

SAN MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL

2008-2009 Vocal Music Department Handbook

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Vocal Music program! I am delighted to have you in class!

You are a very important member of what has been recognized as one of the finest choirs in our state. Your contribution to this department continues the tradition of musical excellence built on the foundation of the many hard working, responsible, dedicated, intelligent, creative and musical choir members.

Choir is about **YOU**.

The mission of the Santa Barbara School Districts is "to ensure the educational success of all students through high expectations and a commitment to excellence and to empower them to reach their full potential as responsible, ethical, and productive citizens in a diverse and changing world."

Music is a discipline that requires goal setting, critical thinking skills, concentration, individual responsibility, group conformity, decision-making, complex problem-solving, and thriving under pressure. Success in Vocal Music classes leads to success in life. During the year you will be challenged to balance your academic requirements, family life, work schedule, college prep, sports, theatre, etc, with your choir performances. There will be opportunities for you to develop leadership skills, build your musical ability, meet and make lifelong friends, participate in music field trips, perform as a representative of San Marcos High School and an opportunity to work as a team with other amazing individuals.

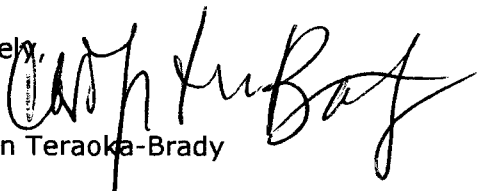
Choral singing is an extremely enjoyable and rewarding activity. Each and every member is an essential element of the team. When you dedicate yourself to excel as an individual, you help to create a more accomplished choir and together we experience our musical goal - to communicate the intent of the composer through our musical artistry in performance and the joy and satisfaction of that connection.

At the end of every school year, I hear students affirming the fact that they have found a family in choir. Their choir experiences develop lifelong friendships and together with the power of musical experiences, these become the memorable highlights of their high school experience. David Schildkret, director of choral activities at Arizona State University states, ". . .music makes a powerful connection to beauty and to a common humanity."

Music inspires people to strive for something deeper within them. I look forward to another fantastic year with all of you. This handbook is for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Teraoka-Brady



Dear Parents,

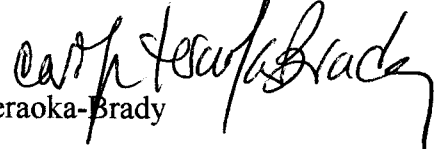
The enclosed requirements, guidelines, and grading procedures were established to insure a learning environment that will enable every student to develop to his/her full musical potential. Please read the booklet carefully and discuss the content.

Choral music encourages the student to express his/her emotions in a positive way. Through music, the heart is touched, the soul is fed. The study of music is a bridge to understand the multicultures in our world, and a bridge for students to work across the curriculum. Music education enhances intellectual development and contributes to a positive academic environment. The arts encourage students to be creative and provides countless benefits to each individual through life.

Students acquire life skills through preparation and performance process. Communication and interpersonal skills are reinforced and self confidence is enhanced through the choral music experience that leads to success in school and life.

You will find in this handbook, course descriptions, classroom expectations, grading policy, daily attendance, performance policy, care of music, portfolio profile, concert attire, fundraising, student accounts, student officers, lab fee, tentative calendar, parent volunteer, and student data sheet.

Back to School night is Wednesday, September 17th at 6:00pm. Welcome to the choir program!

Sincerely, 
Carolyn Teraoka-Brady



-----STUDENT / PARENT CONTRACT-----

Communication is key to the success for our students and program. By signing below, we indicate that we have read, understand and will abide by the rules and expectations for participating in the San Marcos High School Choirs. This includes Classroom Expectations, Grading Policy and Portfolio Profile, Concert Attire, Fundraising, Lab Fee, Care of Music, Performance Attendance, and Concert Attire.

Please sign and return the bottom indicating that you agree to abide by the procedures as outlined. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call and share them with me. The SMHS Vocal Music office phone number is 967-4581 ext 357 and my email address is cteraoka-brady@sbsd12.org. Generally, I work on my email correspondence by 10:00pm, and check my emails before leaving in the morning for school and also read email at school. It is the most effective means of communication for me.

Student Signature _____ (Student name – Print) _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please turn the forms in this pack in to Mrs. Teraoka-Brady on or before Wednesday, September 3, 2008 as part of your daily class grade:

Student / Parent Contract (this page) _____

Student Data Sheet/Parent Volunteer sheet _____

Lab Fee donation _____

Vocal Music Curriculum - All classes meet CSU and graduation Fine/Performing Arts Requirement

MADRIGAL SINGERS (College Prep)*

Madrigoal Singers is open to advanced singers grades 10-12 and is offered by audition only. Students are expected to be the top musicians while continuing to develop advanced vocal and musicianship skills. This is a select performing ensemble and students participate in concerts, community outreach, school assemblies, festivals and tour. Students study advanced literature appropriate for the chamber sized ensemble. Members of this group must also participate in the A Cappella Choir and Vocal Ensembles. Students will perform at concerts and invitational choral festivals and are eligible for touring during Term 3. Madrigal Singers are encouraged to audition for Southern California Honor Choir and All State Honor Choir.

