

Pittsburg High School

*Vocal Music
Handbook
2016-2017*

*Susan Laushman
Instructor*

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Musical Rep Theatre

Musical Rep Theatre is an exploration of musical theatre through the study and performance of the production “The Addams Family. Students will study the work of actor/singer/dancer and use their gained knowledge to develop as performers

GIRLS GLEE

Students will achieve the fundamentals of choral singing. The curriculum will include performance of choral music from all periods including both sacred and secular literature. This course will offer performance opportunities as well as competition opportunities as part of the required curriculum. Academic eligibility and exemplary behavior are expected from all personnel. Inability to maintain this may result in removal from the class.

Prerequisite: Students must audition for this group. Auditions will be held in the spring semester.

ENCORE

This course is a performance based ensemble. Students are expected to achieve and excel in the performance of choral music. Emphasis in performance along with District and State Choir auditions are part of the required curriculum. Academic eligibility and exemplary behavior is expected from all personnel. Inability to maintain this may result in removal from the class.

Prerequisite: Students must audition for this group. Auditions will be held in the spring semester.

PIANO LAB

Piano Lab is an introduction to piano playing in a lab setting. Students will be introduced to fundamental music reading and music theory. Each player will progress on an individual basis with weekly playing assessments.

Musical Rep Theatre Fall 2016

Greg Shaw, Susan Laushman; Instructors

Course Description: Musical Rep Theatre is an exploration of musical theatre through the study and performance of the production “The Addams Family”. Students will study the work of actor/singer/dancer and use their gained knowledge to develop as performers. As a collaboration of vocal and theatre programs, there will be a heavy emphasis on vocal technique and character development. In addition to the preparation and performances of “Addams Family”, students will develop an “Audition Notebook” as soloists in preparation for audition and scholarship opportunities. Selected presentations may be presented throughout the school year. Class roster is determined the spring of the previous school year. Auditions and casting information will be announced by Mr. Shaw and Mrs. Laushman the first week of school.

Objectives:

- To assess strengths and weaknesses during performance and propose solutions for improvement.
- To enlarge performer’s knowledge of musical repertoire
- To strengthen vocal ability and music reading skills
- To provide a foundation for further study and development
- To improve the student’s confidence in live performance
- To develop the ability to objectively critique one’s own work and classmate’s work

Expectations:

- **Notebook:** Students are to provide a large, 3-ring binder by 8/18.
- **Attendance:** We will follow guidelines of the PHS handbook.

- **Additional Rehearsals:** Students must become available for additional rehearsals as scheduled by the Director. Conflicts may result in ensemble casting only.
- **Memorization:** Deadlines will be established throughout the semester. Failure to meet deadlines will result in grade deductions.
- **Collaboration:** It has been said that theatre is the most collaborative of art forms. In order to understand this concept, this class is dependent on the participation and enthusiasm of each member for the success of the whole. Failure to contribute will affect student grade.

Grading Scale:

- Daily points are earned for class participation
- Points will be assigned for production of projects

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= Below 60%

PITTSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
Girls Glee Grading Policy
2016-2017
Mrs. Susan Laushman, Director

Course Description: Girls Glee is an advancing vocal music class. This course is designed to achieve the fundamentals of proper choral singing in performance. Singers will be introduced to all types of choral music, including popular music, religious music, music of other cultures and classical music. This course will offer performance opportunities as well as competition opportunities as part of the required curriculum. Academic eligibility and exemplary behavior is expected from all personnel. Inability to maintain this may result in removal from the class.

First Semester

Daily Points	10 points
October 27	7:30pm – Multigenerational Concert/Memorial Aud/ 200 points
December 8	7:00pm – Stilwell Christmas Lighting program 200 points
December 14, 15	6:30 pre-show caroling - HOLIDAY VESPERS 100points

Second Semester

Daily Points	10
April 13	CONTEST 200 points
May 3	Feast and Follies 200 points-TBD
May 10	Spring Choir Concert, PSU 7:30pm 200 points

Daily Points: Each day you are in class, you may earn up to 10 points.

Attendance is the biggest contributor toward a good grade. If you are absent, you will not earn points for that day. If you are absent due to a school activity, you will be exempt from the daily points when you are absent.

Concerts: Concerts are required and worth 100 or 200 points. These are scheduled in accordance with our high school calendar and are part of the required curriculum for this class. It is your responsibility as a student to be available on these dates in order to earn performance points.

