



## York Institute Vocal Music Department

P.O. Box 70

Jamestown, TN, 38556

Dear Advanced Choir Member,

You are a special person, selected for a very special group, and you will get to have some special experiences because of it. This class is built around the concept of giving and sharing as we give and share our talents with each other and our listeners. Through this giving and sharing, we receive many rewards of self-satisfaction and praise for accomplished excellence.

It is my desire to maintain and improve upon the high standards of excellence that the York Institute Vocal Music Department represents. To this end, I request that you subscribe to the training rules and rules for maintaining membership listed below.

### Training Rules:

1. **Good mental health:** Maintain a positive attitude about the group, about school, and about life. Be a happy person. If you want to get something out of this class be willing to give cheerfully.
2. **Good physical health:** Eat right. Get enough rest to remain alert and at your best. Drinking caffeinated beverages during rehearsal or a performance tends to dehydrate the vocal chords. Tobacco is very hard on the throat and lungs; for your good health, I am asking you not to smoke. The use of drugs, including alcohol, does not add to the pride we have in our group.
3. **Impeccable school manners:** Observe and maintain proper school behavior.

For example:

- a. Be in class, seated and prepared to work when the late bell rings to avoid “tardy” charges. (3 tardies=1 day absent) Please notify me if you are quickly running to the bathroom before the bell. Come with a note if another teacher has detained you. Come EVERYDAY with your music folder, pencil, and music. You may also bring bottled water ONLY. Yeti/other drinking mugs need to be put with backpacks and are not permissible for the classroom. It needs to be a clear bottle with a lid on it.
- b. Follow the YAI Code of Conduct at all times.
- c. Strive to properly care for all Music Dept. equipment and room—please ask for permission to use any equipment (i.e., instruments, all electronic sound system equipment, computers, uniforms, music props, telephone, etc.) Leave your personal

bags, etc., stored behind the risers only. Please do not put your bags on the risers. It tends to make things more crowded.

- d. Please keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself and remember when I am talking, you are not!
- e. Should a guest/visitor enter the classroom, students will exhibit commendable behavior.
- f. Cell phones are not allowed in this classroom. If they are seen, they will be taken to Coach Wright upon first offense.
- g. Discard gum in the proper receptacles before singing.
- h. No food/snacks are permissible during class time or during Bell Ringer work.

### **Rules for Maintaining Membership:**

To be eligible for continued membership in this group I am asking you to:

1. Maintain a good academic and attendance record in all of your classes. You must be passing in all your classes to maintain your opportunity to be a performing member of this class as well as travel on any field trips.
2. Attend ALL of the extra-curricular rehearsals prior to a performance. NEVER MISS A PERFORMANCE. Keep in mind, I realize extenuating circumstances arise. Be very responsible to contact me if any emergencies arise that would keep you from being present. Your attendance will affect your performance possibilities and grade. Reasons for absence must be given to me as soon as dates are scheduled or no later than the next day. We strive to adhere to the policy of whatever makes it your calendar first gets top priority. Do not be late to rehearsals or performances—remember this may affect your grade.
3. Constantly work for the good of the group—giving no less than your excellence at all times. Remember that excellence is always inconvenient but never an accident!! That's how champions are made!!

I have ideas and suggestions to share with you to make this group succeed. I KNOW you have excellent ideas and suggestions as well. Please always feel free to communicate your creative self! No idea is “un-worthy”! YOUR input into our activities will be a wonderful and very necessary concept we need to explore!

Please share this letter and the information in this handbook with your parents/guardians. Please also note that no permission slips will be sent home for trips. I do keep the blanket Power of Attorney form on file as a permission slip to travel. After reading these policies, please sign and return the Power of Attorney form by: Monday, August 10, 2018 for a participation grade.

Musically yours,

Josh Allen

Choir Director

## **Alvin C. York Institute Syllabus**

**Course Title:** Advanced Choir

**School Motto-** “To Prepare and Excel”

**Teacher Name:** Mr. Josh Allen

**Contact Information:** Email: [jallen2@yaidragons.com](mailto:jallen2@yaidragons.com) Music Office Phone Number: 879-2122

**Prerequisite:** Chorus 1 OR Piano OR private lessons/band from previous years

**Textbook Equivalency:**

**Materials:**

You will need a 1” black binder for music and notes.

Hal Leonard/McGraw Hill Publishing: “Voices In Concert”

Glencoe Publishing: “Something New To Sing About” Text

Neil A. Kjos Music Company: “One Minute Theory” Text

Various pieces of sheet music determined as class progresses

Weekly assigned articles on the subject of music

**Course Description:**

This class is the performing group for school, community, and state performances and competitions. Students participate in several performances incorporating concert and show choir arrangements as well as participate in collegiate vocal clinics and master classes as they are made available. Students are encouraged to register for this class both semesters in order to fully benefit from the extracurricular opportunities. In addition, students continue to build music theory reading skills and better vocal control.

