

Upland High School - Choral Music Program

Director's Syllabus 2017-2018

It is with great excitement that I welcome each of you to the 2017-2018 UHS school year! I look forward to meeting you and working with you throughout the year. We welcome back the returning choir members and extend a very special welcome to all of the new members. Your life in the UHS Choral program will hopefully be one filled with great friendships and musical journeys that will last for years to come.

This is a large department with many different aspects to it and we want everyone to be as informed and aware as possible. Please read through this handbook thoroughly and keep it for reference throughout the year.

Please go over the Attendance, Classroom Rules and Grading Policies very carefully together so that you will know what the various levels of expectation are. Your signature on the "Statement of Responsibility/Code of Conduct" page (found in this syllabus or download online at www.uplandhighschoolchoir.org) verifies that you have read and understand these policies. Please complete and return this form to the choir room on or before our "GET FIT DAY" on October 7, 2017.

For each student who is involved in any school-related event or field trip (including rehearsals, festivals, competitions, performances), we must have a completed and signed set of emergency forms (found at the end of this syllabus or download online at www.uplandhighschoolchoir.org) returned before any student can participate in any activity. Please fill out these forms carefully and sign (several signatures are requested. See both front and back of forms) so that your son or daughter may participate in the many exciting UHS Choral Department activities.

Although the calendar for the upcoming year is still in the process of being established, we have scheduled around 90% of the events already. A monthly calendar is available online at www.uplandhighschoolchoir.org and will be updated throughout the year.

While we will make every attempt to ensure that students' other schoolwork is minimally impacted by their participation in the choral program, there will be times when students will be away from school during the school day (these are "excused absences" and students must be allowed make-up opportunities by their other teachers), or away from school after school, evenings, and / or weekends. Each student is held responsible for knowing the calendar and making whatever arrangements necessary to avoid conflicts with choir-related events. When in doubt or in the event of a possible conflict, the sooner a student communicates with me about a possible conflict before it occurs, the better the chances are of a positive solution.

There's a lot of information in this Syllabus, along with a form requiring signatures of the student and their parent/guardian to be filled out, signed and returned. Please take some time now to go over everything together so we can get right into making music. If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, do not hesitate to email me at Roger_Estrada@upland.k12.ca.us.

We have a great year ahead of us; I'm very blessed to have the opportunity to work in Upland, and I am confident that together we can continue the traditions of excellence to which the students, school, parents, and community have grown accustomed. The Choral Music Program at Upland High School is a very special one and you should be proud, as I am, to be a part of the choral family.

Sincerely,

Roger Estrada Choir Director

Student Participation Information and Responsibilities

ATTENDANCE/CLASSRULES/EXPECTATIONS

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is critical to both the student and choirs' success. The choir can only timely rehearse as a unit when all members are in attendance. All absences will result in a deducting of points being deducted from your participation grade regardless the reason. There is no way to recreate the rehearsal experience and therefore all must be present in class. Multiple absences result in denial of choir letter, dropped from performances, and/or dropped from class. Since this is a performance class, your class attendance and participation is vital. If you have more than **20 absences in a semester you will receive an "F"** for your class participation grade and may be dropped from class. Your class participation grade will be lowered by one letter grade for every 5 absences, which results in an "F" once you reach 20 absences in a semester.

ZERO PERIOD ATTENDANCE POLICY

Members of zero period Expressions (Jazz choir) will be given a more detailed, stricter attendance contract. This contract needs to be signed by both student and parent. It will outline the expectations for attendance, the consequences for absences and tardies, and when a student will be placed on an attendance contract (which could result in being dropped from the class). The rest of the classroom rules, regulations, and grading policy is the same for jazz choir as it is for all other choir classes.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

When additional rehearsals are called the students must attend. The rehearsals are mandatory, and if missed will result in their grade being lowered. If the student misses the rehearsal prior to the concert they will not be allowed to perform at the concert. These additional rehearsals will be announced ahead of time and called at times with minimal conflicts to other school events. If a student is going to miss a rehearsal they must give a note, signed by their parent, to Mr. Estrada explaining the conflict at least 2 weeks prior to the rehearsal. This is required for all absences.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

ALL CONCERTS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLASS. Work is not an excuse for missing a concert. **A missed concert will result in an "F" for that grade.** The students will only have a chance to make-up that grade if they were ill and not in school the day of the concert and a parent called to notify me of the illness. If a student is ill and misses a concert they must complete a written report to make-up the grade but will not receive anything higher than a "C" for that grade. There is NO WAY to make up for a missed performance.

SCHOOL CONFLICTS

If there is a conflict with another school activity (i.e.-track practice, basketball game, band performance ...) the student, along with the other director/coach, and I will need to discuss a possible solution. The absence is considered unexcused if I am not notified in writing of the conflict at least two weeks prior to the performance or rehearsal. A rehearsal or practice for another school activity does not take priority over a performance. Rehearsals and practices for events that are not school related will be considered unexcused.

GENERAL CLASSROOM RULES

1. No food, drinks, or gum allowed in the choir room.
2. Be on time, with your folder and pencil in hand.
3. Remain in your seat once class begins.
4. No talking during the rehearsal.
5. Show respect for the staff and other students' ideas, beliefs, and belongings at all times.