A CAPPELLA CHOIR (College Prep)* Terms 1 and 2 only

The SMHS A Cappella Choir is the centerpiece of our vocal program. It is the combination of the auditioned choirs. The A Cappella class is open by audition, for students in grades 10-12. This course continues study in appropriate literature for a large mixed ensemble. Vocal techniques, music theory, sight-reading, specialized choral literature of different periods and styles, singing literature in different languages will be studied. This is a select ensemble requiring good leadership and musical skills. Students perform in concerts and invitational choral festivals and are eligible to tour during Term 3. Students are encouraged to audition for Southern California Honor Choir and All State Honor Choir

VOCAL ENSEMBLE (College Prep)* Separate Classes Women / Men

Advanced Women's Vocal ensemble class for women:

Enchanté' Period 2 SPRING Terms 3 and 4 by audition only.

The ensemble explores a wide variety of choral literature from various musical eras. Music will be sung in many languages, as many as five different languages. Students will perform at concerts and festivals and are eligible for touring during Term 3 and/or Term 4. Students are encouraged to audition for Southern California Honor Choir and All State Honor Choir.

Vocal Ensemble class for men:

Royal Knights Period 5 - ALL YEAR 0 period (7:00am Wednesday) Tues, Thursday lunch.

This men's ensemble performs choral literature from various musical eras and styles, including classical folk, jazz, contemporary rock and musical theater.

***Students in Vocal Ensemble groups are selected by audition or director's approval and have concurrent enrollment in the A Cappella Choir or Madrigal Singers. Students perform for community events, festival and concert. Students are eligible to audition for Southern California Honor Choir and All State Honor Choir.**

MIXED CHORUS (Women's Choir) FALL Terms 1 and 2 only

All incoming freshmen -regardless of talent or previous experience are enrolled in this class. This class sets the foundation for more advance choral classes. Women in grades 10-12 may elect to take this class. This course of study covers basic vocal techniques, music theory, sight reading and appropriate literature and is a foundation for more advanced classes. Classical, contemporary, pop, musical theatre, styles will be studied in class. This group performs for the Fall and Winter concerts. Students will have the option to attend an off campus field trip.

Through activities during the daily rehearsal students will have experiences in:

- Vocal technique, breathing, posture
 - Fundamentals of sight-reading
 - Music theory: Terms and markings
 - Music theory: Notation and intervals
- Music theory: Basic harmony and key signatures
 - Concert etiquette
- Comprehensive musicianship, based on repertoire
 - Listening skills and self-evaluation
 - Critical evaluation
 - Diction
- Expressive Singing / Memorized Singing
 - Composition
 - Communication
 - Conducting
- Music History, Opera and American Musical Theatre

Materials needed daily in class:

- 1) A black 1" three ring binder for music*. Staff paper for theory work.
- 2) Pencils for marking music at rehearsals.
- 3) A spiral bound notebook (Choir Journal) used for vocabulary and writing assignments

Lost or damaged music will be billed at actual replacement value.

Classroom Expectations

- Show respect for the director, the other members of the choir and yourself.
- Show respect for the choir room, the equipment and the music.
- Be on time (early) to all rehearsals and performances.
- Be prepared with your music binder and seated before the tardy bell. **You will be tardy in Mrs. Teraoka-Brady's class if you are not in your seat when the bell rings.**
- Put forth your best effort every day with a positive attitude.
- Be responsible for all classroom materials including music, written assignments, forms, handouts, permission slips, choir uniforms, instruments, etc.
- Absolutely no food or gum in class. Water is essential!!
- Use the practice pianos with respect. The grand piano is not available for regular student use, ask the teacher for permission.
- As a member of the SMHS Vocal Music Department, students are expected to uphold all SMHS school policies both on and off campus

Grading Policy*

50% of your grade is based on your daily rehearsal participation. This includes:

Vocal technique, learning and memorizing all aspects of the music, a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning, ability to work effectively with others in vocal sectionals, attendance and class participation at performances. *Daily attendance is very important, frequent absences will jeopardize your grade. 6 or more absences will affect your final grade. (Remember, we are on a block schedule, and 6 rehearsals is the equivalent of two weeks of a traditional schedule)*

20% of your grade is based on vocal and written theory assessments. This includes:

Memorized singing / Quartet singing/ Sightsinging Quizzes
Written musicianship quizzes, music theory written assignments.

