**A Cappella Choir 2019-2020 Syllabus**

**Patriot High School - Matthew Netto, instructor**

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**Office Phone**: 951.361.6552 **Office Hours**: By appointment

**Instagram**: patriotchoirs **Twitter**: @PatriotChoirs

*Pursuing excellence in learning and character within the Patriot community - PHS School Vision*

**Course Description and Goals**

Only students passing the audition are admitted to A Cappella. A Cappella students explore the arts of choral and solo singing in depth and breadth. In this intermediate course, students will expand their knowledge of music theory, history, sight singing, and ear training. A Cappella students will learn and apply the expectations of the singing profession in expressive performance, organization, and cooperation. Students will be held to high levels of musicianship and responsibility. This course meets the UC/CSU “F” requirement for fine arts and can be repeated for credit.

Students will...

* Have many extended performance opportunities.
* Improve their vocal technique and audition skills.
* Learn to refine and reflect on group and solo performance.
* Develop diligent practice times and methods outside of class.
* Increase musicianship skills in solfege and rhythm.
* Sing expressively with passion and technical accuracy.
* Increase musical literacy through reading and writing.
* Learn citizenship, responsibility, community, leadership, and PHS core values.
* Meet CA Visual and Performing Arts Standards and the new National Core Arts Standards.

**Course Philosophy**

* Singing is a learnable skill set, not a talent.
* Successful ensemble membership teaches citizenship, dependability, and responsibility.
* Singers must be capable and knowledgeable musicians.
* Prepare students for freshman year of college majoring in music.
* Develop lifelong organizational and interpersonal skills.

**Community Experiences**

When the A Cappella Choir perform in public as representatives of the school, they must behave impeccably on and off stage. Community performances expand the department’s reputation, provide income and performance opportunities. A Cappella Choir must maintain academic eligibility and flexible schedules to perform and continue as members of the ensemble. Community experiences receive a concert grade.

**A Cappella and Concert Choir**

Students of A Cappella Choir must be enrolled in Concert Choir.

Concert Choir will meet Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm. 2:30-4:00pm at 2 weeks before each concert.

**Classroom Rules**

* Safe place to sing and be.
* Arrive prepared.
* Only water to drink in class.
* Be on time.
* Talk on task.
* Use the practice rooms for practice
* Groom in the bathroom, not in class. (i.e.: applying make-up, hair brushing etc....)
* All rules and regulations as stated in the current Patriot High School student handbook apply to this class. (This includes, but not limited to, dress code, electronic devices, tardies, academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.)

Rehearsal Skills and Ettiquette

* Participate fully and honestly in all activities.
* Come prepared with all regular school supplies: paper, pens, pencils, binder, notebooks etc....
* Start class in your seat with music in assigned music folder, pencil, and materials.
* Practice the music learned in class, at home that same evening.
* Follow standard rehearsal etiquette
  + After cutoffs, listen for instructions and critique.
  + Avoid side conversations.
  + Stay focused to help others stay focused.
  + Students who have personal concerns or disagreements should seek me after school or class to avoid interfering with other students' learning time.

**Electronic Device Policy**

* Students will not use phones during class unless directed to do so for an official learning activity.
* Students will not use devices forbidden by the student handbook.
* When teacher notices the device: device/phone goes to my piano/or desk for remainder of class.

**Discipline Policy**

*Positive Rewards:*

1. Verbal Praise 2. Written Praise 3. Positive Call/Email/Postcard Home

*Disciplinary Action Steps\**

1. Warning: verbal or otherwise.\*\* Visit entered in Q.
2. Parent Phone Call. Visit entered in Q.
3. Final warning and re-explanation of the behavior. Visit entered in Q.
4. Referral to Assistant Principal/Guidance Coordinator and Parent Conference. Visit entered in Q.
5. Ejection from the class. \*Depending on the severity of the infraction any of these steps may be skipped at the teacher's discretion.

\*\*When necessary, students will be counseled about behaviors and attitudes which harm the performing group.

**Grading Policy**

Work completed, skill development, and concert performances determine the grade. Both musical and academic criteria form the basis for student assessment. Students must ask for and complete assignments from absences by asking before or after class/school. The students earned points, divided by the total points, determine the percentage that indicates a letter grade.

