

Fullerton Union High School Academy of the Arts Choral Music Program and Vocal Studies

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING POLICIES 2017-2018

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Fullerton Sings on Facebook, FullertonSings@gmail.com, www.FullertonSings.com
Mr. Scott Hedgecock, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities/Performing Arts Department Chairperson,
Mr. Anthony Lopez, Collaborative Artist
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“Every course in music, including performance courses, should provide instruction in creating, performing, listening to, and analyzing music, in addition to focusing on its specific subject matter”.
National Standards for Arts Education - Music

Welcome to Choral Music and singing at Fullerton Union High School! The Choirs of FUHS have a long-standing reputation for excellence, and our vocalists are competition award winners.

It is important that you have knowledge about our program so that you can become an expert on Choral Music at FUHS. We have five choirs in the Choral Music Program, and we are part of the larger Performing Arts Department and the *Academy of the Arts (AotA)*.

Women's Chorus –a group of young women who will explore music written for the female voice while learning about the voice and how to use it well. Sight-reading, music history, and performing techniques are also studied. Festivals and school Concerts are included.

Men's Chorus –an ensemble for male voices, these singers will explore all aspects of singing and choral music at it applies to the male voice. Sight-reading, music history, and performing techniques are also studied. Participation with other groups will help to create our large mixed choirs. Festivals and school Concerts are included. Students repeating the course will receive ***Men's Ensemble*** credit (advanced level).

Women's Ensemble –an advanced women's group, these singers will study music written for women's voices with an emphasis on female composers and/or arrangers whenever possible. Advanced level sight-reading, music history, and performing techniques are also studied. Festivals and school Concerts are included. Open to current 10-12 students only by audition.

Vocal Ensemble –the advanced mixed voice choir. Vocal Ensemble performs often on the school campus, in the community, and at festivals and events throughout greater southern California. Membership is generally open only to students in grades 10-12. VE is considered to be the honors level choir, and participation in choral and vocal activities outside of the class time is a requirements. Festivals, school Concerts, and Concert Tour are included.

Other opportunities within our vocal program include our *Vocal Studio* which offers private fee-based voice lessons on campus taught by our talented adjunct vocal faculty, *Vocal Master Classes* –both in class and outside of the school day. All students are eligible and encouraged to take advantage of additional opportunities including Honor Choirs and Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble Festivals and Competitions.

All choral music students have the opportunity to challenge themselves further by becoming Academy Students at the end of their Freshman Year. Many members of the Classes of 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 have elected to be part of our Performing Arts Pathway “Triple Threat Performers”; taking Choral, Theater, and Dance classes all four years. T3's!

"the human voice can be the most alive, vibrant, and buoyant instrument of them all..... because it is". (Paul Salamunovich, L.A. Master Chorale Emeritus)

Students will sing with expression and technical accuracy a large and varied repertoire of vocal literature (Content Standard 1d)

“Friends don’t let friends chew gum in choir”

The GOALS FOR EACH CHOIR MEMBER are as follows:

- to build their voice to a level of competency which gives them confidence and enjoyment in singing practice and performance (*Nat. Cont. Stnd. 1/State Frmwrk 2.0*)
- to learn about music theory, music history, and sight singing in order to become better musicians and to improve the musical impact of the group (*Nat. Cont. Stnd 3, 4, 5, and 9/State Frmwks 1.0, 3.0*)
- to learn to work together with others in a "team effort" and to share in the making of beautiful music together (*Nat. Cont. Stnd 1, 7, 8/State Frmwks 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0*)
- to represent FUHS with pride and to enjoy the opportunity and responsibility of being an "Ambassador of Music" from FUHS to the community (*Nat. Cont. Stnd 8, 9/State Frmwks 5.0*)

EXTRA REHEARSALS - These are held prior to a major performance, and immediately before the major events on the stage where the performances will take place. Attendance at all extra rehearsals is required in order to perform and therefore to pass the course. Rehearsals are closed, with only the concert participants and parent volunteers in attendance, please respect this policy. See Choral Music Calendar for specific dates and times.

"know what greatness is. Listen, Listen, Listen..." (Carolyn Shannon, mentor)

Students analyze aural examples of a varied repertoire of music, representing diverse genres and cultures, by describing the uses of elements of music and expressive devices. (Content Standard 6.a.)

PERFORMANCES -Each performance is the test of all we have been working on up to that point. A live performance is always a once-in-a-lifetime event ... no two are ever exactly alike and once they are over they can never be repeated. Therefore, performances are very important, actually sacred events, to all choir members. You deserve the right to enjoy a good performance after you have worked hard and this can only happen when everyone is in their proper place and doing their job to the best of their ability. Attendance at all performances is mandatory and there are NO MAKEUPS. . so don't even ask!

