

LA CAÑADA HIGH SCHOOL and 7/8 CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
4463 Oak Grove Drive • La Cañada Flintridge, CA • 91011
Choral Music Office: (818) 952-8370

COURSE SYLLABUS ~ 2017-2018

PERSONNEL

Dr. Jeff Brookey, Choral Music Instructor and Conductor

Email: jbrookey@lcusd.net

Mrs. Jenna Atias, Staff Accompanist

Email: jatias@lcusd.net

PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AT www.lchschoral.org FOR THE PERFORMANCE/EVENT CALENDAR, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION. IN ADDITION, GOOGLE CLASSROOM WILL BE UTILIZED FOR EACH ONE OF THE CHORAL MUSIC OFFERINGS.

ALL COURSES:

Students in all choral music courses will learn proper vocal technique, choral performance practices, music theory basics, and explore a variety of choral literature. Seasonal holiday, classical, and pop music concerts along with a performance at a festival and/or competition highlight the year. Courses may be repeated for credit

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COURSE TITLE	MEN'S ENSEMBLE
GRADE LEVEL	7-12
PREREQUISITE	DESIRE TO SING/ABILITY TO SING A MELODY
CLASS PERIOD	0 PERIOD

This ensemble is open to all male singers. Specific attention is given to music written for men's voices and vocal development. In addition to an annual trip to Disneyland, a performance tour and/or music enrichment trip is possible.

COURSE TITLE	WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE
GRADE LEVEL	9-12
PREREQUISITE	DESIRE TO SING/ABILITY TO SING A MELODY
CLASS PERIOD	1st PERIOD

This ensemble is open to all female singers. Specific attention is given to music written for women's voices and vocal development. In addition to an annual trip to Disneyland, a performance tour and/or music enrichment trip is possible.

COURSE TITLE	CONCERT CHOIR
GRADE LEVEL	9-12
PREREQUISITE	TEACHER APPROVAL/ AUDITION
CLASS PERIOD	3 rd PERIOD

This intermediate-advanced large ensemble is open to students through audition only. The choir will travel on at least one over-night tour a year, either independently or in collaboration with the Chamber Singers.

COURSE TITLE	CHAMBER SINGERS
GRADE LEVEL	10-12
PREREQUISITE	TEACHER APPROVAL/AUDITION
CLASS PERIOD	4 th PERIOD

This advanced small ensemble is open to students through audition only. Numerous performances throughout the community along with major seasonal performances are ongoing. Additional performances include festivals and/or competitions. The Chamber Singers will travel on at least two over-night tours a year, either independently or in collaboration with the Concert Choir.

COURSE TITLE	7/8 VOCAL ENSEMBLE
GRADE LEVEL	7-8
PREREQUISITE	TEACHER APPROVAL/AUDITION
CLASS PERIOD	5 th PERIOD

This intermediate-advanced choral ensemble is open to male and female students through audition only. In addition to an annual trip to Disneyland, a performance tour and/or music enrichment trip is possible.

COURSE TITLE	7/8 WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE
GRADE LEVEL	7-8
PREREQUISITE	DESIRE TO SING/ABILITY TO SING A MELODY
CLASS PERIOD	6 th PERIOD

This ensemble is open to all women. Specific attention is given to music written for women's voices and vocal development. In addition to an annual trip to Disneyland, a performance tour and/or music enrichment trip is possible.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. An assigned choral folder to be used for choral music and handouts. Replacement cost is \$15.
2. A pencil will be needed for every rehearsal. Pens and markers will not be allowed.
3. Choral sheet music will be provided, however, each student is responsible for returning all music in good condition at the end of each season. Replacement costs may be charged per piece of music lost or destroyed.
4. Students are responsible for purchasing/renting a choir performance outfit. Fittings will take place within the first two weeks of the school year.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Positive Attitude

- Cooperates and is willing to try new things
- Is cordial with peers and staff
- Works hard to improve
- Leads others in a positive direction

Commitment and Responsibility

- Regular attendance to class, performances, and extra scheduled rehearsals
- Shows responsibility for uniform upkeep, music, fund-raising items, etc.
- Communicates to solve problems in a timely manner
- Is responsible, respectful, and self-disciplined
- Maintains a high level of academic standards in all courses

OUTCOME EXPECTATIONS

Through their participation in the Choral Music Program students are expected to improve their musicianship and vocalism:

Musicianship

- Possesses a very strong musical ear
- Comprehends music reading basics
- Consistent growth on sight-reading skills

Vocalism

- Uses the voice to its full potential with courage
- Produces a quality, relaxed tone
- Consistent growth on vocal techniques

GOAL OBJECTIVES: By the end of this school year, students will demonstrate the abilities of:

A Complex Thinker

- By studying choral literature from varied historical time periods.
- By learning pronunciation of music in English and foreign languages.
- By learning the elements of music.
- By learning the ability of basic sight-reading.

An Effective Communicator

- By performing choral literature from varied historical time periods.
- By performing varied styles of choral music.
- By performing music in originally intended languages.
- By conveying thought and emotion through musical expression.

