

# VOCAL MUSIC HANDBOOK

2018 - 2019

## COUGAR VOICES

*Chattahoochee High School*

*Jennie Fabianski*

*Director of Choral Music*

*Tim Duncan - Principal*

Mission: To lead student to their full potential through excellence in academics, art, athletics and service to community.

Vision: To create an environment where everybody loves to learn, work, and serve.

Motto: *Lucent Lux Vestra – Let Your Light Shine*

## *COUGAR VOICES Ensembles*

*All Ensembles are comprised of grades 9 - 12. Every ensemble performs at minimum of 4 concerts, as well as at Large Group Performance Evaluation.*

### **CAVATINA**

This course is offered to women who are advanced in musicianship, vocal pedagogy & sight singing. Students are placed in this class by vocal audition and skill assessment. The ensemble performs women's music of all genres. This class studies music literature, music theory, vocal performance, sight singing and ensemble singing. This group received Superior Ratings at Festival Disney in 2011, as well as winning 1st place in their Class at Fiesta-val in 2013.

### **CHAMBER SINGERS**

This course is for serious musicians. Each student must have a vocal audition and skills assessment, choral experience and advanced music reading skills. Students in this class will study a variety of choral music.

This group was selected to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Conference in 1995 and at the National Youth Chorus at Carnegie Hall in 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009. They also received a Superior Rating at Festival Disney in 2010 & 2013 and Excellent in 2011. In spring of 2012, they won 1st place at Fiesta-val. Chamber also performs actively in the community and every member is expected to be available for all events.

### **CHORAL PARTICIPATION FEE**

Annual Dues are a part of how the many programs at the Hooch function & survive. 100% of the funds are spend on students, instruction and operating costs for the Chorus program.

In Chorus, the fees pay for things such as music, accompanists, equipment, classroom supplies, sight reading books, event entrance fees, transportation, spirit wear and the students admission to the banquet at the end of the year.

To pay your \$150 fee, you may send a check with your student (made out the Chattahoochee High School), cash or use a card, by following the link on our website, [www.chattahoocheechorus.com](http://www.chattahoocheechorus.com). If you would like to set up a payment plan, you may do so by paying a minimum deposit of \$50.

Students will have to pay additionally for All State, Honor Chorus and Field Trips offered throughout the year.

## *VOCAL MUSIC GRADING SYSTEM*

### **REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES - 30%**

Students are expected to be in their seats with music folder and pencil in hand when the bell rings. They are expected to focus, pay attention and contribute to the ensembles time in class until the final bell rings.

### **QUIZZES - 15%**

Students will have an announced quiz over material covered every 2 to 3 weeks. Students will also be required to complete assessments in sight reading and scales throughout the semester.

### **TEST GRADES - 15%**

During the semester, taking written common assessments & finals that will be averaged into this area for their grade.

### **PERFORMANCES - 40%**

The number of performances per grading period will be averaged and graded. If a student misses a required concert performance for any reason other than severe illness (required doctor's note) or a death in the family, they will not earn any credit for that performance. If students without an excused absence would like to go through remediation to earn 80% of the points, they will perform their part of the concert vocally and be assessed.

Students who have a death in the family will be graded on class participation and test scores pre-concert. Students who miss for illness (with a doctor's note), will write a 1 page research paper about each piece their perspective group performed.

An unexcused absence from a required performance or rehearsal will result in the student becoming ineligible for a music letter or awards. At the time of the absence, the student's status in the ensemble will be considered by the director.

Each class is a performing ensemble and will have at least 2 scheduled concerts per semester. Members of the ensembles are required to participate in each performance and dress rehearsal for a grade.

## *MUSIC & THE VOCAL INSTRUMENT*

Each student will need to purchase a 1" three ring binder and several pencils for the class. They will be given a sight-singing text and sheet music to study for each performance and musical learning. They may store their folder at school or take it home and bring it back for rehearsal each day. To receive their participation grade, they must participate and contribute to the rehearsal. Each student must take responsibility for their music folder and have it for study in rehearsals. Students will also be required to use a pencil to mark the music with comments from the director and section leaders, in order to earn participation points. Music text books and sheet music must be turned in by the end of each semester, or be replaced at the expense of the student.

The singing or speaking voice is a wonderful instrument that we carry around without much thought at times. It is a delicate instrument that needs careful care in order to work well when we want to sing or speak.

As a vocal musician, it becomes our responsibility to use our voice carefully; going to the doctor when we are sick, drinking lots of water, and protecting our voice by holding back when we have the urge to scream about something exciting (i.e. athletic games or concerts). If you are unable to sing during a rehearsal, you will need to listen to the rehearsal and follow along in the music in order to keep up with the ensemble while you are healing. If you come to school tired or ill, you will be expected to participate with the class in all activities.

Students must come to after school rehearsals and warm-ups on time. If you are not on time, you will be missing precious time that will be used warming up your instrument and rehearsing with your ensemble. For every minute a student is late to any rehearsal, 5 points will be docked from their grade. Students are allowed to stay after school on concert and rehearsal days.

*Cougar Voices Letter Requirements*

All points must be documented for the student to be eligible for letter or bar.

Being in Chorus/Musical Theatre  
10 points (per class)

Auditioning for anything at School  
5 points each

Auditioning for All-State & All-State Reading Chorus  
10 points each

Singing the National Anthem at games  
5 points for every game

Working Concessions  
5 points per shift

Attending games where the national anthem is sang  
2 points per game

Taking private lessons  
15 points

Attending any music event  
5 points per event

Singing/performing in a chorus outside of school  
10 points

Participating in the Musical  
15 points

Taking AP Theory, Guitar or Piano  
10 points

Being Elected to a Choral Office/Class Office  
10 points

Participating in Honor Chorus  
5 points

Making All-State Chorus or All-State Reading Chorus  
15 points

Being asked to participate in any extra chorus or special ensemble during the year  
10 points

Students must complete 120 points out of this chart to letter or bar. These items will be presented at the End of the Year Banquet.