"..the music you are singing is your favorite piece at that moment. That's how you sing your best". (William Hatcher, retired/mentor)

Students evaluate a given musical work in terms of its aesthetic qualities and explain the musical means it uses to evoke feelings and emotions. (Content Standard 7.c.)

MUSIC, MATERIALS, AND FOLDERS – Students will be provided with folders that will be labeled with each student’s name, choir, and folder number. Students may take their music home for study and memorization, and must always have their music folder with them at all rehearsals (see grading policy). Students will use their folder as a portfolio of their year in choir. Programs, flyers, adjudications, journals and other portfolio items should be arranged neatly along with the music in the folders. More information on portfolios will be supplied in class.

Students will always have a pencil in class for daily writing in the music during rehearsals. **YOU WILL USE PENCIL ONLY, NEVER PEN!!!** It is impossible to write too much appropriate information in your music. All Choral Music students are provided with a pencil and folder.

".. it is by your pencil marks that you live or die (in performance)."(every great music director...)

Students analyze and describe uses of the elements of music in a given work that make it unique, interesting, and expressive. (Content Standard 6.f.)

“You are not expected to remember everything, but you need to be able to follow all directions given in class...so write them down!”

GRADING –Daily classroom attendance and being on time is important to the continued improvement of the choirs and the student’s abilities. FUHS guidelines for clearing absences and tardy procedures will be enforced. The formula for grading will be a point system. All possible points earned in each grading period will be added cumulatively and a percentage system of 100-90 = A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-55 =D, will be used. The use of "+" and "-" will be used for the two point places at either end of the grade range (e.g., 99 or 100% = A+, 71 or 70 = C-, etc.). The points to be earned are given below in maximum values:

- 2 points for each full daytime rehearsal attended. Being late or leaving early doesn't count. Complete participation is required including having your materials in class
- 2 points for daily effort, as assessed by the instructor
- 25 points for each periodical memorization/note test
- 25 points for written homework assignments or projects*
- 25 points for every quiz based upon information discussed in class
- 50 points for each special rehearsal which includes final tech/dress rehearsals (mandatory in order to attend performance), or a lunch, after school, or additional evening rehearsal
- 100 points for each performance. Missing a performance will lower your grade
- 100 points for your Choral Portfolio (checked each grading period)
- 50 points for a mid-term exam (teacher’s option)
- 100 points for a final exam (teacher’s option)

* Our online Sight Reading program for students to do individual work on a weekly basis will be up and running soon. The grading for this will be included in the information when this program is launched.

Citizenship grades are as follows: an "O" is earned (given at semester only) when a student has a daily attendance grade above 90%, attends all extra rehearsals and performances, and serves a minimum of five hours of service to the Choral program; an "S" is standard for all students (think of it as basic); an "N" will be given if a student has a daily attendance grade below 80% or misses a performance or extra rehearsal; a "U" is given when a student is failing the course or has two or more unexcused absences from special rehearsals or performances.

Student Behavior Expectations: The Choral Music program expects all students to understand and follow all rules for student behavior as outlined by the school site and district. Attendance and Tardy policies will be followed, as well as classroom discipline plans. Each student in an FUHS choir wants to be setting the example for student attitude, behavior, and participation in our school community.

Daily Classroom Expectations will be built during class, and listed on our “whiteboards”, during the first few weeks of class.

“...we are only as strong as our weakest link”.....don’t let it be YOU! (Linda Allen Anderson, retired)

LEADERSHIP -the leadership of the FUHS choirs is based upon student and parental involvement. The student officers, both elected and appointed, form ***the Choral Music Club (CMC) Executive Board***. The CMC officers meet once a month or more as needed to oversee the functions of the choirs. All students enrolled in a choir are automatically a member of the Choral Music Club (Choir Club) on campus.

“if serving is below you, then leadership is beyond you”

The ***Choral Booster Club (CBC)*** is the corresponding parent support group. This organization consists of two parts: the Executive Board/Committee Chairs that meets monthly (open to all parents) and the general membership that meets twice a year (see the attached announcement about membership). The primary objective of the CBC is to assist in the many functions and arrangements necessary for the ongoing events of the program. Each choir student’s family is invited and encouraged to join the CBC and give assistance through their time, talents, and/or gifts as they are able.

The Fullerton Academy of the Arts Foundation (FAAF) is a non-profit organization devoted to providing additional funding support to the Visual and Performing Arts at FUHS.

Choral Music fosters confidence and growth, and gives each student a moment when they discover “Aha! I can do this!” Your support of the CBC through your volunteerism and donations will ensure that our students’ journey continues.

FUND RAISING -It is vitally important that we actively involve ourselves in organized fund-raisers, as goals are set, plans are made, and budgets created based upon known costs per student. New and innovative fund raising ideas are always welcomed.

