



## **2021-2022 RVMS Choir Syllabus**

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**The only thing better than singing is more singing.**

**– Ella Fitzgerald**

### **Course Location & Time**

RVMS Music Room, 1<sup>st</sup> hour

### **Required Materials**

Pencil

Music will be supplied

Formal concert attire: black dress shoes and/or slacks to be purchased by students (see "Performance Attire")

### **Course Description**

Students will:

- Learn/review basic music theory, proper breathing, proper vowel formation, and proper diction in English and other languages.
- Study, memorize, and present challenging and high-quality music for a variety of performances throughout the school year.

### **Rehearsal Expectations**

Students need to come to rehearsal with...

Punctuality (be on time!)

A good attitude

A pencil for notes

A device connected to the internet (school Chromebook)

Don't bring...

Food, candy, gum

Pens or highlighters to mark music/textbooks

Any drink that is not unflavored water

## **Grading - Daily Participation Points**

Effective rehearsals require **every** singer to be present and engaged. Each of you is important to the sound of the group, and we all depend on each other. Students will receive a weekly participation grade, with 10 pts per day.

All of your daily points will be related to your effort in engaging with the music and material covered in class that day.

- Lack of participation, poor attitude/effort, or unpreparedness will result in 2 points being deducted for each infraction. It is the teacher's responsibility to inform students when they are losing points so they can adjust their actions.
- Using phones in class will earn you a failing grade for the day, automatically reducing your maximum points to half, at 5 pts. Any student using their phone will have to give it up until the end of the class period. It will be the responsibility of the student to retrieve their phone once class is over.

Because the bulk of this class is rehearsal, which cannot be replicated outside of school, any tardy or excused absence will result in a 5-point loss from the daily participation grade. Unexcused absences, ISS, or OSS will result in a 10 point-per-day loss. Missing an entire week due to unexcused absence/ISS/OSS will result in a **zero** for the week.

Performances	= 200 points maximum
Weekly Participation Grade	= 50 points maximum per week
Pencil Checks	= 10 points (pass/fail)
Assessments (quizzes, singing tests, sight reading)	= Quiz Grade (Points TBD)
History/Theory/Written Assignments	= Written Work Grade (Points TBD)

## **Performances**

Performances are the culmination of all the work we do in class. You will receive a grade comparable to a test in another class. Your other teammates are counting on you to be there and provide your best effort. Therefore, **attendance at all performances is MANDATORY!**

Students who have an unexcused absence from a concert may elect to complete a make-up assignment for partial credit (maximum 50% of concert grade) instead of receiving a zero. Students with an excused absence can complete a concert make-up assignment for full credit.

Excused absences include school sponsored activities, personal illness, death in the family, or any other circumstance approved by Mr. Weaver in advance. Unexcused absences include work, no ride, or other events not approved by the school or Mr. Weaver. If you are uncertain about whether an absence will be excused, ask. We try our best to schedule around sports,

but in the event there is a game and concert on the same night, administration and Mr. Weaver will take care of the situation.

**If you will be absent for a concert, please get it approved by Mr. Weaver at least two weeks in advance** so the choir can plan accordingly. The three make-up assignments for a concert absence are:

1. The student will record themselves singing the entire concert  
-or-
2. Write a 2-page research paper about the music sung at the concert  
-or-
3. Attend and judge a choir performance at a different school

The details to the assignment are on the school website ([www.nickersonchoirs.org](http://www.nickersonchoirs.org)) under Home > Documents. It is the responsibility of the student to take initiative by completing and returning a concert make-up assignment.

### **Required Performance Events (subject to change)**

RVMS Fall Concert - Tuesday Oct. 12 @ 7pm

- Students are to arrive a half hour early (6:30 pm)
- All RVMS Concerts take place in the lunchroom on the stage

RVMS Winter Concert - Tuesday Dec. 14 @ 7pm

Middle School CKL League Music Festival - March TBD

RVMS Final Concert - Monday, May 9 @ 7pm

### **Performance Attire**

The RVMS Choir will be wearing polos to promote uniformity and a professional appearance, and to minimize cost to students. These will be handed out as concert dates approach.

Performance attire is as follows:

- Choir polo (provided by RVMS)
- **Black jeans or slacks**
- **Black shoes and socks**

Students/parents will be responsible for bringing correct attire to concerts. If black jeans/socks/shoes cannot be purchased, please let Mr. Weaver know as soon as possible so we can get you what you need.

### **Homework Policy**

Learning how to sing is like learning any other skill-- the more you practice, the better you will be. Homework will be practice logs, occasionally assigned to give students additional preparation for concerts. Parents will be responsible for signing practice logs to confirm that the student did practice for the correct amount of time. Your student will need to access the

practice tracks on the choir website at [www.nickersonchoirs.org](http://www.nickersonchoirs.org). If internet access is not available in your home, please let Mr. Weaver know so he can make other arrangements. It is Mr. Weaver's responsibility to post upcoming due dates on the whiteboard and provide at least two verbal reminders of homework. If students do not complete their homework by the due date, it will be docked 10% for each day late. Homework submitted 5+ days late will still be accepted but will only be able to earn 50% credit.

Please remove this page and return it to Mr. Weaver by Friday, August 27 for 10 points.

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## Reno Valley Middle School Choir Contract

I have read and understand what is expected of me in rehearsal, and how I will be graded for assignments, concerts, and daily participation. I acknowledge that performances are mandatory events, and the rest of the ensemble depends on my attendance and best effort in every rehearsal.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_