30% Portfolio project - Due before the end of the Term. Students will evaluate, analyze, listen and respond by writing, performing, investigating and studying vocal music through the activities listed on the Portfolio profile page

Attendance

Students are most successful when they are engaged in class activities. Students need to be in their seats prepared with their music and pencil before the tardy bell. After 3 tardies, an after school detention with the teacher will be assigned and a call home will be made. Any tardy after the third tardy will be assigned detention and referral to an administrator for after school detention.

Unexcused absences will be reported to the office and parent/guardian. Students more than 15 minutes late to class will be reported as an unexcused absence by the attendance office (District Policy).

If you are ill, please don't spread a cold by coming to class. However, if you are in class, you will need to stand, participate and follow along with your music, or complete the make-up work assignments.

Performances

***Attendance at the fall and winter concert is mandatory. If you miss a concert, your final term grade will be dropped one letter grade.** Unlike a written final, this assessment involves a live group performance with an audience; there is no make up opportunity. We cannot recreate the concert and provide an equivalent experience for student assessment.

All students are expected to fulfill their responsibility to their ensemble's performance.

Student Behavior at performances: Students will be on time, demonstrate attentive and supportive behavior as a performer and audience member, and represent SMHS with pride.

Care of Music

Students are responsible for all music and textbooks they receive. If music is left out of the folder, students will be billed at the full replacement value. Music should be kept in the student's binder at all times.

Participation Portfolio Profile

Each Term your grade (30%) will also reflect these areas:

1. The student will attend weekly **sectionals** held outside of class time as assigned from these classes. (Madrigal Singers, Enchanté', Royal Knights, A Cappella Choir)
2. The student will complete **3** of the following activities before _____
 - a) Submit a one-page typed concert critique (classical music or musical theater) with program (pop / rock concerts are **exempt** from this activity, no more than 2 critiques per semester. Student performances must be at the high school level for this project, or professional performers)
 - b) Participate in a noon recital or evening cabaret (1 performance per term may be used for points).
 - c) Investigate and participate in the SMHS **Majors program** for music through the Career Center located to the right of our school library. (2 activity points)
 - d) Study voice privately (worth **2** activities. Bring a note from your teacher - *must have minimum of 5 lessons during each term*)
 - e) Participate in Regional / State / National Honor Choir and /or Solo and Ensemble Festival Application at <http://www.scvachoral.org/>
 - f) Regularly participate in a church or synagogue choir (with a note signed by choir leader verifying regular participation during the term)
 - g) Participate in a local teen musical theatre production during summer before or during current school year (with a note signed by director verifying your participation)
 - h) Compose a song and turn in a manuscript that uses Finale, Sibelius, or Noteworthy Composer notation program.
 - i) Research and present a 3 minute Power Point presentation on vocal topic. (Needs teacher approval prior to starting project)
 - j) Research and present a 3 minute presentation on careers in music. (Needs teacher advisement prior to writing this project)
 - k) Submit a one-page typed choral festival report comparing and contrasting a minimum of 2 choirs. .
 - l) Work on a community project that provides tutoring or support to a junior high or elementary school music program.
 - m) Sing the National Anthem for one of the SMHS sports teams. Audition for Mrs TB and be placed on the list to sing in a quartet or solo.
 - n) Propose your own project to Mrs. Teraoka-brady

PORTFOLIO SUMMARY WORKSHEET 30% of grade

Projected Activities from the list above

CONCERT ATTIRE

Formal wear must be fitted as soon as possible. Please listen for announcements and refer to the calendar as to your fitting date and time. You must be present for your fitting WITH YOUR DRESS SHOES (see below).

- A. **Madrigal Singers – Women** You are responsible for providing the following:
1. Formal wear includes a maroon formal dress. A group order will be made.
 2. Blacks and Blues concert attire allows you to wear a black dress of appropriate length, or black dress slacks and blouse. (your responsibility)
 3. CHARACTER SHOES (your responsibility)
 - a. Uniform black character shoes 1 1/2" heel will be worn by all the ladies.
 - b. A group order will be made. Payment must be made **IN ADVANCE** of the group order. (Cash or money order–more information will follow).
 4. Accessories
 - a. Small earrings only. No multi-piercings, facial or tongue piercing.
 - b. Limit other jewelry to a watch and favorite ring- no necklaces, no bracelets or excessive rings.
 - c. No Fingernail polish is to be worn other than natural or clear.
 - d. Keep hair simple not extravagant- no hair ribbons, bows, or gaudy accessories.
 5. Hairstyle & color should be conservative and neat (directors' & school's definition- nothing that would call attention to you on stage). Hair will be pulled back out of the face; no bangs; no unnatural colors.
- B. **Enchanté – Women** You are responsible for providing the following:
1. Formal wear includes a black formal dress. A group order will be made.
 2. CHARACTER SHOES (your responsibility)
 - a. Uniform black character shoes 1 1/2" heel will be worn by all the ladies.
 - b. A group order will be made. Payment must be made **IN ADVANCE** of the group order. (Cash or money order–more information will follow).
 3. Accessories
 - a. Small earrings only. No multi-piercings, facial or tongue piercing.
 - b. Limit other jewelry to a watch and favorite ring- no necklaces, no bracelets or excessive rings.
 - c. No Fingernail polish is to be worn other than natural or clear.
 - d. Keep hair simple not extravagant- no hair ribbons, bows, or gaudy accessories.
 4. Hairstyle & color should be conservative and neat (directors' & school's definition- nothing that would call attention to you on stage). Hair will be pulled back out of the face; no bangs; no unnatural colors

