



Welcome to Mill Valley Choir!

Dear 2019-2020 Choir Members and Parents,

Welcome to a new school year at Mill Valley High School! I'm thrilled to join the Mill Valley team as the new Vocal Music teacher and look forward to working with you.

It's encouraging to know that I am stepping into a well-established choral program where community, teamwork, positivity, and effort are the cornerstones of excellence. This year promises to provide many opportunities for continued growth and I can't wait to start working towards our first performances.

Every student, teacher, and parent is an integral part of the choral program. This handbook outlines the expectations for involvement in choir. Please read over the information carefully. If you have any questions about the procedures or expectations, please do not hesitate to ask. **Once you have gone over, understand, and accept the policies, please complete the last page and return by Friday, August 30th.**

Throughout the year, feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns. Email is the best way to contact me; however, you may also call the school to speak with me personally. Please leave a message if you reach my voicemail so I can return your call.

I'm excited to meet you and begin our year together!

Mrs. Jessie Reimer

jreimer@usd232.org

Please check our choir website : www.millvalleychoir.weebly.com

Follow us on:  and  @millvalleychoir

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Music Philosophy/Rationale

“A quality music education is a **necessity** for all students because of the many intrinsic and extrinsic values that the study of music has for **all** of humankind. Most important among these is music’s potential for letting human beings **share and communicate thoughts and feelings** that transcend the written or spoken word—expressions of the spirit that make us uniquely human and **bind us together as a people and a world of cultures**. In addition, the study of music is beneficial for its many other outcomes, some of which include the development of social behaviors, such as **cooperation** and **multicultural sensitivity**; personal behaviors, such as **self-discipline** and **self-esteem**; and educational behaviors, such as **integrated and “whole-brain” learning**. While music has as its basis a complex body of knowledge, making it worthy to be called an academic subject, the study of music also **enhances all areas of the school curriculum**, making music central to the core of all education. Throughout history, advanced societies have included the study of music for their young people in order to prepare them for a life that is rich and varied. **Music and a quality life are for everyone.**”

--K.H. Phillips, Music Educators Journal (1998), 84(5), 10. A rationale for music education.

Goals and Objectives of Choral Participation

Goals

1. Choral participation will enrich the quality of our lives and the lives of those for whom we sing with a deeper appreciation for the world’s beauty.
2. Choral singing will lead us to make positive and meaningful contributions to our own lives and the lives of others.
3. Singing will help us to develop our voices in a healthy and confident manner.
4. A knowledge of music will help us to understand the historical and theoretical nature of music, both as an academic subject and in practical application.

5. Belonging to the choir will foster a cooperative learning environment and engender friendships based on shared musical experiences.
6. Singing great choral literature will lead us to understand that music is a powerful means of communication that often transcends the written word, exalting the spirit and celebrating the best of humankind.

Objectives

As a choir member, I pledge myself to the following objectives as part of my participation in this ensemble.

1. I will help to create a “safe environment” where each person is treated with respect and dignity, and each person’s worth is valued and honored.
2. I will participate willingly and actively in the learning process, contributing my part to the success of the whole group.
3. I will remember to bring my music and a pencil to every rehearsal as well as an open and receptive mind.
4. I will not talk disruptively during rehearsals nor make inappropriate remarks at any time.
5. I will work to improve my knowledge of music and my skills of sight-singing and vocal production.
6. I will attend all rehearsals and performances (unless excused), and understand that a portion of my grade will be based on participation.

-- K.H. Phillips Directing The Choral Music Program (2004), 70.

Performance Requirements

Concerts are MANDATORY and make-up a large portion of the overall grade as they are the culmination of our work in class and equivalent to a major exam. An unexcused performance absence will result in a zero for that performance.

It is imperative that student’s plan their year, including work schedules, appointments, transportation, etc., according to the calendar of events.

Mrs. Reimer must be given written notice of any conflict by Friday, August 30th when contracts and transportation consent forms are due. Should a conflict arise after the August 30th deadline, the student must submit a written request to Mrs. Reimer at least two weeks in advance to absence.

Examples of excused/unexcused absences include:

- **Excused Absence**-family wedding, funerals, family graduation, illness, family emergency, approved school absence (must have prior approval from Mrs. Reimer)
 - **Make-up Assignment:** Students must sing their part for the director for full credit during seminar or before/after school.
- **Unexcused Absence**-work, family vacation, non-school related activities, lack of transportation, etc.

