



North Valley's High School Choir

Mrs. King – Director

Karleen.king@washoeschools.net

Welcome to North Valley's High School Choral Program! This year is going to be filled with team-building, fun, and exciting repertoire! Choir is about being unified and working well with others. We all strive for the same goal and we must work as a team to achieve this goal. I hope that you're ready to work hard and have fun during the process!

Ensembles:

Concert Choir

Concert choir is a mixed voice ensemble, so there are both men and women in the group. This group is not auditioned, so any student *with previous music experience* may enroll in this course. Concert Choir performs at our school concerts and other events as they arise. Students are expected to participate in extra-curricular music performances as a part of their grade for the class! It is very difficult to pass without attending!

Cadenza

Cadenza Choir is an auditioned group typically consisting of the more experienced students. This means students must sign up for and pass an audition with Mrs. King and section leaders in order to enroll in the course. This group is also mixed voice and includes both men and women. Cadenza performs at our school concerts, district music festivals, and other events as they arise. Students are expected to participate in extra-curricular music performances as a part of their grade for the class! It is very difficult to pass without attending!

Want to join Cadenza?

Students wishing to audition for Cadenza must do so in the semester prior to enrollment. For example, if you wish to join for next semester, you must audition this semester. Auditions are typically held the last 2 weeks of the semester, and the audition material is similar to honor choir auditions.

Classroom Policies and Procedures

- ⤴ Students must be on time and **have their backpacks placed in the back of the room**. Be ready to clap a rhythm or sight read from the sight reading book.
- ⤴ When you walk in, grab your music and a pencil, place your phone in the “parking lot” and grab a chair.
- ⤴ **EVERY WEDNESDAY will be a singing test.**
- ⤴ Do not leave the room without permission. SSO *will* be called.
- ⤴ After rehearsal, students will be dismissed **by number**.
 - 1st: Put chair away
 - 2nd: Grab phone
 - 3rd: Put away music and pencil
- ⤴ Please don't touch any instruments. This includes the piano.
- ⤴ Please be respectful to **your peers** and to your teacher. Raise your hand to ask questions.
- ⤴ If your phone is not placed in the “cell phone parking lot,” you will not receive any points for that day and I will mark you absent. Let's make the most of our time together and not be distracted.



Required Materials

- ⤴ Please bring your music *and a pencil* every day. Those who need to borrow from me must pay 1 King Cash.
- ⤴ ***I have purchased your 1/2 inch black binder.*** Please bring your music binder to class every day or place it in your assigned binder shelf. Those without their music will lose 1 participation point for that day!

Taking Music Home

You can take music home. However, be courteous to your music and treat it with care. Use pencil **only**. Those who lose any piece of music will be fined (the cost of the individual piece(s)) at the end of the year so they can be replaced.

Attendance

It is important that students are in class. Missing a class can be detrimental for your fellow members and for yourself. You miss vital information and repetition of all pieces that were worked on during class. Therefore:

- ⤴ Students will be excused from class if they have a written doctor's note or other medical appointment. If they miss class for any other reason, they can make it up with me outside of class.
- ⤴ Five tardies will result in a detention. Unless you have a hall pass or excuse from a teacher and you walk in late, you will be marked tardy. Do not be late! It's school policy!

School Activities and Choir Conflicts

If there is a scheduling conflict between two **academic** activities, students must notify **both** teachers and/or parents as soon as possible. We will try to find a way for students to attend both events, or at least, part of both.

Grading Policy

Music ensembles are very much a team-based activity. However, it is also about each individual singing to their best ability. This year, we will focus on sight reading/rhythm counting and have skills tests to show your progress.

Grading is based on the following (out of 100%):

- Attendance at concerts (25%)
- Singing tests and skills tests (25%)
 - Singing tests every Wednesday you have class
 - Skills test once a quarter
- Participation and Preparation (30%)
 - Asking appropriate questions, helping others, **maintaining focus**, having all materials, and other actions can show effort and engagement in class.
- Final Exams (20%)
 - Written Exam
 - Final Singing Exam

Performance Attendance Policy

- ⤴ Members must attend all performances.
- ⤴ Students are to be at rehearsals and performances in the evening if you attended school that day.
- ⤴ When events are created last minute and are not on the calendar, please try your best to attend.
NOTE: If students are given at least month notice, they are a required and graded activity.
- ⤴ **Communication is important. Please give *at least a two week notice* if you think there will be a conflict for a performance date (work or lack of transportation is not a valid excuse). An alternative assignment will be given. However, if communication occurs in less than two weeks before a concert, the student may not be able to do an alternative assignment unless it is deemed an emergency.**
- ⤴ However, those who do not have a valid excuse will not be allowed to make up the performance and will get a zero for the concert.

