



PARRISH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

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Chorus/Vocal Music Course Syllabus & Handbook

Course Descriptions:

Students will learn about the fundamentals of healthy vocal production, become musically literate through the process of sight-singing and ear training, learn music theory and be able to apply it to the music that they are performing, perform a varied repertoire alone and with others and perform for an audience throughout the year.

Course Materials:

1. Two pocket folder with ~20 sheets notebook paper
2. Pencils – PENS ARE NOT PERMITTED
3. Box of tissues
4. Ream of printer paper (white or colored)
5. Music (Provided) – Must be in class each day, otherwise a “zero” will be given for the day

Grading Rubric & Descriptions:

- 40% Participation/Daily Rehearsal/Paperwork/Classwork
Most of what students do in class involves daily participation as an individual and as a group. Regular attendance is important to maintaining a passing grade. Absences not only affect the individual who is absent, but the entire ensemble. Students may earn anywhere between 0 (excessive absences or not participating) to 10 (fully engaged and in attendance for rehearsal). Additionally, any paperwork that is sent home will be placed in the gradebook. Deductions will be made for late work. Students are responsible for knowing when assignments are due. If absent, assignments/paperwork must be turned in on the day of return. Failure to turn in assignments will result in a zero. Unexcused absences may be a zero for the day, and absence during MPA prep.
- 40% Performances/Dress Rehearsals/Extra-Rehearsals/Sectionals
Chorus is a performance-based class and it is vital that students attend the concerts. Chorus is an Academic Course of Study and **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY** as well as the dress rehearsal prior to the concert (required to help coordinate the logistical side of the concert). Attendance will be taken upon arrival and students will be required to sign out at the end of the concert after being dismissed by the Director. Tardiness to rehearsals or performances, inappropriate behavior at concerts, and not following the concert dress code will result in a lowered concert grade. If a student must miss a concert or rehearsal, the Director must be notified 30 days prior to the concert. Please see MISSED CONCERT POLICY for more information. The Director reserves the right to dismiss any student for inappropriate behavior. Any student who is dismissed from a concert will receive a ZERO & lose all performance privileges for the year. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated and result in ZERO for the concert and cannot be made up. ***Though performances are part of the curriculum, students must show skill mastery on all music and performance requirements prior to performances. Students who do not reach this skill mastery and demonstrate ability to perform the pieces correctly will not be included in the performances and may be assigned an alternative assignment to fulfill the performance grade.***
- 20% Assessments/Tests/Quizzes
To track progress, students will be evaluated using any written or vocal assignments, small group testing, and other forms of assessing student progress.

Classroom Rules

1. Follow all school rules and policies while in class.
2. Respect all people and property.
3. Drink plain water while in the music facilities. Food, Gum, and Candy are not permitted. Items containing nuts are not permitted in the choir room.
4. Raise your hand if you have a question, comment or concern and speak only when given permission to do so.
5. Cell phone use during rehearsals is strictly prohibited unless they are being utilized as part of the instruction (i.e. Sight Reading Factory practice requires a device and is part of the structured class instruction/rehearsal). Cell phones may not be taken into practice rooms or sectionals except by the section leader or designated individual who is running learning tracks from their device. Upon entering the classroom, students are expected to place their cell phones in the holder at the front of the room (charging station provided). *Parents should notify the teacher in writing at carrier3k@manateeschools.net if their student does not have a cell phone so that the teacher can make other arrangements for that student to participate in online assignments, like those involving Sight Reading Factory.*

Daily Rehearsal Expectations

1. Students will be fully engaged in rehearsal every day. This means being prepared for class, displaying proper posture, vocal technique and a positive attitude.
2. Students are not permitted to complete work from another class during rehearsal.
3. Cell Phones are to be off and placed in the classroom designated area. If you use your phone during class, it will be confiscated and turned in to the office.
4. The only items that a student should have at their seat are their daily-required materials.
5. Talking while a student is speaking, the director is speaking, or during a sectional or rehearsal is NOT PERMITTED.
6. Students are not permitted to leave another class for the chorus room without a pass from the director *and* the sending teacher.