MVHS Choir Calendar 2019-2020

September 20, 2019	Homecoming- <u>Singers Only</u>	MVHS	6:00 pm
October 7, 2019	Men's Festival- <u>All Tenors/Basses</u>	MVHS	2:55-6:30 pm
October 17, 2019	Fall Concert- <u>All Choirs</u>	MVHS Theatre	7:30 pm
November 9, 2019	KMEA East Central District & State Auditions <u>(10-12th grade only)</u>	Olathe East HS	TBA
November 9-17, 2019	Fall Musical Performances	MVHS Theatre	7:00 pm
December 7, 2019	KMEA East Central District Honor Choir- <u>(Audition based)</u>	Shawnee Mission NWHS	All Day
December 10, 2019	Winter Concert- <u>All Choirs</u>	MVHS Theatre	7:30 pm
February 27-29, 2020	State Music Convention <u>(Audition based)</u>	Wichita, KS	All Day
March 26, 2020	Spring Concert- <u>All Choirs</u>	MVHS Theatre	7:30 pm
April 4, 2020	Regional Solo & Ensemble- <u>Jag Singers & Interested Soloists</u>	Mill Valley HS	TBA
April 15, 2020	State Large Group- <u>Jag Chorale & Treble Choir</u>	TBA	TBA
April 25, 2020	State Solo & Ensemble- <u>Audition based</u>	Emporia HS	TBA
May 6, 2020	Pop Show- <u>All Choirs</u>	MVHS Gym	7:30 pm
May 11, 2020	Senior Showcase	MVHS Theatre	7:30 pm
May 16, 2020	Graduation- <u>Seniors & Jag Singers</u>	MVHS	TBA

Calendar dates/times subject to change. Advance notice will be given.

Remind101

Please sign up to receive text message updates about your student's upcoming events and reminders. Text the appropriate code to 81010.

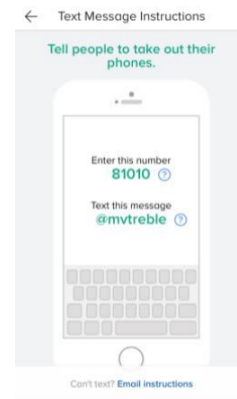
Bass Choir: @ee29kc

Treble Choir: @4kgc4a9

Grace Notes: @kkg7h2

Jag Chorale: @jagchora

Jag Singers: @jagsinge



Basic Classroom/Rehearsal Expectations

- Be Prompt
- Be Prepared
- Be Positive
- Be Productive

Students should be mature, self-disciplined, and serious about choir. Disruptive behavior takes valuable time from away from all learners and will not be tolerated.

Personal Electronic Devices/Cell Phones (per student handbook p. 15-16):

- Students may be in possession of a cell mobile phone or other personal electronic device while on school property or while attending school-sponsored activities.
- During the school day, personal electronic devices are allowed to be used during passing periods or during a student's assigned lunch period. Personal devices cannot be used during class time and must not be visible by the teacher or other students (must be in a student backpack/bag, pocket or teacher approved location). Violations of this policy will be handled by appropriate school personnel and may include losing the privilege of bringing a mobile phone or other personal electronic device to school. The school district will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen personal electronic devices.

Violation of Mobile Device Policy (per student handbook p. 16):

- First Violation – The device will be confiscated, turned in to the front office and will be returned to the student after they have served a 30-minute detention. Student's name will be recorded by an administrator.
- Second Violation – The device will be confiscated, turned in to the front office and will be returned to the student after they have served a 45-minute detention. Student's name will be recorded by an administrator.
- Additional Violations – Device will be confiscated, turned in to the front office and dealt with by administration. Student's name will be recorded by an administrator.

The use of any personal audio/video recording device will not be allowed during school hours due to the potential for invasions of privacy and instances of cheating. The use of any recording device is strictly forbidden in bathrooms and locker rooms. Violations of this policy will be addressed by the administration and, possibly, the legal system.

Concert Etiquette

Choirs at Mill Valley High School work extremely hard to make our performances as outstanding as possible. Therefore the following will be observed at EVERY performance:

- **No cell phone use**, food or drink in the theatre
- No talking, shouting or clapping at inappropriate times
- If you must leave, do so **only between** songs
- Choir students must be present for the **entire** concert

Extra Rehearsals

Additional choir rehearsals may be needed during Seminar Time throughout the year. Advance notice will be given so individuals can plan accordingly. These rehearsals will be MANDATORY, graded, and follow the same policy as performances.

Grading Procedures

Grades are based on objective assessment in four areas: Daily Contribution (including attendance), performances, knowledge, and skills. Each of these areas will be assessed during the grading period. Music is an academic subject and carries academic credit. All students are expected to study their music, practice, contribute positively to the group whole, and attend rehearsals and concerts. Choir is a TEAM effort.