Concert Attire: Concert black dress. May be full length, or knee length, non-revealing bust, and black shoes. *You must have natural colored hair for all performances.*

Missed Concerts: If you miss a concert due to a serious illness or family emergency, a note from a parent explaining the absence is expected at the first class after you return to school. At that time, you will be given half-credit for the performance, and make-up

work will be available for the remainder of the points. Scheduling conflicts due to school-related activities will be handled individually between the student and instructor.

Disciplinary Procedures: I will enforce discipline as outlined in the PHS handbook.

PITTSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
ENCORE Grading Policy 2016-2017
Mrs. Susan Laushman, Director

Course Description: Encore is a performance-based ensemble. Students are expected to achieve and excel in the performance of choral music. Emphasis is in performance, including auditions for District/State Choir as part of the required curriculum. Academic eligibility and exemplary behavior are expected from all personnel. Inability to maintain this may result in removal from the class.

First Semester

Daily Points: 10 points possible

- October 1: Freshmen only, State Audition MP3 recording Due (see attached)
- October 27 Multigenerational Chorus Concert/7:30pm/Memorial Aud/200 points
- November 5 District/State Auditions – 100 points (Parsons, all day)
- December 3 District choir (Pittsburg Hosts/Bicknell & Memorial Aud all day)
- Dec 16 & 17 PHS HOLIDAY VESPERS, 7:00pm, PHS Aud– 200 points per night

Second Semester

Daily Points: 10 points possible

- April 8: Regional Solo/Sm ensemble festival (Don't schedule ACT)
- April 13 : CONTEST (PSU) 200 points
- April 29: State Solo/Sm Ensemble festival
- May 3: Feast and Follies/200 points
- May 10: Spring Choir concert (PSU/ 7:30pm) 200 points
- May 20: Graduation 200 points

Daily Points: Each day you are in class, you may earn up to 10 points.

Attendance is the biggest contributor toward a good grade. If you are absent, you will not earn any points for that day. If you are absent due to a school activity, you will be exempt from daily points when you are absent. Make up work is available.

Concerts: Concerts are required and worth 200 points. These are scheduled in accordance with our high school calendar and are part of the required curriculum for this class. It is your responsibility as a student to be available on these dates in order to earn performance points. *You must have natural colored hair for all performances.*

Encore T-shirt: Encore shirts are for pep assemblies, and other casual events. **\$12**
Concert Attire: Concert dress is all black. Girls: Black dress, full length or knee length, non-revealing bust, black shoes. Guys: Black suit, white shirt, black tie, black shoes.
Disciplinary Procedures: I will enforce discipline as outlined in the PHS handbook.

PITTSBURG HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC

Susan Laushman, Director

MAKE-UP WORK

Excused absence from Choir Rehearsal/Class

****Assignments are due within one week of absence****

Submit a handwritten essay, one page for each class missed. Essay must be selected from one of the following topics; or write on a composer or selection currently being sung in choir.

COMPOSERS/CONDUCTORS

Folk Song, Folk Music
Barbershop Quartet
Sweet Adelines
African American Music
Gospel Music
Vocal Jazz
Madrigal
Carol (Christmas)
Hanukkah
Motet
Oratorio

Johann Sebastian Bach
Ludwig van Beethoven
Johannes Brahms
George F. Handel
Franz Joseph Haydn
Johann Michael Haydn
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Franz Schubert
Robert Schumann
Richard Rodgers
Stephen Sondheim

Musical Theater
Operetta
Canon (musical term)
Fugue (musical term)
Pianoforte
Acoustics

Arthur Sullivan
Leonard Bernstein
Aaron Copland
Igor Stravinsky
Robert Shaw
Giocomo Puccini

PITTSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Susan Laushman, Director