Grading Scale

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Percentage | Grade | Percentage |
| A | 94-100% | C | 74-77.9% |
| A- | 90-93.9% | C- | 70-73.9% |
| B+ | 88-89.9% | D+ | 68-69.9% |
| B | 84-87.9% | D | 64-67.9% |
| B- | 80-83.9% | D- | 60-63.9% |
| C+ | 78-79.9% | F | 59.9% and below |

Assignment Types (examples include, but not limited to)

* Sight Reading Tests
* Part Tests, Quartet/octet tests, memory tests
* Concerts
* In Class or Homework Writing Assignments
* Celebration Rehearsals (Part of Concert Choir)
* Parent Signature Pages
* Rehearsal Skills
* Informal Daily Assessment

Assignment Make-Up and other important points to remember

* Absent students must request missed work and music before school or class.
* The length of the students’ absence is the amount of time give to turn in missed work.
* Please make special arrangements, prior to the due date, to turn in late work.
* Long term assignments are due on the stated date whether the student is in class or not.
* Students must provide the School Board required notice time for travel/independent study.
* Parent Forms are official communication; you are accountable for the information in them.
* Plagiarism is academic dishonesty, any plagiarized work will be given a zero and a referral will be issued according to the steps in the Student Hand Book.
* Final Exams: To pass the semester, students must attempt the final. The exam score equals 10-15% of the semester grade. Do not plan to miss school during final exams if possible. If you must miss, arrange to complete them in advance. Finals can occur before the actual scheduled day, especially in the 2nd semester.

**Remind** (text message reminder system)

You are HIGHLY encouraged to sign up for text message reminders. Standard rates apply. With www.remind.com teachers can send one-way messages without gathering students’ phone numbers.

Phone Number: 81010

Concert Choir: @phsCchoir Parent Info: @phsCparent A Cappella: @phsacapp

**Technology and devices in the classroom**

Students will have valid educational opportunities to use Chromebooks, smart phones, headphones and other devices during class time with appropriate guidance from the teacher. Unless specifically instructed to use the devices, students must store them at all times. At no time during class, shall the students take pictures, audio recording, or video without explicit permission from the instructor. Students are not to use devices to fill “downtime” and if they use the device during passing period it must be put away when the bell rings.

**Fundraising Opportunities**

Students shall have an individual fundraising goal of $300.00. Students are encouraged, but not required to participate in fundraising activities. There is no penalty for not achieving a student’s fundraising goal. We will engage in many fundraisers throughout the school year. We will join the Band Boosters on the following fundraisers. A Student’s participation in a fundraiser, or the participation of their parent or sibling on his or her behalf, shall apply credit to the student’s fundraising goal total. We receive a per person share of the profits. Here are the dates about which we know. Email: [matthew\_netto@jusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:matthew_netto@jusd.k12.ca.us) to sign up.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aug. 2019 - Jan. 1, 2020 Concession Fundraisers | | | |
| Date | Event | Location | Time |
| 17-Aug | LA Galaxy | Dignity Health Sports Park | 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610280> |  |  |  |
| 18-Aug | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4714991> |  |  |  |
| 22-Aug | Rolling Stones | Rose Bowl | 2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4766658> |  |  |  |
| 24-Aug | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4858371> |  |  |  |
| 7-Sep | UCLA Football | Rose Bowl | TBA |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610558> |  |  |  |
| 8-Sep | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729291> |  |  |  |
| 14-Sep | UCLA Football | Rose Bowl | TBA |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610579> |  |  |  |
| 15-Sep | LA Galaxy | Dignity Health Sports Park | 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610297> |  |  |  |
| 21-Sep | LA Galaxy | Dignity Health Sports Park | 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610302> |  |  |  |
| 22-Sep | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729292> |  |  |  |
| 29-Sep | LA Galaxy | Dignity Health Sports Park | 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610304> |  |  |  |
| 5-Oct | UCLA Football | Rose Bowl | TBA |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610580> |  |  |  |
| 6-Oct | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729293> |  |  |  |
| 13-Oct | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729294> |  |  |  |
| 26-Oct | UCLA Football | Rose Bowl | TBA |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610581> |  |  |  |
| 2-Nov | UCLA Football | Rose Bowl | TBA |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610584> |  |  |  |
| 3-Nov | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729298> |  |  |  |
| 30-Nov | UCLA Football | Rose Bowl | TBA |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4610586> |  |  |  |
| 15-Dec | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729303> |  |  |  |
| The next 3 dates are possible. 1 will be the actual date |  |  |  |
| 19-Dec | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729304> |  |  |  |
| 21-Dec | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729305> |  |  |  |
| 22-Dec | LA Chargers | Dignity Health Sports Park | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4729306> |  |  |  |
| 1/1/2020 | Rose Bowl Game | Rose Bowl | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. |
| <https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/volunteerR.asp?s=pathsbb&v=4913081> |  |  |  |

**Performances and Rehearsals**

PHS Core Values: Responsibility, Commitment, Teamwork, and Respect. Concert performance is mandatory for all members to fulfill their obligations to the group and the course. Concerts and performances are the equivalent of a unit test. Read the performance calendar and clear all conflicts. Please plan ahead. Students must work to stay off the No-Go list, or attend detentions to clear it within one week of being placed on it.