- I. **Daily Contribution**: Students may earn up to ten (10) points each rehearsal in the following ways:

Daily Contribution Rubric:

Category	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point	.5 Point	0 Points
Punctuality	I was at my place with ALL of my materials when warm-ups began	I arrived after warm-ups began, but had a pass from a teacher	I was inside the classroom door when warm-ups began	I had to be asked to find my place after warm-ups began	I came in the door after warm-ups began

Music/Folder			I had my folder and all of my music before warm-ups began	I had to get my folder after warm-ups began, but I had it in class	I did not have some of my music and/or folder today
Pencil			My sharpened pencil was out and ready when we opened our music	I had to get my pencil out or sharpen it after rehearsal began	I did not have a pencil in rehearsal today
Participation/ Concentration/ Attitude	I eagerly sang and participated in rehearsal from start to finish, including the first note of every entrance	I participated well in rehearsal, but missed some entrances or I did not have my best attitude	I was uneven today, losing focus at times and missing some entrances or cue or I had a poor attitude	I was present but was unable or unwilling to participate in parts of rehearsal due to poor focus, or attitude	I was present but unable or unwilling to participate in any part of rehearsal due to poor focus, or attitude
Talking/ Off-Task Behavior		I was engaged in rehearsal from start to finish and did not talk or engage in other off-task behavior	I had a brief momentary lapse and talked or was off-task, but quickly got back on track in rehearsal	I had several instances of talking or off-task behavior, or had such behavior addressed by the teacher in class	I was constantly talking or off-task and was mentioned by the teacher more than once

**Serious disruptions will result in a minimum deduction of 5 points. This includes having to stop rehearsal to wait for students to enter or leave, having to separate students, behavior that warrants an office discipline record or similar disruptions at the discretion of Mrs. Reimer.

- II. **Performances:** Students may earn up to the points listed below.
- a. Regional/State Music Contest 300 points
 - b. Concerts 200 points
 - c. Graduation 200 points
 - d. Homecoming 100 points

Serious disruptions will result in significant point deductions.

- III. **Knowledge:** Rubrics and points possible will be given in advance.
 - a. Quizzes or Tests
 - b. Worksheets
- IV. **Skills:** Rubric and points possible will be given in advance.
 - a. Singing Evaluation
 - b. Sight-Singing Assessment

Financial Responsibilities & Fundraising

Choir students will occasionally have some financial responsibilities connected with their participation in choir (uniforms, t-shirts, field trips, audition fees, etc.). No student will EVER be denied membership in choir because of an inability to pay these fees. There will be fundraising events throughout the year. Choir students are expected to participate in the fundraiser to help the choir program with general expenses.

Concert Attire

ALL CHOIR STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE THE CHOIR UNIFORM SPECIFIC TO THEIR CHOIR.

- **All Choir Students:**
 - Mill Valley Choir-T-shirt
 - \$10 due by Friday, August 30th
 - Blue jeans
 - Closed toe shoes
 - No heels, sandals, slippers, sparkly shoes, etc.
- **Treble Choir & Bass Choir**
 - Choir Robes (provided)
 - Tenor/Bass
 - Black dress shoes
 - Long, black dress socks
 - Black dress pants
 - Soprano/Alto
 - Black closed toe shoes
 - Your skirt/dress should not show at the bottom of the robe
 - Hair must be out of your face
 - No large jewelry should be showing. Simple earrings are acceptable.
- **Grace Notes**
 - Long black dresses (provided)—must be washed at the end of the year
 - Black closed toe shoes
 - Hair must be out of your face
 - No large jewelry should be showing. Simple earrings are acceptable.

- **Jag Chorale**
 - Women
 - Long blue dresses and pearls (provided)—you are responsible for **dry cleaning** at the end of the year
 - Black closed toe shoes
 - Hair must be out of your face
 - No large jewelry should be showing. Simple earrings are acceptable.
 - Men
 - Tuxes (provided)—you are responsible for **dry cleaning** at the end of the year
 - Black dress shoes
 - Long, black dress socks
- **Jag Singers**
 - Women
 - Short black dresses (provided)
 - Black closed toe shoes
 - Hair must be out of your face
 - No large jewelry should be showing. Simple earrings are acceptable.
 - Men
 - Blue shiny shirts (provided)
 - Black dress shoes
 - Long black dress socks
 - Black dress pants

All school dress code rules apply!

2019-2020 Mill Valley Choir Contract



I have read, gone over, understand, and accept the policies of the Mill Valley Choral Program.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

****Please complete and return by Friday, August 30th****

Absence Request Form

Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Date of Missed Performance: _____

Reason for Absence: _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Approved

Denied