

## SYLLABUS

Reno Valley Middle School Choir, Spring Semester 2021

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We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. —Aristotle

### COURSE LOCATION & TIME

RVMS Music Room, 1st Hour

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

Pencils

Mask

Music will be supplied

Black slacks, socks, and shoes (for performances – RVMS Music polos will be provided)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will

Learn/review basic music theory (including note recognition, rhythm, etc.)

Learn/review proper breathing

Learn/review proper vowel formation

Learn/review proper diction in English and other languages

Learn/review protocol for performances - stage presence, entry and exit of stage

Study, memorize and present challenging and high-quality music for a variety of performances throughout the school year

### REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Students need to come prepared to each rehearsal with...

Punctuality (be on time!)

A good attitude

A mask

A pencil and writing/note-taking materials

Gum, food, candy, and beverages other than plain, unsweetened, unflavored water are NOT allowed. Students may bring water if they wish.

No inkpens, highlighters, or markers may be used on any music or in any textbooks.

Electronic devices are prohibited. Any cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, or other devices will be confiscated and turned in to the office.

When the bell rings, students should be in their seats, with their music folders/books, and be ready for rehearsal.

Students will not be allowed to leave rehearsal for restroom/water breaks within the first or last 10 minutes of class.

### REQUIRED PERFORMANCES\*

Monday, March 8                      7pm (?)                      Spring Concert

Monday, May 10                      7pm (?)                      Final Concert

### GRADING

\*Choir is a PERFORMANCE-BASED course. Therefore, attendance at ALL PERFORMANCES is MANDATORY. All performances will count as a test grade (200 points), so an unexcused absence at a performance will result in a ZERO. Excused absences include school-sponsored activities, personal illness (with doctor's or parent's note), death in the family, or extenuating circumstances approved by the Choral Director.

Effective rehearsals require EVERY singer present and engaged. Students will receive a weekly Participation Grade, worth 50 points. Absences or tardies, class disruption, poor attitude, lack of participation, or being unprepared for rehearsal will result in points being deducted from the weekly grade.

Periodic music theory, choral methods, or music history assignments may be given. Individual point values will be assigned to those assignments, and assessments (quizzes) will be given as needed. Periodic “Singing Tests” may also be administered to measure students’ effort and attention during rehearsals, especially leading up to a performance.

Performances	= 200 points
Weekly Participation	= 50 points/week
Pencil Checks	= 10 points (pass/fail)
Assessments (Quizzes, Singing Tests)	= Quiz Grade (points TBD)
Theory/Methods/History Assignments	= Written Work Grade (points TBD)

### **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE**

RVMS Music polos will be provided for all performances. Students will need to provide black pants, black socks, and black shoes to wear with the polos. Jeans, leggings, tights, yoga pants, flip-flops, and tennis shoes are not appropriate.

### **COVID-19 DISCLOSURE**

Choir and Band are now considered “high-risk” activities due to the spread of aerosol droplets during singing and playing instruments. We will do everything possible to maintain a safe environment, but please know that your participation in choir does involve some risk, just like participating in a contact sport involves risk. It will be VERY IMPORTANT that you follow proper health protocols IN and OUTSIDE OF school so that our choirs can remain active!

### **MASKS**

Students will be asked to wear masks for part of their time in a choral class. Unfortunately, masks are a hindrance and a barrier to proper choral music education. THEREFORE, at some point, students will have to sing WITHOUT MASKS.

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

We will be spreading out in the Music Room and/or using the Stage for rehearsals to maintain physical distancing when necessary and possible. HOWEVER, at some point students will have to sit/stand in close proximity to each other to achieve a proper choral performance.

**\*\*If you or your parent is uncomfortable with the risks involved in singing in a choir, please contact the RVMS Office for a schedule change.\*\***