Music Department Expenses

Please understand that students will never be turned away due to a financial hardship. Please see your director regarding Financial Aid and Scholarships. Financial Aid is available for students on free/reduced lunch, sponsored by project heart, or other needs-based situations. The financial aid application will be located in the "forms" section for our class in Schoology.

- **Music Department Materials/Lab Fee: \$60.00**

All students contribute this music lab fee. On average, the cost for sheet music for one student during a single school year is approximately \$80.00. For our developing music library, the expense is in the several thousands. Additionally, this will go towards buses to MPA, registrations, accompanist compensation, and other expenses to enhance student learning and experiences. If you are in more than one music class, you will split the cost, making *separate payments to each organization*.

- **PCHS Performing Arts T-Shirt \$15.00**

This shirt is optional for participation in choir, though it is a popular item for our performing arts students and PCHS Performance Ensembles may use this shirt from time to time. An order will be placed for sizes within a few weeks. *Please do not yet submit the \$15 for a shirt. An order form for shirts will be sent home in a few weeks, and parents are welcome to order shirts as well.*

- **Concert Uniform – Required for all Performers \$30.00 (rental) \$90.00 - \$120.00 (purchase)**

Email with link to digital order form coming soon for rental or purchase choices

PCHS Music Ensembles will always maintain a professional appearance when in public. It is important for all students to look professional to enhance the performance for the audience by eliminating distractions. All uniforms must be clean and free of any tears, stains, or wrinkles for all performances. Concert Choir Uniforms will be rented through the boosters for \$30/year, held at home by the student during the year, and returned in excellent condition at the end of the school year. Failure to return rental uniforms will result in a student debt through the office in the amount of the full cost of the uniform (up to \$120), which impacts graduation. Families may choose to purchase a new uniform if they prefer for the full cost and to be worn each year. If you will be in the program for 4 years, this may be a better option for you, so that you can own your own instead of worrying about returning it each spring. If you purchase your own, you are responsible for hemming (dresses and slacks arrive unhemmed from distributor). The Men's Choir Uniform is a school-owned Blue Suit and a gray dress shirt; The Trebles Choirs' uniform is a school-owned blue dress. For students choosing to purchase their own, those will still be ordered through the choral boosters and should not be purchased independently.

Payment Procedure (Zelle, Cash, Check or Money order to PCCB):

1. Please do not send payments to PPMBA (Band) or the Orchestra Boosters – do not Zelle PPMBA – we have our own choral boosters.
2. Please do not send payments to PCHS (school) – we have our own choral boosters.
3. **Make all checks payable to PCCB (Parrish Community Choral Boosters).**
4. Write your **child's name** & and your daytime phone number in the MEMO portion of the check. Students will turn in cash and checks in a payment envelope provided in the classroom, completing details on the front, before submitting to the payment lockbox located in the choir room.
5. Turn in all payments directly to the payment lockbox. Do not give to someone else to turn in for you. Do not leave on teacher desk or elsewhere in the room. Do not give to a sub or another teacher. Only turn in money to the lockbox in an envelope clearly marked with child's name, amount, and what the money is for.
6. **The \$60 Music Lab Fee is due August 24th with the signed syllabus.** Contact your teacher with concerns/for a payment plan.
7. **Payments may also be made through Zelle (PREFERRED by PCCB).** Please send payment to our Zelle account via the boosters email address: ParrishChoir@gmail.com. In the memo, please include the student's first and last name, and the purpose of the funds (Lab Fee, t-shirt, uniform rental, trip payment, etc.). You may also scan this QR code in your banking app to make a payment to the boosters through Zelle.



Hair, Jewelry, and Make-up Expectations for Concerts

Below is a list of expectations for all performers. These are created in an effort to ensure uniformity across the program and avoid any distractions. Exceptions to the dress code will be made for religious and health reasons only.

