Dougherty Valley High School Choir

2025-2026

Class: Chamber Singers
Instructor: Diana Walker
Email: dwalker1@srvusd.net

SYLLABUS: OBJECTIVES, EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

I. VISION STATEMENT

To create great musical moments with technical excellence and heart, forming a deeper sense of human connection.

Members of this community are committed to the development of musical excellence in every form with passion, integrity, and leadership. This is a **performance-based class**. The material covered and the literature studied are directly related to this end and **attendance at all performances is mandatory for course credit and is of the highest importance**.

II. CLASS DESCRIPTION

This ensemble is audition-only and prior musical experience is required. Students in this ensemble are those who are curious about choral music and committed to improving their vocal skill for themselves and the betterment of the entire choral program. It is a **co-curricular class,** meaning that instruction occurs during the school day as well as on occasional nights and weekends.

III. EXPECTATIONS

- Punctual attendance to all rehearsals
    - Tardies are disruptive and interrupt the progress of your learning and that of other students. Be sure to come to class on time, ready to learn. Tardiness will be addressed in accordance with school policy as specified in the DVHS Student Handbook.
- Students will learn how to and improve on their sight singing skills using a variety of in person and online resources.
- Assessments will take place during formal and informal performances. Assessments will also include group projects, individual recordings, and quizzes.
- Students will actively participate in direct instruction and sectional rehearsals to improve their own musicianship.
- **No food, drinks or candy/gum allowed during rehearsal with the exception of water**.
- **NO CELL PHONES DURING REHEARSAL UNLESS GIVEN INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION FOR AN ASSIGNMENT OR ACTIVITY.**
- All students will be prepared with their music in a folder (provided) and their own pencil.

IV. STUDENT BEHAVIORS WHICH AFFECT EARNED GRADE

A. **Concert Attendance** - A missed live performance cannot be made up.
Every student is expected to participate and perform in every concert. Performances are the culmination of many hours of practice and classroom rehearsal. They are like summative assessments (finals) for the individual, but performances also represent a team effort. Any exception must be worked out, **IN WRITING** through a hand-written note, signed by a parent (and/or coach) with the director **AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR** to the event. Only severe illness and school or religious conflicts will be considered for an excused absence from a required or scheduled event with adequate communication with the director. Concerts include performances, festivals, and competitions. Students who miss a concert or required event for an excused reason will receive a make-up assignment when the director receives the written notice. Unexcused absences or No Shows will result in a gradebook zero.

B. Participation
Students are expected to actively participate in all rehearsals, utilize sectional time and class time wisely, and complete assignments with academic integrity by the indicated due date. Should a student be unable to do any of the above for any reason, the student needs to clearly communicate their situation with the teacher in a timely fashion.

Gum Chewing/Eating
Gum and eating are not allowed during any rehearsal. It interferes with good vocal technique and is a choking hazard. First offense will result in a warning and all subsequent occurrences will result in a reduction in participation points.

C. Performance Uniforms
Returning choir members will be wearing uniforms coordinated and organized by the music director and the DVHS music boosters. It is the student's responsibility to wear the appropriate concert attire for their performing group during performances. Concert attire specifications will be outlined at the New Family Night as well as Back to School Night for students new to the choir program. It is the responsibility of each student to properly maintain their uniform including cleaning, pressing and mending. Students are also expected to be neatly groomed for performances. Make-up should be used tastefully. Small post style earrings are accepted. Students will receive assigned points for their uniform and grooming at all concerts and may not be allowed to perform if they do not meet the stated standards of the ensemble uniform.

Schoolwide Learning Outcomes
At Dougherty Valley High School, students will:
- Communicate effectively.
- Become critical thinkers and problem solvers who support ideas with reliable evidence.
- Practice integrity, honesty, and ethical behavior as a global citizen.
- Be a responsible partner in the learning process.
- Take ownership of individual growth.

V. OVERVIEW OF GRADING

30 % **Concert Responsibilities**
Includes promptness and preparedness at concert events as well as other responsibilities (set up, take down, tech rehearsal, etc.).

30 % **Participation and Attitude**
Determined by the student's rehearsal preparation and actions while in rehearsals, performances, field trips, sectionals and while working with other students.

15 % **Class Work/Assignments/Special Projects**
Includes musicianship lessons or other assignments such as costume preparation, uniform checks, permission slips, etc.

10 % **Gigs & Pod Projects**
This includes all off campus performances such as community concerts and special community performances. Recorded performances utilizing current audio and visual technology in assigned small groups will be required in the spring semester.

15% **Part Check Quizzes**
These singing samples will be given at least once each quarter either recorded or live. Graded areas include note accuracy, tone quality, diction, memorization, etc.

Academic Ethics
Cheating/Plagiarism/Violation of test procedures will not be tolerated. Violations of academic ethics will be addressed according to the DVHS Student Handbook.

