event, please do not vape. If you are caught vaping (or in possession of a vaporizer) while at a chorus-sponsored event, you will be disciplined in accordance with HCPS guidelines. Not only is vaping illegal for anyone under 18, it has also shown to cause negative effects on your vocal health.

Varsity Letters

To earn a letter/bar in Chorus, you must;

- ✓ Attend all rehearsals and performances
- ✓ Maintain a B average in the class both in conduct and academics.
- ✓ Other factors include: attitude, participation in extra events, leadership, and citizenship.
- ✓ Demonstrate musical achievement
- ✓ Serve as a positive role model

Payments

The chorus accepts the following forms of payments; cash, check, PayPal, Credit Card, cashier's check, and money order. Please make checks and money orders out to "RVHS Chorus Boosters." All payments are to be deposited into the box on Mrs. Stewart's office desk, in an envelope with the student's name, enclosed amount, and the reason for the payment. Envelopes will not always be available for students to use so please anticipate on providing your envelopes. Please do not hand your payment to a student leader or leave it on Mrs. Stewart's desk. If you need to set up a payment plan, the parent must contact Mrs. Stewart via email to arrange payments prior to the payment deadline. All monies must be paid in full before we can order uniforms, polos, or pay for trips.

Fundraising

We plan on doing many various types of fundraisers this year to cover the cost of trips, as well as music and supplies for our Choral program. We are a competitive choir; therefore, students are required to participate in fundraising throughout the school year to insure enough money to cover trip costs and choral department expenses.

Field Trip/School Business Performance Eligibility

It is the goal of the chorus program to provide trips that will enhance your Music Education experience as a developing high school performing artist, and to boost the morale of entire choral department as a whole. To participate in music enhancement activities and trips you must;

- ✓ Have an A average in Chorus
- ✓ Have an A average in conduct
- ✓ Be passing all other classes with a B or higher
- ✓ Be in good conduct in all of your classes
- ✓ Maintain a weighted GPA of 2.5 or higher to be eligible for trips of any kind

This includes All County, All State, Solo & Ensemble, and both state and choral level MPA.

Lunch Passes

The 800 building will be locked down during all lunch periods. Please do not come to chorus during a lunch period unless you have a pass from Mrs. Stewart. You will be asked to leave if you do have a pass. Passes are seldom written, do not expect a pass to be written every day.

Student Leadership

Mrs. Stewart will appoint student leaders only when she needs them and they are expected to serve the choir in a respectful manner.

Their goal, as leaders, is to reinforce the positive potential of the vocal ensemble in which they sing, never to challenge the director.

Expectations:

- ✓ Do not talk down to the members on the choir
- ✓ Remain calm and be patient and demonstrate what teamwork is about and be consistent!
- ✓ Convey a respectful attitude toward other members of the council and your student peers. **LEAD BY EXAMPLE!**

Parent Chaperones and Volunteers

Chaperones

- ✓ All chaperones must fill out online volunteer application
- ✓ All chaperones on overnight and out-of-county trips must be fingerprinted by HCPS

Volunteers

- ✓ All volunteers must fill out online volunteer application
- ✓ Volunteering during school hours must be arranged in advance
- ✓ All volunteers must sign in and out in the main office

Uniform Guidelines

- ✓ Both gentlemen and ladies heed to have their hair neat and out of their face.
- ✓ Do not wear flashy or distracting jewelry (stud earrings only!), and heavy perfumes or colognes.
- ✓ If you do not purchase a formal uniform you will be removed from the vocal ensemble.
- ✓ **Ladies must wear appropriate skin tone tights and bloomers for every show.**
- ✓ Ladies need to wear flat black shoes for choral performances, (heels or character shoes are not permitted with formal uniform regulations)
- ✓ **All visible tattoos must be completely covered with smear-proof (skin tone) make-up during performances, failure to comply will forfeit performance opportunity.**
- ✓ All uniforms are purchased, not rented

| Chamber Choir Uniform | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Ladies | | Gentlemen | |
| Formal | Informal | Formal | Informal |
| Long blue choir dress Black flats | Chorus polo Black slacks* Black flats (same as table below) | Tux jacket Tux bowtie Tux shirt Cummerbund Tux pants Black socks* Black dress shoes* | Chorus polo Black slacks* Black socks* Black dress shoes* (same as table below) |
| Cost: \$105.00 | Cost: \$25.00 | Cost: \$115.00 | Cost: \$25.00 |

| Show Choir Uniform | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Ladies | | Gentlemen | |
| Show | Informal | Show | Informal |
| Show Choir dress with pins Character shoes Show Choir jacket Bloomers Tights Garment bag | Show Choir Polo Black slacks* Black flats (Same as table above) | Black shirt* Show Choir vest Show Choir tie Performance shoes Show Choir jacket Black socks | Show Choir polo Black slacks Black socks* Performance shoes (Same as table above) |
| Cost: \$243.00 | Cost: \$25.00 | Cost: \$ 183.00 | Cost: \$25.00 |

Formal show choir uniform fees also include an official jacket and garment bag

*not included in the uniform cost, must be purchased on your own

Contact the Chorus

Director: Elizabeth Stewart, M.M.E.

Office: 803D

Director Email: Elizabeth.stewart@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Office Phone: (813) 671-5011 ext.282

Booster Email: sharkchorus@gmail.com

Website: www.sharkchorus.org

Get Connected!

Twitter: @sharkchorus

Instagram: @sharkchorus

Snapchat: @sharkchorus

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sharkchorus3371

Remind: Sign up with the codes below to get text notifications!

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| VISION | @visionI9 |
| Harmonix | @harmonixI9 |
| Boosters & Parents | @I9boosters |

Text the appropriate code above (with the @ symbol) to 81010