- **Hair:** Hair should be worn neatly and out of the face/eyes. If it is necessary to pull it back to keep it out of the eyes, hair ties/pins must match your hair color.
- **Jewelry and Other Accessories** No arm bands, hoop earrings, or necklaces are permitted. Metal, Diamond or Pearl style studs are permitted.
- **Make-up:** Make-up will be understated. No excessive eyeliner or eye shadow. Please use natural skin tones appropriate for you.
- **Body Sprays, Scents, Perfumes and Colognes:** All fragrances are prohibited during performances to avoid allergic reactions for all members.
- **Shoes:** Solid-Black Dress shoes. NO SNEAKERS, FLIP FLOPS, BOOTS, CROCS or SANDALS;
- **Other Information:** Students must remain in uniform for the entire duration of a trip or event, unless otherwise instructed by the Director. Boys will wear tall black socks.

Communication:

The Choral Department uses a variety of communication platforms for families to stay informed of upcoming events. They will include:

1. Schoology Messages/Shared Documents
2. Teacher emails through FOCUS – parents, please make sure your email contact is up to date in FOCUS.
3. Boosters emails (Please add ParrishChoir@gmail.com to your contacts) – The user name shows as "Parrish Choir"
4. Choir Facebook Page: Parrish Community Choral Boosters (like and follow) and Instagram: @ParrishChoir (follow).
5. BAND app – details coming soon for specific classes.

Additional Policies and Other Information:

Missed Concert Policy

Any absence not previously cleared by the director will result in a **ZERO** and cannot be made up. If an emergency does occur, please EMAIL your director immediately. Students that do clear the absence ahead of time will complete a project assigned by the director to make up the grade. The due date will be set by the director. The following excuses will not be considered excused: Vacations, Work, Out of school extra-curricular practices, games, and transportation issues. Dates are set and given to students and parents during the first week of school. It is the responsibility of the parent and student to make sure these days do not conflict. ***Though performances are part of the curriculum, students must show skill mastery on all music and performance requirements prior to performances. Students who do not reach this skill mastery and demonstrate ability to perform the pieces correctly will not be included in the performances and may be assigned an alternative assignment to fulfill the performance grade.***

Parrish Community High School Attendance Requirement for Participation in School Activities

No student will be permitted to participate in school activities on any day that he/she has been absent from school for more than one-half of the school day. Please review student handbook regarding this school policy. Please refer to MISSED CONCERT POLICY above for how this will impact your grade.

Field Trips and Overnight Field Trips – Academic and Behavior Policy and Consequences

Students must have at least a “C” in a majority of all academic classes and no lower than a B in all Performing Arts classes and an A in Chorus in order to attend any extra-curricular field trips. If a student is not approved by a majority of their academic teachers, they will not be permitted to attend. A teacher may approve a student who has a grade lower than a C at their individual discretion. However, the student and teacher must create a plan of action to improve that grade. Discipline infractions on the student’s record may also prohibit participation in off campus activities. All students are expected to follow the PCHS and Manatee County School District Code of Conduct when on field trips of any kind. Refunds will not be given under any circumstance unless stated in the information form for that trip. Students will be held to the highest standard and will be expected to behave in a way that brings no less than honor to the ensemble, the school, and the school district. For overnight trips, students will have their belongings searched for any contraband items before departing PCHS. Students who refuse will not be permitted to attend the trip and will not be provided a refund. Violations include but are not limited to theft, use and distribution of prohibited substances and items, violation of trip rules and expectations (these are listed on all field trip packets), disrespect towards director, chaperones, students, and all trip personnel involved. Students who violate these expectations will be given a referral upon return to school, school related suspension and/or expulsion, revocation of all performance privileges, and if deemed necessary, will be sent home at the parent’s expense.

Physically and Vocally Unable to Rehearse Policy

If a student chooses to not participate in rehearsal, they will be given a zero for the day. If a student is sick, they must have a doctor’s note stating why they are unable to rehearse at the time of said sickness. Parent notes will not be accepted. Failure to do so will result in a zero. A student will sit in their assigned seat and make markings in the music of what is being rehearsed. Students may not work on assignments from another class.