Concert Attire continued

C. Senior High Men

1. Formal attire includes black tuxedo, tux shirt, bow tie (Madrigal Singers- maroon) (A Cappella, Royal Knights- black bow tie) and cummerbund
2. Black dress slacks and the tuxedo shirt must be purchased by the student and is his personal property. A group order for the shirts will be taken to insure the lowest possible price and a uniform shirt.
3. Shoes are your responsibility.
 - . Black DRESS shoes and black socks- no tennis shoes or boots.
 - a. Remember you must be able to move and stand in these shoes. This means leather soles not rubber.
4. Accessories
 - . Hairstyle & color should be conservative and neat (directors' & school's definition- nothing that would call attention to you on stage). Hair will be pulled back out of the face; no bangs; no unnatural colors.
5. Tuxes are dry cleaned. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO WASH OR IRON THE TUXEDOS, BOW TIES AND CUMMERBUND.
6. Madrigal Singers Men will need a long sleeved dark blue dress shirt, and tie. (tie is your own selection) Blacks and Blues.

Fundraising

Through our Performing Arts Affiliates, a 501(c) (3) non profit group, our department annually participates in AXXESS book sales and SEE'S Candy Sales (twice a year). Advertisement space in our concert programs, car wash and rummage sales, also help to supplement our department budget and student spring tours. Other fundraising ideas are welcomed and with the support of our parents, put into action. Two special concert events will be held during term 2 and 3. More information to follow soon! Parents, family and friends may elect to give a donation in lieu of supporting a specific fundraiser.

Consider supporting our department through this program. It's easy. . . eScrip.



eScrip is a hassle-free way for SMHS Choral groups to raise funds through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants. This program is at no cost to you and if you are registered to support another group, you can also add San Marcos High School Performing Arts Affiliates (you can support up to 3 groups).

Sign up on line. It's quick and easy!

Step 1 – Go to www.escrip.com

Step 2 – Click on “sign-up”

Step 3- Follow the instructions

Our Group Name: **SMHS Performing Arts Affiliates** Group ID# **500014824**

THAT'S IT! Visit eScrip merchants to shop and earn cash for SMHS Choir

Parents, teachers, friends and families are encouraged to register their credit, debit and grocery club card as supporters with the eScrip program. Even friends and family from out-of-state can help us.

Student Accounts – Spring Choir Tour

Each student will have their own choir account. Their fundraising deposits and withdrawals are kept through that system. Students cannot withdraw choral account funds for cash. The choir accounts are not a bank. The funds in their choir account can go to uniforms, class fee, trips and other things. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to know how much is in your child's choir account. Quarterly choir account statements will go out to the individual student. Money not used at the end of the year will roll over into the students account for next year. However money that is not used at the end of the year by a senior or someone not returning to the choir program will go into the general choir fund. Those wishing to donate money from one student account to another must provide a note from home giving permission to do so. If a student has a debt with the choir a charge card with the school will be filled out. A student will not receive transcripts, progress reports, report cards, or graduate until the debt is paid.

Student Officers

Every choir will have student officers. (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Uniform Manager, Librarian) Student leaders are in charge of administrative and social duties and act as liaisons between choir members, the director, and parents. These students are crucial to the organization and success of the program. Attendance at choir officer and parent meetings is required. Student officers must meet outside of class then report back to the director. Student leaders represent the department and the director and carry a great deal of responsibility. Respect for the student leaders is crucial to the student leadership concept and the growth of the department. The director holds impeachment power for any student not fulfilling their responsibilities.

Each choir will also have vocal section leaders chosen by the director. This is usually someone who has lots of vocal experience and has some piano training. Depending on the choir you are in, a sectional may be required. When a section leader calls a rehearsal outside of class, you are required to attend. Section leaders will make every effort to plan sectionals that accommodate schedules.