*Missing a concert/rehearsal for previous plans:*

* Provide a note, handwritten or by email, to the director at least 2 (two) weeks prior to the event.
* Ask the director for a make-up assignment.
* Complete the assignment by the due date to earn the missed concert’s points, or receive a zero.

*Missing a concert/rehearsal in an emergency situation:*

* Call the Choir Office phone: 951-361-6552 ASAP and leave a detailed message.
* Or, send an email matthew\_netto@jusd.k12.ca.us ASAP with details.
* **In every case, provide a note on the day you return to class.**
  + Parent email for family emergency, or doctor’s note for medical emergency.
  + A text message to the director is appreciated but does not replace a formal note.
* Ask for the make-up assignment.
* Complete the assignment by the due date to earn the missed concert’s points, or receive a zero.

**Make-up assignments for concerts**

Students who miss concerts will complete a 5-page paper. The paper will be an observational assessment from watching an hour choral concert, either in-person, or through an hour equivalent on [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com). Student will obtain prior permission, at the sole discretion of the director, for watching a web-based, equivalent concert. The content of the paper will follow specific and rigid topic and format guidelines, provided upon student request. The paper shall be due one week from the day following the concert absence.

**A Cappella Extra Performances:**

A Cappella may perform for community, district, and school events. When the director notifies the ensemble of the event, it becomes a graded performance-calendar activity and is subject to the above rules.

Transportation Advice: If you have an unreliable source of transportation in the evenings, please find a friend, or parent of a friend, your family trusts, in class who may be able to help you in an unforeseen circumstance.

**Tour and non-required Traveling Performance Opportunities**

Group travel activities require a confirmation of participant counts and multiple deposits. Students may elect to participate in non-required functions. i.e.: “Music in the Parks.” Parents and students will indicate their intent to participate by an official form. Withdrawal from participation must be given in writing two weeks before the next payment. Refunds may only occur for money not yet spent on that student’s behalf. No refunds will be given after 1 month before the activity or travel. No student barred based on financial need, all students and parents need to recognize that this class needs private donations and fundraising to operate. Avoid problems by actively communication with the director.

**Performance Calendar**

Performance Calendar dates are subject to change; all changes will occur in writing.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Day | Date | Event | Call Time | Start | Location | Choirs |
| T | 8/22/2019 | Back to School Night | 6:00 | 6:30 | PHS Gym | Madrigals |
| S | 9/21/19 | Reg. Honor Choir Audition #1 |  | 9am | Various |  |
| S | 9/28/19 | Reg. Honor Choir Auditions #2 |  | Noon | Various |  |
| S | 9/28/19 | CSUF Quartet Festival |  |  | CSUF | Select |
| W | 10/23/2019 | RCC Fall Choral Festival | 1:00pm |  | RCC | Madrigals |
| F | 10/25/19 | Fall Choral Festival | Staggered | 7:00pm | 1st Cong. | All |
| W | 11/6/19 | Norco High School Exchange | 6:00pm | 7:00pm | NHS | Madrigals |
| T | 11/19/19 | Rotary Performance | Noon | 12:30pm | Sizzler | Mads |
| Th-S | 11/21-23/19 | Regional Honor Choir |  |  |  |  |
| F | 12/13/19 | Winter Choral Festival | Staggered | 7:00pm | 1st Cong. | All |
| Th | 12/19/19 | District Holiday Luncheon | 12:30 | 1:00pm | Board Rm. | Madrigals |
| W | 1/22/20 | Celebration Choir Rehearsal 1 | 4:00-5:15 |  | Theatre | All |
| W | 1/29/20 | Celebration Choir Rehearsal 2 | 4:00-5:15 |  | Theatre | All |
| W | 2/5/20 | Celebration Choir Rehearsal 3 | 4:00-5:15 |  | Theatre | All |
| W | 2/12/20 | Celebration Choir Rehearsal 4 | 4:00-5:15 |  | Theatre | All |
|  | 2/14-17/20 | San Francisco Tour | TBA | TBA | TBA | Mads & AC |
| W | 2/19/20 | Celebration Choir Rehearsal 5 | 4:00-5:15 |  | Theatre | All |
| Th-S | 2/20-22/20 | All State Honor Choir |  |  | Fresno | Audition |
| W | 2/26/20 | Celebration Choir Rehearsal 6 | 3:35-5:15 |  | JMS | All |
| Th | 2/2720 | Celebration Choir Performance | 6:00 | 6:30 | JMS | All |
| F | 2/28/20 | Celebration Choir Day Shows | 2nd Per | 9-11am | JMS | All |
|  | March TBD | SCVA Festivals | TBA |  | TBA | All? |
|  | March TBD | 8th Grade Orientation |  |  |  |  |
|  | April TBD | JUSD Choral Festival | TBA |  | TBA | Madrigals |
| F | 5/8/20 | Spring Sing | Staggered | 7:00pm | 1st Cong. | All |
| Sat | 5/2/20 | Music In The Parks | TBA | TBA | TBA |  |
| F | 5/15/20 | Madrigals Candlelight | 5:30pm | 7:00pm | 1st Cong. | Madrigals |
|  | May TBD | Graduation | 5:45 |  | RHS | Madrigals |

**Uniform Policy**

A Cappella Choir must look professional in public performance. Students not adhering to the dress code for concert may be sent home and lose their points. The dress code as stated in the current student handbook applies. Do not spend excessive amounts of money on these items.