LETTERING IN VOCAL MUSIC
2016-2017

500 points = Letter
Every Subsequent Year = Bar

Girls Glee = 200

Encore = 200

Musical = 150

District Honor Choir = 100

All State Choir = 200

District Solo I rating = 100

District Solo II rating = 75

District Ensemble I rating = 100

District Ensemble II rating = 75

State Solo I rating = 150

State Solo II rating = 100

State Ensemble I rating = 150

State Ensemble II rating = 100

HANDY HOUSEHOLD HINTS FOR APPROPRIATE VOICE
USE AND VOICE HYGIENE FOR THE VOCAL ATHLETE
IN TRAINING

Vocal Hygiene Practices

- Try your best to maintain good general health.
- Exercise regularly. Using your major muscle groups as in jogging or calisthenics is an excellent way to diminish stress.
- Eat a balanced diet including vegetables, fruits, and whole grain foods. Avoid large amounts of salt and refined sugar.
- Maintain body hydration. Drink 7-9 glasses of water per day. Avoid dietary diuretics. Moisture lubricates the vocal folds. When one's body is dehydrated, laryngeal lubrication diminishes and vocal ability is reduced.
- Avoid dry, artificial interior climates. Much body moisture can be lost when breathing in air with low humidity levels such as heated rooms or air-conditioned rooms, cars, etc.
- Avoid smoking cigarettes or other irritant inhalant substances.
- Tobacco is a terrible irritant to the vocal tract.
- Avoid breathing smoggy, polluted air.
- Never use "over-the-counter" spray anesthetics.

GENERAL DO'S AND DON'T'S FOR GOOD VOCAL HEALTH

DO

Practice everyday-stop when the voice feels good.

Learn to use your voice with as little effort and tension as is necessary.
Avoid singing in a range which

Do exercises that begin with general muscle stretching and vocal exercises should proceed from less strenuous to more strenuous

Reduce general voice before a performance. Think conversation

Get plenty of rest

Stay well hydrated-drink water at room temperature.

Use a humidifier and steamer

Neck and shoulder massage

Use more citrus
Fresh lemon wedges/chew on wedge

Use "sorbee", a sugarless lozenge
Increases moisture

DON'T

Avoid singing or speaking for excessive amounts of time.

is continually near extremes of your vocal range.

Avoid shouting, screaming, loud laughter, and heavy throat clearing.

Avoid making strange vocal noises.

Avoid caffeine
Avoid antihistamines
Don't smoke or use drugs

Avoid alcohol

Avoid extended use of nasal sprays

Learn to speak OFF of your throat

If it doesn't feel good to the
voice, DON'T DO IT!

District/State Honor Choir Information

All Encore members are expected to audition for Honor Choir as part of their required curriculum. KSHSAA rules vary with regards to 9th grade singers. Students must be academically eligible at all times, and be in good standing at Pittsburg High School. More information on Kansas Music Educator's website: ksmea.org

All Encore members will use the following schedule:

November 5 District/State auditions, Parsons HS (all day)

December 3 District Honor Choir, Bicknell, Pittsburg
(Students who have been selected)
All day rehearsal, public concert 4:30pm
Tickets available at the door

Feb 23-25 KSMEA State Choir, Wichita Century II
(Students Grades 10-12 who have been selected)
Public concert, Saturday 1:00pm
Tickets available through Wichitatix.com

- Audition fees, participation fees and music purchase will be provided through the vocal music budget
- Students will be transported to events with Mrs. Laushman by USD250 transportation. Parents may make arrangements to pick up their child at the conclusion of an event through Mr. Kidd, PHS Activity Director.
- Students are responsible for all black "concert attire" for the performances. Girls: black dress, full length or knee length,

non-revealing bust and black shoes. Guys: Black suit, white shirt, black tie, black shoes.

ENCORE FRESHMEN

Encore freshmen will follow the District Honor Choir schedule as printed. However, KSHSAA does not allow 9th grade singers to participate in the High School State Choir.

This is an additional opportunity to freshman singers in Encore. It is not required, but offered to the excelling, ambitious freshman singer.

KSMEA State Mid-Level Choir is comprised of the top 7th, 8th and 9th grade singers in Kansas. Here are the requirements:

- Sept 10 Parent form signed, \$5 audition fee due to me
- Oct 1 Recorded audition submitted (Dona Nobis)
(This will be done at school during September)
- Feb 24 KSMEA Mid-Level Choir, Wichita, Century II
All day rehearsal, 5:00pm Concert
This event runs concurrent with HS Choir rehearsals

- Student is responsible for audition fee
- Participation fee and music purchase is provided by vocal music budget
- Participation fee includes concert t-shirt and lunch
- Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from Wichita on February 24th
- Concert attire is black slacks, and provided t-shirt

Pittsburg High School Vocal Music Program
Mrs. Susan Laushman, Director

PERMISSION TO AUDITION FORM

I give _____ permission to audition for the KSMEA State Mid-Level Choir. I have read and understand the requirements for my child to participate in this opportunity.

Included is the \$5 audition fee.

Parent Signature

Date

Please return to Mrs. Laushman by September 10, 2016.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Susan Laushman
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