Sheet Music Policy

All Students will be provided with sheet music throughout the year. It is each student’s responsibility to keep track of and maintain the condition of his/her materials daily. Students will be required to write their name IN PENCIL on the cover of their music. You must treat sheet music very delicately. ONLY use pencil to write in the score, and write lightly enough that you will be able to erase all markings before turning it in. If a student takes sheet music home, they MUST bring it to class the following day. Failure to have your music will result in a zero for your daily grade. Students must return sheet music in good condition. If a student fails to return his/her music for any reason, it will be his/her responsibility to pay for a replacement copy. Individual sheet music copies range in price from \$2.00 to \$10.00. If any piece of sheet music is damaged or missing, the student must complete a *Sheet Music Replacement Form* and return to the director. Lost or damaged music may result in fees being assessed, and unpaid fees will be submitted to the school as a student debt.

Parrish Community Choral Boosters

Our boosters organization is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit, registered in the State of Florida. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend general boosters meetings (dates will be sent via email). The parent boosters are the support and fundraising leg of our program, ensuring that our students are able to have the incredible experiences that a music program of this caliber warrants. The boosters oversee volunteers, chaperones, fundraisers, concerts, trips, and community engagement. Our website is ParrishChoir.com (recently launched with new updates coming soon), and our email address is ParrishChoir@gmail.com.

Performance Requirements, Opportunities and Special Events

ALL EVENTS IN BOLD and **♪** ARE REQUIRED/MANDATORY FOR SPECIFIC STUDENTS

♪ School Concerts (Required) ♪

The Parrish Community High School Chorus Department will present at least two “home” concerts throughout the year. All choirs will be represented in these concerts. Admission is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted. Concert dates are always tentative. If they change, you will be notified promptly.

Winter Dress Rehearsal – Wednesday, December 9th – 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm (school clothes, not uniforms)

Winter Choral Concert – Thursday, December 10th – 7:00 pm (6:15 student call-time, dressed in uniforms)

Spring Dress Rehearsal – Wednesday, April 28th – 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm (school clothes, not uniforms)

Spring Choral Concert – Thursday, April 29th – 7:00 pm (6:15 student call-time, dressed in uniforms)

All-State Chorus (Optional)

Musicianship Exam & Sight-Reading Exams: September 10th at Riverview HS; Vocal Quality Exam: October 15th at Riverview HS (Sarasota)

Rehearsals and Performances: January 14th – 16th at Tampa Convention Center and area hotels

All-State Choruses are made up of the finest vocalists and musicians in the state. Auditioning for All-State is a rigorous process, including a musicianship skills test, a sight-reading test, and a vocal audition. Being selected for any of these choirs is a great honor. Though auditioning for all-state is not required, Parrish Community High School would like to establish a great tradition of choral students who are selected to participate. All-State test preparation classes will be offered from the start of the school year. The event will take place in Tampa, FL. Parents of selected students are required to attend and spend the night downtown. There are required audition fees as well as participant fees for those selected.

♪ Manatee Men’s Choral Festival ♪

Monday, October 5th – at Manatee High School (Required for 2nd period and 6th period guys who are eligible for field trips)

This informal festival is for male high school choral students throughout Manatee County. The one-day festival takes place mostly during the school day, culminating in an early-evening performance for parents. Details forthcoming. Busing to the event, parent pick up from the event.

♪ Chamber Choir Camp ♪

Late Fall Dates TBA @ Dayspring Conference Center in Parrish (pending) – Required for **Chamber Choir**.

Details are coming soon for this exciting retreat opportunity! Chamber Choir, along with additional select students, will attend this 48-hour rehearsal retreat. The venue is right here in Parrish, with youth cabins, dining hall, rehearsal facilities, and plenty of activities. A large focus of this retreat will be Candlelight prep, winter concert prep, and spring trip prep with a variety of repertoire.

♪ Solo and Ensemble (Required for 6th and 7th Periods) ♪

Thursday, November 5th – Riverview High School (Sarasota) Time TBA

In November, many chorus students elect to participate in Solo and Ensemble. At this event, soloists and small groups perform for a judge who evaluates them and then works with them to help improve their performance. The educational experience of preparing and performing a solo or small ensemble is invaluable. Those who wish to register for solos should be studying voice privately with a professional vocal teacher. This is a required event for any students assigned to an ensemble by the director. Other chorus students are encouraged to sign up for a small ensemble if they wish. Opportunities to serve will also be available since we are hosting!

