



Red Oak High School  
Choral Music  
Handbook  
2011-2012

*"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on  
which it is impossible to be silent"*

Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

**Welcome** to the Red Oak High School Choral Music Program. You are about to embark on a very exciting year of music making. Red Oak has a strong and rich tradition of vocal music and you are about to become a key player in that tradition. Congratulations and welcome!

## **Expectations**

- 1- Be in your seat/place ready to rehearse when the bell rings.
- 2- Respect all surroundings including other singers and directors.
- 3- Food and beverage are not allowed in the auditorium or vocal room. Only bottled water will be allowed.
- 4- Talking during the rehearsals should be kept to a minimum.
- 5- No cell phones out during school hours.
- 6- Bring a positive attitude to class each day, it makes a difference.
- 7- Class time is dedicated to music rehearsal and learning.  
Assignment for other classes should be completed at another time.

*It all comes down to being kind and courteous to those around you!*

**Concert Attire** during performance for Varsity and Junior Varsity Choir is robes provided by the school.

Women are to wear a dress or skirt underneath with nude (skin colored) nylons and **black shoes** without decorative buttons or clasps. No heels so high that you can't walk in them and **no flip-flops**.

Men are to wear black dress pants, **black shoes**, black socks, and a white shirt under their robes.

*\*\*Please Note: Students not properly dressed, will not be allowed to perform.\*\**

## **Earning Your Grade**

Grades are given each quarter for Choir. Full academic credit is earned. The following criteria are considered when determining grades.

### **Attendance and Full Participation**

Singers are expected to be present at all rehearsals to participate fully in those rehearsals. Vocal music students must make a commitment to give 100% effort in **every** rehearsal.

Attendance is required at **all performances and extra rehearsals** (outside of the school day). Any student who must be absent **MUST** bring a note from home explaining the nature of the absence. Students absent from performances will be given an appropriate writing/research assignment in order to provide an opportunity for make-up work. **Performances are an important part of each student's grade!**

### **Loss of points will occur as outlined below.**

- poor classroom participation
- poor classroom discipline
- In the case of tardiness not associated with a class conflict.
- Students with consistent daily attendance issues may be removed from select ensembles

**Assignments** will be given each quarter. These may include, transferring markings into the student's music, numbering measures in music, concert evaluations, etc.

**Testing** Students will be directly assessed by their abilities to sing their parts independently, with accuracy of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and articulations, using a healthy and appropriate vocal production. Testing will take place once each quarter.

**Voice Lessons** Students will be expected to complete 1 fifteen minute voice lesson per quarter. Students may opt to do it individually or in a group of 2-4 singers. This will count as an exam grade in the grade book.

### **Concert Etiquette**

- 1) Be respectful of the performing ensemble and others seated in the performance hall. Noise is distracting to all.
- 2) Please do not exit and enter the performance hall during a performance. Wait for an appropriate pause.
- 3) Polite applause is most appropriate and encouraged.
- 4) Students are to be present for the entire concert, beginning to the end.

### **Evaluation**

Daily Work and Participation	40%
Concerts	40%
Testing	10%
Assignments	10%

## **Lettering**

Each student involved in the Red Oak High School Vocal Music Program has the opportunity and potential to earn a Vocal Music Letter. The criteria are explained below.

### **All of the following are REQUIRED to letter:**

1. Attend all performances, concerts, and functions for your choir.
2. Received an A or B as your grade for your major music ensemble.
3. Have NO unexcused absences from any rehearsal/class.
4. Have NO absences for any performance.

### **Six of the following “extras” are required to letter:**

1. Sing a solo or in a small ensemble at District Music Contests.
2. Have NO absences whatsoever.
3. Have NO tardies whatsoever.
4. Accompany at a choir or chorus performance (any instrumental accompaniment).
5. Attend a summer vocal music camp.
6. Attend the All-State Concert in Ames.
7. Perform a solo at an outside of school event (church, talent show, etc.)  
*This needs to be approved by a director in advance.*
8. Study private voice or piano throughout the school year.
9. Participate in a church or community choir.
10. Participate in State Piano Contests.
11. Give 4 hours of service to the choral department. Jobs should be approved in advance by the director. (Examples: technical assistance for performances, filing music, decorating for an event, sorting robes or other costumes, etc.)
12. Participate in Minningsingers.
13. Participate in another School Vocal Ensemble.
14. Audition for All-State
15. Participate in the Musical.
16. Attend a musical event outside of school. Students must submit a program. (Examples- musical theater productions, symphony concerts, operas, etc.)

*The above requirements must be met each year in order to letter. It is then possible to letter numerous times throughout one's high school career.*

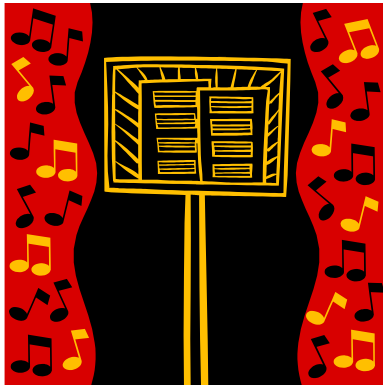
## Statement of Understanding

We have read the handbook and understand the expectations involved in the Red Oak High School Vocal Music Program. We further understand that the director is always available for consultation and should be contacted should any problems arise.

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please detach this Statement of Understanding and return it to Mr. Marsden by Friday August 26.. Students will be graded on the completion of this form.*



*“How is it that music can without words, evoke our laughter, our tears, our highest aspiration?”*

Jan Swan (b. 1943)