**Ladies:** Students will be issued a dress and The Vocal Music Department will maintain ownership of the dress. Students wishing to own the dress may purchase one with the choir’s uniform order. While the dress is checked out to you and/or in your possession you are responsible for its safekeeping. Students will be charged the full replacement cost and shipping of damaged or lost items. Students must dry-clean and return the uniform at the end of the school year or if they leave mid-year for any reason. Unreturned and/or non-dry-cleaned garments will result in a fine on the student’s account.

**Ladies’ Shoes:**

* The shoes must be black, closed-toe, flats are the standard in the professional choral world. They must be plain solid black, flats or small heel (2in or less), comfortable for standing long periods, closed toe. No tennis shoes, sneakers, TOMS, Vans, athletic shoes, high heels, straps, sparkles, glitter, patterns, sandals, or work boots. No black vans with white sole. NO color but black on the shoes. Flip-flops and combat style boots are NOT formal attire; never, ever wear them to any event.
* Ladies’ Socks: Solid black socks, nylons, leggings or dress socks. NO WHITE SOCKS

**Gentlemen:** Students wear a full tuxedo during all performances. It consists of: Tux Jacket, Tux Pants, Tux Shirt, Cardinal Colored Vest, Cardinal Colored Bowtie, Black Dress Shoes, and Dress Socks. Students will be issued the tux pieces (except shoes and socks) The Vocal Music Department will maintain ownership of the Tuxedo. Students wanting to own the Tux may purchase one with the choir’s uniform order. While the pieces are checked out to you and/or in your possession are responsible for its safekeeping. Students will be charged the full replacement cost and shipping of damaged or lost items. Students must dry-clean and return the uniform at the end of the school year or if they leave mid-year for any reason. Unreturned and/or non-dry-cleaned garments will result in a fine on the student’s account.

**Men’s Shoes**

* The shoes must be plain, solid-black, shiny or matte, dress shoes which are comfortable for standing. No tennis shoes, sneakers, TOMS, Vans, athletic shoes, sparkles, glitter, patterns, sandals, or work boots. No black vans with white sole. NO color but black on the shoes. Flip-flops and combat style boots are NOT formal attire; never, ever wear them to any event. (I have a small supply of shoes if needed, please contact me.)
* Men’s Socks: Solid black dress socks. NO WHITE SOCKS

• For men and women, no perfume and cologne on stage. Use unscented deodorant if available.

• Please keep up on the cleaning of these garments.

• ***If this dress policy prevents a financial strain to a family, please contact me so that financial help can be provided. No student will be prevented from participating based on an inability to purchase clothing.***

• Students must have the uniform professionally cleaned, with receipt, before returning it at the end of the year.

Acceptable Women’s’ Shoes Example Acceptable Men’s Tux Shoes Example

Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form for A Cappella Choir

(Detach and Return)

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print parent/guardian name here) have read, understand, and will support my student in fulfilling the policies in the syllabus.

* I read the policies that require action and advanced preparation, including dates and transportation.
* I understand my student will receive a uniform, folder and music, and is responsible for them.
* The replacement cost for a lost folder is $25.00 and for a damaged or lost uniform is $75.00-150.00.
* I understand that this course requires time outside of the school day which is considered curriculum time, and that my student's performances are counted in the final grade.
* I understand my student and I must sign the Uniform Contract.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of **Parent** or **Guardian** Date Signed

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (print student name here) have read this course syllabus and I understand and accept my responsibilities as set forth in it.

* I agree to the policies and will support the objectives as stated in the syllabus.
* I understand that concert attendance is part of my grade.
* I read the policies that require action and advanced preparation, including dates and transportation.
* The replacement cost for a lost folder is $25.00 and for a damaged or lost uniform is $75.00-150.00
* I understand that this course requires time outside of the school day which is considered curriculum time, and that my performances are counted in the final grade.
* I must also sign the Uniform Contract.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of **Student** Date signed

**My student may participate in sales-based fundraisers and may receive products for which he/she is responsible. Yes or No (circle one) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (parent initials here)**

The best way to contact Mr. Netto is email: [matthew\_netto@jusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:matthew_netto@jusd.k12.ca.us)

What is the best way to contact you?

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Or

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please print as clearly as possible.