School District of Manatee High School Honor Choir (Select)

January 12th – 5:30 – 8:30 pm – Rehearsal at Parrish Community High School

January 22nd (afternoon – evening) and 23rd (all day/evening) – State College of Florida (Registration and auditions coming soon)

This choir is comprised of the best choral musicians throughout Manatee County. There may be one rehearsal a week before, and two rehearsals during the Friday evening prior and all-day Saturday and then a culmination concert that night which includes the Middle and High school All-District Honor Choirs.

♪ MPA- Music Performance Assessment (Required) ♪

March 3rd – 4th at Venice High School (we will be assigned a specific date and time approximately two weeks prior to event)

Music Performance Assessment is attended by all members who meet the performance requirements by passing individual music assessments and being present in rehearsals. It is the culmination of seven months of study and hard work! Each choir is assessed by four distinguished judges on technique, tone quality, dynamics, expressive elements and appearance. Choirs from all over Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee and DeSoto Counties are required to participate in this evaluation and are given a rating for their performance. Students who do not attend, whether excused or unexcused, will be given an alternative assignment to fulfill this required performance grade.

Spring Trip

Dates/Locations To Be Announced SOON, open to students in advanced classes, as well as others who meet audition criteria, though spots will be filled based on ensemble priority/seniority. Fundraising opportunities will be available. Parent information meeting will be required for all participants. Date to be announced soon.

Chorus Syllabus & Calendar Confirmation Form

2026 – 2027 School Year DUE: Monday, August 24th, 2026

Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____

CHORUS SYLLABUS & STUDENT INFORMATION FORM STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of the parent and student to read the entire syllabus and to understand all policies, procedures and expectations. Most questions that you have about chorus can be found within the syllabus and will answer many of the financial requirement questions, event dates, and uniform policies.

CHORUS SYLLABUS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & MEDIA RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, _____ have read through the 4-page syllabus with my child and we are aware of all the rules, policies, expectations, and grading scales and everything stated in the syllabus. I know how my child is graded and I will ensure that my child is present at all MANDATORY events. I am aware of the various ways of contacting Mrs. Carrier. I am aware of all chorus fees and other financial requirements. I am also aware that my student can participate in fundraisers to help pay for the fees associated with choir and apply for financial aid. If my student is awarded financial aid or scholarship, I understand that we are expected to participate in fundraising efforts. I am aware that my child will be photographed and recorded during performances and all chorus related events. The chorus program will have the right to use their pictures for publicity and press releases on all choir related platforms.

Parents/Student - Please initial next to the following

____/____ **I HAVE** read the class syllabus, the statements above and I am aware of all information provided.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

CHORUS CALENDAR & PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of the parent and student to understand the Chorus Department Performance Attendance Policy described in the syllabus. It is also the parent's and student's responsibility to understand the impact rehearsals and performances have on the student's grade, and the requirements regarding the "Request for an Excused Absence or Tardy for a Required Rehearsal or Performance." The chorus calendar is made available to all students and their families at the beginning of the year. It will also be available in Schoology. The Director strives to place all known dates ahead of time, but the calendar is always subject to change. Changes that are made will be made known through the various communication platforms that the Parrish Community High School Chorus subscribes to.

CHORUS CALENDAR & PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, _____ have made note of all concert dates and Mandatory events such as Music Performance Assessments, _____ **Print Parent/Guardian Name** concerts and any other performances. I am aware that all performances and extra rehearsals are worth 40% of my child's grade. I will ensure that my child is present for all **MANADTORY** performances. I am aware that an unexcused absence from any performance results in a zero for a performance grade. I am aware that vacations, work, and athletic events will not be considered as an excused absence.

Parents/Student - Please initial next to the following

____/____ **I HAVE** made note of all performances for the school year and will ensure my student will be attendance at all REQUIRED events.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Our primary source of communication with parents regarding concerts, events and reminders is via email. Please print these email addresses carefully and legibly. You may include additional email addresses as desired on the bottom of this page.

Student email: _____

Parent email #1: _____

Parent email #2: _____

Student Cell: _____ Parent Cell #1: _____ Parent Cell #2: _____