Homework Policy/Make up work Policy:
Dougherty Valley High School will be following the District Homework Policy (AR 6154 and BP 6154), please see the Homework Policy on the District or DVHS website.

Grading Scale
All report card grades will be given according to this scale:

93-100% = A	73-76% = C
90-92% = A-	70-72% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
83-86% = B	63-66% = D
80-82% = B-	60-62% = D-
77-79% = C+	Below 60% = F

Extra Credit: Please note that Dougherty Valley High School has a school-wide policy of not offering extra credit.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENTS

- **Behavioral Expectations**

  All students are expected to be respectful to the other students and teachers while in this class. There will be zero tolerance for students disrespecting each other or teachers. All students are expected to be honest at all times. Students will be expected to work together in cooperative groups. Each student should participate in group discussions, as well as actively listen while the teacher is giving a lesson or instructions. Every student should come to class on time and be ready to learn for the full class period!

- **Google Classroom & Infinite Campus**

  All students are expected to use Google Classroom and Infinite Campus to access information about upcoming events and assignments, class materials, view scores, and check current grades. If you are having trouble signing in, please let me know as soon as possible.

- **Responsible Use Agreements**

  Students are responsible for their own ethical and educational use of the SRVUSD technology resources.

  Please see the SRVUSD Responsible Use Agreements webpage for more information.

- **Guiding Principles for AI Use**

  Students are responsible for their own ethical and educational use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Please see the

  SRVUSD Guiding Principles for AI Use for more information.

- **Student Support**

  All students are expected to sign up for both Student Support sessions during Homeroom each week and attend them regularly. While a teacher may assign you to a specific session for a particular purpose, you may also have some flexibility in choosing where to go. You are encouraged to select the session that will best support your academic success. If you do not sign up for a session, one will be assigned to you. Attendance at Student Support is mandatory, just like any other class on your schedule. Failure to attend will result in a "CUT" and may also result in disciplinary consequences.

- **Cell Phone Policy**

  Per SRVUSD Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5151.8, all DVHS classrooms will enforce the following expectations:

  - Students will store their cell phones and other mobile communication devices in caddies during all class periods and in Student Support.
  - Cell phones and other mobile communication devices will stay in the caddies at all times during the class period, including restroom and other breaks.
  - Cell phones and other mobile communication devices that are out and being used without explicit teacher permission may be collected and sent to the office for the remainder of the school day.

VI. SUPPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHOIR FAMILIES

- Please consider supporting our non-profit booster organization if you have not already done so. Donations can be made in the Dougherty Valley Music Booster Webstore and help us afford our music supplies, online subscriptions for sight reading, sheet music, and more!
- In addition to monetary donations, please consider donating time by volunteering for one or two events during the year - see acknowledgement form for more information.
- Please encourage your student to stay current with their schedule and performance dates as this skill prepares them for life beyond DVHS. Additionally, encourage your student to actively engage with their choir community - This is a vibrant place of belonging and all students have a place here!

STUDENTS

- Please review this syllabus together with your adult.
- Once you have checked all performance dates, discussed them with your family, and added them to your calendars, you can sign the online acknowledgement form **HERE**.
  Please complete by MONDAY, 8/25/2025.

Due Dates & Performances [MANDATORY]

Saturday, September 6 - Pancake Breakfast Performance (call time 8:00am) **[ALL]**
Saturday, September 6 - Choir Camp (after performance) **[*Concert Choir & Chamber Singers only*]**
Wednesday, October 8 - Fall Concerts (call time 5:30pm) **[ALL]**
Wednesday, October 29 - CSUEB Tenor-Bass Festival **[*Tenor-Bass only*]**
Thursday, December 11 - Winter Concerts (call time 5:30pm) **[ALL]**
Friday, December 12?? - Music Picture Day (in class)
Semester 1 Finals Day - Pod Projects due (in class)
Saturday, January 24 - Blue Pearl Dance (evening social event)
February 12-16 - Concert Choir & Chamber Singer Tour
Thursday, February 20?? - CSUEB Chamber Festival **[*Chamber Singers only*]**
Friday, March 20 - Chabot Choir Festival **[*Treble Clef only*]**
Wednesday, March 25 - Valley Voices Festival **[*Concert Choir only*]**
Tuesday, March 31 - Area Choir Festival (call time TBD) **[ALL]**
Monday, April 27 - Pops Dress Rehearsal (on campus field trip) **[ALL]**
Friday, May 1 & 2 - Pops Concerts (call time 5:00pm) **[ALL]**
Tuesday, May 19 - Choir Banquet (5pm-7pm)
Semester 2 Final Day - Pod Projects due (in class) DV Choir House Cup Winners announced

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. Thank you for pursuing musical excellence together this season, and I look forward to a great and growing year for the DVHS choir!
Sincerely,

Mrs. Diana Walker

DVHS teachers reserve the right to change the information in the syllabus and these changes will be communicated in written form to students and parents.