TARDIES

A student is considered tardy if they are not in their assigned seat with his/her folder and pencil in hand by the time the tardy bell stops ringing.

GRADING

OVERALL GRADE

The choir classes are graded on a point system that allows the grade to be objective. The students are not graded on how well they sing or how much they improve. Rather, they are graded on their participation: rehearsal attendance, etiquette, and performance attendance. The overall grade is broken down as follows:

Class Participation 60%

Daily Rehearsal / Concert Attendance 40%

PARTICIPATION GRADE

Each student begins a quarter with 100 points, which is an A+ for their participation grade. As rules are broken, points are deducted from the 100 points. Your grade will be significantly affected when you repeatedly break the rules.

No music	-2 points
No pencil	-2 points
Chewing gum	-2 points
Folder left out or @ home	-2 points
Excessive disturbance during rehearsal	-2 points
Poor participation	-2 to 6 points
Truancy	-2 points
Defiance	-6 points
Absences (-2 a day/every 5 missed)	-10 points

PARTICIPATION MAKE-UP POLICY

Students who have lost participation points because of a prolonged illness may have a chance to make-up some of those points through a written report. The decision to allow make-up of points will be handled on an individual basis and is at the **DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION**.

It is not possible to anticipate every factor that might subtract from the group's rehearsal or performance so other points may be deducted as seen appropriate by the director.

PERFORMANCE GRADE

This includes rehearsal attendance, performance attendance, and performance tests. Points will be assigned based on the importance of an event or test. Please note the following regarding their rehearsal and performance grades.

On time to rehearsal/performance **"A"**

Tardy to a rehearsal/performance (by less than 15 minutes). Or an incomplete uniform **"B"**

Tardy more than 15 minutes/miss your rehearsal time on stage **"C"**

Absent (regardless of the reason) "F"

(With an opportunity to raise that grade up to a "C" if illness or other emergency was the reason for absence.)

If a calendared event is missed due to a student or parent initialed event it will result in a lowered grade regardless of the reason.

PERFORMANCE MAKE-UP POLICY

Only those students who miss due to illness or are ineligible may make up a performance grade. You must complete a four-page typed report on a teacher approved music topic. This can only raise that performance grade to a "C". This make-up policy does not apply to their final exam.

GOALS OF THE UPLAND CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

- To create premier ensembles through student achievement and excellence.
- To develop in its members, skills that will help them be successful in their future careers.
- To enhance the reputation of the UHS Choral Music Program throughout the community, the state, the United States and abroad through the positive qualities and demeanor of our members.
 - To support Upland High School and increase community spirit

DESCRIPTION OF PERFORMING GROUPS

EXPRESSIONS:

Expressions is an advanced level jazz ensemble open to ladies and men in grades 10-12 with emphasis placed on various jazz styles. Both *a capella* performances and work with instrumental jazz artists will be pursued.

MEN'S ENSEMBLE:

Men's Ensemble is an introductory level choir group for men with little or no previous choral experience. This class is open to men of all grades and provides opportunities for men to have the experience of singing together in unison and in simple harmony. Attention is focused on establishing basic pitch and developing a good choral tone, along with developing good choral discipline.

CHORALE:

This is an auditioned choir of sophomores, juniors and seniors with some previous experience of singing. This is a mixed choir setting (SATB) that performs musical selections from all periods and styles. Emphasis is placed on choral tone production, continued development in sight-reading skills. All members are expected to attend a 45 minute sectional once a week after school. Members are also encouraged to study voice privately. Sight singing is stressed throughout the use of Solfege and Cmwen. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required as part of the grading policy. The Chorale is the featured choir in the Major Works conceit with orchestra that is performed every two years.

ARIA:

Aria is an intermediate level performances ensemble open to ladies in grades 9-12. Aria studies, prepares and performs primarily "classical" music of many different style periods. Emphasis is placed on developing good choral techniques and discipline as well as a basic understanding of performance styles and practices, vocabulary, vocal technique, and music theory and analysis. Sight singing is stressed through the use of Solfege and Cmwen. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required as part of the grading policy.

MADRIGALS:

Madrigals, is an advanced performance ensemble open to a limited number of experienced singers in grades 10-12. This group performs primarily "classical" music of a difficult nature from all style periods. Madrigals are heavily involved in tours, festivals and performances for many private, public, civic and school functions. Rehearsal and performances outside of the school day are required as part of the grading policy. Class discussions and written tests cover various performances styles and practices, music vocabulary, and advanced vocal techniques, as well as music theory and analysis. Sight singing is stressed throughout the use of Solfege and Cmwen.

UPLAND HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Statement of Responsibility /Code of Conduct 2017-2018

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED

Student's Name: _____
Please Print

Home Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

I, the parent of the student listed above, acknowledge the rules and regulations that have been set forth in the 2017-2018 Handbook. I further understand that all rules and regulations will be strictly enforced and any infractions will be dealt with by the Director.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Please Print

Parent/Guardian's Signature *Date*

Address: *(if different from above):*

Street City Zip Code

() _____
Phone number email address

I, the student listed above, acknowledge the rules and regulations that have been set forth in the 2017-2018 Handbook. I further understand that all rules and regulations will be strictly enforced and any infractions will be dealt with by the Director.

Student's Signature *Date*