The Adult life of every student is enriched by the skills, knowledge, and habits acquired in the study of music. (Content Standards Introduction)

OUTFITS –The FUHS Choirs have a history of presenting an appropriate and formal appearance. All choir members must conform to the outfit rules, including hair styles (natural colors, no rainbow or augmented colors), no jewelry (including piercings), no visible tattoo's. Complete outfit information is distributed separately. Please speak with Mr. Hedgecock immediately if you have any concerns about your choral attire requirements. All outfits should be acquired early in the year to insure that a student is ready for the first performance. All Choral Music students receive a *FullertonSings* T-shirt that is worn often throughout the year.

HONOR LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES -All Choral Music students have the opportunity to challenge themselves in a number of rewarding and enriching programs that are over and above their membership in a choir:

- Academy Status. Students elect to become an Academy Student at the end of their Freshman year. The Academy pathway is then completed during the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade years.
- Triple Threat Performer Pathway (T3s) –students select this program upon entering FUHS in their Freshmen year. These students will follow a grid of courses that allows them to participate in Choral Music, Theatre, and Dance all four years on a 4-3-2 minimum requirement.
- Tri-M Music Honor Society -This international Music Honor Society stresses the importance of Leadership, Service, High level Musical involvement and Community. Tri-M is open to all students who are enrolled in an FUHS Music course, and all Academy Pathway and Triple Threat Students are required to be Tri-M students.
- Plus Honor Choirs, Honor Level events, Solo and Ensemble Festivals and Competitions, and special events hosted at colleges/universities.

Refer to specific information posted regarding these opportunities

SOLOS - many solo and small ensemble opportunities are available to FUHS Choir members. These may be in the form of vocal solo competitions or in conjunction with concerts. The director reserves the right to determine if a student may enter a competition whose organizers have solicited students' participation from the high school. The director will select who will sing solos at the performances through an audition process.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS -are encouraged for any student who wishes to pursue a career in music or who wants to develop their singing abilities to their fullest potential. Mrs. Caldretti and Mr. MacDougall are the Academy Vocal Adjunct Faculty, and district employees. Please refer to their flyers posted on the Vocal Solo wall in the Choir Room.

"Sing as a soloist when in the rehearsal room, the voice studio, and in the performance. You should not compromise your sound for the ensemble". (Robert Shaw)

All students are to study these guidelines in class, review them with their parent(s)/guardian(s), fill out the attached response sheet and turn it in during class, and all other forms are to be completed and submitted online, with payments/donations as appropriate, on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, or within 3 days from first entering the class, whichever comes first. Submitting all completed paperwork is a class homework assignment. The Course Expectations and Grading Practices will be reviewed and referenced in the Google Classroom.

The Director may be contacted through the Choral Music office, 714.626.3984, or by email at shedgecock@fjuhsd.org Parent and student communication of questions, comments and concerns is encouraged. Communication is a key to balancing busy schedules, accomplishing goals, and keeping the stress level low. Please like us on Facebook at **Fullerton Sings**. All Booster Club communications should be sent to FullertonSings@gmail.com. Follow us on our Facebook page FullertonSings and watch for the launch of www.FullertonSings.com

Each one of you is special because you are in choir. Please think about the ways in which you and your family can make your participation in an FUHS Choir the best experience of your school year!!!

Quotes are from the National Core Arts Standards for Music Education, the California State Standards for Music Education, and from Choral Directors past and present

CHORAL MUSIC

**Check off list for submitting/returning items to school on 9/6/2017
(or within 3 days of receiving this packet)**

**25 point homework grade for turning in all forms if they are on time
and correctly completed.**

Review at home:

**___ review all information at home. Course Guidelines are in
Google Classroom**

**___ keep a copy of the Calendar at home. It will be updated
on the Google Classroom/website throughout the year.**

Submit/Return the following:

- **Make sure all items are filled out completely, signed in all of the required places, and that payments/donations are attached as applicable.**
- **All financials should be made by check to FUHS CBC.**

Print copies, fill out completely, and turn in copies to teacher:

___ Choral Music Syllabi Agreement

Completely fill out and return to school:

___ District Permission slip (2 sided)

___ Volunteer Form (2 sided)

Fill out the Google Forms and submit:

___ Choral Roster and Health/Insurance Forms

NOTE: Choral Attire outfit information will be sent home separately. Please see some of our past performing attire in many of the photos on the FUHS website (www.fullertonhigh.org). Go to Academies and follow the links to the photos section. In addition to the formal attires, students also have casual attire (Fullerton Sings T-shirts, provided by the CBC) and travel outfits when touring (usually a sweatshirt).

Syllabi Agreement

For: Mr. Scott Hedgecock, FUHS Choral Music

(please return on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 or within 3 days of joining the class(es) listed below)

We have read, understand, and accept the grading procedures, course guidelines, and classroom expectations for the following music courses:

Check all that apply:

Men's Chorus	_____
Women's Chorus	_____
Women's Ensemble	_____
Vocal Ensemble	_____
Piano	_____

Print Student Name

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature/date

Parent/Guardian Signature/date