A Community Contributor

- By performing several community concerts throughout the school year.
- By building positive recognition of our program to the community and beyond.
- By attending statewide invitational choral festivals and/or competitions

A Quality Producer

- By demonstrating personal vocal growth.
- By audition preparation for high school advancement, college music scholarship, and/or choral honor groups.

CLASSROOM REQUIREMENTS

1. **Regular class attendance.** No more than 6 excused absences within a semester should occur. There is limited to no homework assigned in each class, therefore, daily participation is a major factor in grade evaluation. A student's grade may be lowered if more than 6 absences occur within a semester. The same consequence may also be in effect after 3 unexcused absences. Each tardy is counted as one half of an unexcused absence; therefore, a student's grade may be lowered after the sixth tardy within a semester. Habitual tardiness and absences may result to disciplinary action and ineligibility in performing and/or touring.

2. **Everyday participation.** Each student is expected to sing everyday. If a student is ill and unable to participate by singing, he/she must sit in the designated area (usually in the front row) and follow along with the rehearsal. Working on outside homework during class time is not allowed, unless in rare situations (i.e. a non-singing day). A student who is ill and wishes not to sing, must inform the teacher **before** the beginning of class. A doctor's note is required by the third consecutive day of non-singing.

3. **Attendance at all scheduled performances and rehearsals are required.** An unexcused absence from a performance and/or scheduled rehearsal will result in a student's grade being lowered. An excused absence is an illness or a family emergency, and the director must be notified **before** the scheduled event. Work is not excused as long as a two-week notice is given by the teacher. In the event of a conflict with a planned family event, advanced notification to the teacher is mandatory. Exceptions may occur by the discretion of the teacher. Think of performances as examinations. Please make early arrangements for attending all dates outlined in your schedule.

Note: A student must be in school for all periods on the day of a performance to be eligible.

4. It is a privilege to be a member of any music ensemble. If a student fails to work at a professional level with the instructors and/or peers, that student will receive disciplinary action and may become ineligible to perform and/or travel with the ensemble.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Have your class materials in hand and be on the risers by the tardy bell.
2. No gum, food/drink (besides water), or cell phones allowed during the class period.
3. No profanity, unnecessary talking, or roughhousing/fighting.
4. No public display of affection at any time.
5. Respect yourself, classroom property, and others.

CONSEQUENCES (DISCIPLINE POLICY)

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference after class
3. Parent contact
4. Referral to counselor; parent conference
5. Referral to assistant principal

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

1. Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off during class time.
2. Students must ask permission to be in the choral office, library, or kitchen area.
3. Please use the restroom before coming to class. In the circumstance that you need to use the restroom during class time you may use the restroom in the choir room. Please be courteous by keeping the restroom clean.
4. The choir room is open for all students during lunch and before/after school when a teacher is present. Food and drink is allowed, however, all perishable items must be thrown away in outside trash cans.
5. Students may play/practice on all choir room pianos EXCEPT the main rehearsal piano. Never have food/drink on any piano.
6. Take pride in yourself and in others
7. Make music, music, music!!

GRADING

Preparation and Participation: 40% of grade

Being prepared is: (1) standing on the risers with music folder/ pencil in hand by the sound of the tardy bell, (2) arriving early/on time to all scheduled events and (3) being ready to work hard everyday. Participation is singing/working in class meetings, rehearsals, and performances. Points will be given every day in attendance.

Attendance at any scheduled event, including performances and rehearsals: 40% of grade

Students are expected to participate in every scheduled event. Choir tours and/or enrichment trips are not mandatory, therefore, do not affect grading.

Musicianship: 10% of grade

Students will be evaluated on basic music theory skills, sight-reading, and vocal growth.

Individual Study and Work Ethic: 10% of grade

Involves individual time spent in student/staff run sectionals, and independent music, sight-reading, and music theory study. It also involves attitude and general behaviors.

GRADING SCALE

A	90%-99.9%
B	80%-89.9%
C	70%-79.9%
D	60%-69.9%
F	Below 60%

Note: pluses and minuses may be given

ACADEMIC HONESTY

La Cañada High School and its Choral Music Department is committed to musical and academic integrity and strives to create an atmosphere conducive to learning, creativity, and achievement. Any academic work submitted, such as papers, quizzes, and/or examinations, is required to be from the sole authorship of the student. That is, students are to do their own work with their best effort and ability. Cheating will not be tolerated at La Cañada High School.

Students who cheat will receive a zero on the assignment and a “U” citizenship grade for the quarter. Further consequences of cheating violations will be determined based on the Academic Honesty Policy, which is listed in the 2017-2018 La Cañada High School Student Handbook.

A NOTE FROM DR. BROOKEY

As a member of the choir, you belong to one of the school’s most important and successful organizations. Not only are you respected in your own community, but throughout California (and beyond) as well. You will be called upon several times this year to represent La Cañada High School and 7/8 School by singing at public events. We are confident that, as a representative who is proud of his/her school and who wants the school to be proud of him/her, you will do your best to display the highest type of conduct and appearance. Any organization, in order to function well, requires teamwork. To operate as a team, each individual member must be loyal and willing to cooperate; he/she must think of the good of the choir and not just his/her own interests, and he/she must be willing to put forth his/her best effort at all times and work hard to achieve success for the team. We challenge each of you to be this kind of choir member.

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