Concert Attire

Students will wear **concert dress black** for all formal performances. Show your individuality by placing a colored accent (I will supply ribbons and ties)

Choir Shirt and black bottoms will be used for informal performances (Assemblies, Zone concert, Aces game)

Those who participate in honor choir will receive a tux or dress for rental.

Concert Dress:

Top:

- Black button down shirt (no t-shirts) or a black dress that is below the knee
 - Shoulders covered
 - No midriffs showing

Bottom:

- Black slacks (NO JEANS)
 - No holes or frayed ends
- OR**
- Black skirt
 - Must be below the knee
 - Must wear black tights or nylons with skirt
- NO SHORTS; NO SHORT SKIRTS
- Black shoes and socks

Hair should be kept back and out of eyes. Jewelry/Earrings should be small (posts preferred), no large hoop earrings. We don't want jewelry that will distract the singers or the audience.

Concert Choir: Silver Accent (tie/ribbon)

Cadenza: Teal Accent (tie/ribbon)

All shoes must be dress shoes! Low heels help prevent embarrassing and painful trips and falls on stage. All black shoe means ***ALL BLACK***, no additional colors or accents please. We are trying to look uniform as an ensemble. ***Students in an incomplete, dirty, or wrinkled uniform will not be allowed on stage at the discretion of the director.***

Class Fees: \$20.00

Class fees are as followed:

-\$20.00 for literature, festival fees, etc

-10.00 informal performance choir shirts (Paid by fees unless shirt is ragged, and needs to be replaced)

Extra-Curricular Choir Ensembles

Honor Choir

Honor Choir is an auditioned ensemble made up of the best students from around Washoe County. The final rehearsals and concerts will be conducted by the guest director.

In order to become a member of the Washoe County School District Honor Choir, you must successfully audition in the fall.

Here are the requirements for this year's auditions:

1. Prepared Octet piece selected from the music you'll be performing
2. Prepared Solo
3. Sight Reading and clapping Rhythms while counting steady tempo out loud (includes eighth note triplets and dotted eighth-sixteenth patterns)
4. Sight Singing using solfege (Keys of D, Eb, F, G)
5. Chromatic Scale with solfege (syllables provided)
 - a. Bass – Start on Bb
 - b. Tenor – Start on F
 - c. Alto – Start on A below middle C
 - d. Soprano – G in the treble clef staff

Don't be intimidated by the requirements. You all can make it!

All State

All-State Choir is an auditioned ensemble made up of the best choir students in the state of Nevada. To become a member of the All-State Choir, you must first make it into WCSD Honor Choir. Once you make it into Honor Choir, you can audition to make it into All-State Choir. The All-State Choir rehearses in small groups on a local level, then comes together completely for the first time during the Nevada Music Educators Conference in April. The choir works with a guest conductor over a matter of days to put together the concert.

Audition dates, locations, and materials will be made available to those who successfully make it into WCSD Honor Choir. Ask me for more information on that if you would like!

Performance Dates

(Please put these in your calendar. Dates will also be online)

Call time – 6:00 PM (tentative; can change)

Performances – 7:00 PM in NVHS Theatre (unless otherwise stated)

Zone Concert: Wednesday, October 23, 2019 in NVHS gymnasium (Call time – 5:30 PM)

Honor Choir Concert: Wednesday, November 14, 2019 at Pioneer Center

Winter Concert: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Choir Festival: Friday-Saturday February 21 or 22, 2020 at Spanish Springs High School – all day

All-State: April 2-4 in Las Vegas

Reno Aces Performance – TBD

Spring Concert: Wednesday, May 26, 2020

Graduation: TBD at University of Nevada, Reno (Please do not plan to leave for summer vacation immediately. We perform at graduation roughly a week after school is over. This is a *mandatory* performance to say goodbye to our graduating seniors!)



Acknowledgment of Understanding

- We have read North Valleys High School Choir Handbook and understand all the policies explained within. We will abide by the policies outlined in this book and will call (775-677-5499 ext. 32678) or email (karleen.king@washoeschools.net) Mrs. King should any questions arise.
- We are aware of grading policies regarding attendance and understand the consequences thereof resulting from poor attendance and/or excessive tardiness.
- We understand that Mrs. King has explained policies outlined in this book and have been assured that students had no confusion over any part of the book.

This must be signed and turned in by *August 23rd, 2019.*

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Student Email: _____

Circle one:

Concert Choir / Cadenza

Parent Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Parent Email: _____

Date: _____

Please note that this document is also on the choir website for later perusal if needed