**Course Content and Objectives:**

The student will learn and discover information concerning the following::

- A. SINGING: review of fundamentals of vocal production, appropriate diction, four part harmony in variety of ensembles, Note Worthy auditions (fall semester only)
- B. ORGANIZATION: officers/leaders, rules/goals for year and semester
- C. PLAYING INSTRUMENTS: apply knowledge of instruments to play simple melodic phrase and rhythmic patterns
- D. COMPOSING: develop vocal warm up
- E. SINGING: planning performance for Patriots Day, Fall Program or Veteran’s Day, Open House, Eighth Grade Day, Christmas/Spring programs and various community activities incorporating expressive style, technical accuracy, proper diction and four part harmony appropriate to various styles

- F. READING AND NOTATING: sight reading, solfege in all key signatures, notation of standards symbols and signs
- G. LISTENING/ANALYZING: musical elements in recorded work
- H. INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS: relationships of principles and subject matter outside of arts

\*\*Note the standards above have been blended into the new Fine Arts Vocal Music Standards. These standards fall under four domains: Perform, Create, Respond, and Connect. For more information about the new music standards, please visit the following link:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles/3/7-22-16\\_II\\_E\\_Fine\\_Arts\\_Standards\\_Attachment.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/massivemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles/3/7-22-16_II_E_Fine_Arts_Standards_Attachment.pdf)

### Course Calendar/Schedule:

**Unit One:** Organization (develop goals, elect leaders, audition Note Worthy (if deemed necessary))

Review of fundamentals of reading, exploring voice skills

**Unit Two:** Develop performance ideas for fall/patriotic celebrations, Open House (fall)/ Eighth Grade Day (spring) and main semester performance

Begin learning new music for these performances

**Unit Three:** Perform mid-semester programs

Create vocal warm up

In-depth and ongoing instruction using interval studies and solfege

### MID TERM REVIEW

**Unit Four:** Implement all skills in rehearsing semester program

Create and revise as needed to fine tune performance

**Unit Five:** Perform semester program

Student evaluation of all performances

### Instructional Philosophy:

Class and individual participation, group and individual presentations, reading aloud, paper/pencil activities, note taking, being responsible by keeping up with your binder (will not be storing in the classroom this year) listening skills, movement/interpretive dance opportunities to enjoy hands on activities! Most of all, as a teacher, besides the curriculum that is being taught, I encourage life skills that will help them in the world beyond high school, whether it's post-secondary career oriented, or as a citizen. I understand we are all human!

<b>Grading Policy:</b>	Daily Participation & Final Test	40%
	Folder/Concert Critique	15%
	Quiz/Rehearsals	15%
	Test/Vocal Test//Performance	30 %

Please be advised:

1. After school rehearsals will be graded as participation. Should an emergency arrive, the teacher and student will decide together how to make up the rehearsal.
2. Failure to attend these rehearsals will affect student's attendance for class regarding taking final test at the end of the term and student's participation in performances.
3. Daily participation reflects having all materials in class everyday and participating in class in full length. If these actions are not present in class, points will deducted and will reflect the Daily Participation category (which is 40%).
4. Concert Critique will be required at the second half of the semester. This can be any concert that the student has attended in the semester. There will be a paper written about the critique. Details to come later as the semester progresses.

**Accommodation Options-** All IEP's, 504's, ILP's will be followed per state guidelines. Students with issues that are not easily apparent should meet with the teacher at first available opportunity to determine options.

**Classroom Policies:** Please see attached information in choir handbook

## **Music Department Rules/ Consequences**

**Josh Allen, Instructor**

### **RULES**

1. The students will be in class, seated and prepared to work when the late bell rings. (3 tardies = 1 day absent)  
\*Come with a note if another teacher has detained you.  
\*Come EVERY DAY with your music folder, pencil, and music. YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO BRING YOUR BINDER WITH REHEARSAL MUSIC TO CLASS EVERYDAY. THIS WILL REFLECT YOUR PARTICIPATION GRADE.
2. The students will follow the Y.A.I. Code of Conduct at all times.
3. The students will strive to properly care for all Music Department equipment and room and may only use equipment upon receiving permission from the instructor (for example, instruments, all electronic sound system equipment, computers, uniforms, music props, telephone, etc.) Note: if music or music equipment is missing by the end of the semester and the student does not return all music, there will be a hold on your grade cards and diplomas until the matter is resolved. If the music cannot be claimed, replacement costs will apply to cover the absence of the music or music equipment.
4. The students will keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.
5. The students will not talk while the instructor is talking. Group-work noise level should be kept at low volume.  
\*Should a guest/visitor enter the classroom, students will exhibit commendable behavior.
6. The students will follow directions FIRST time given.
7. NO CELL PHONES in class. Once you enter in the classroom, your phone need to be put away until after the bell has rang.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

1. Verbal warning.
2. Name recording in behavior journal—lose 10 minutes of activity period.
3. Name recorded in behavior journal—lose all activity period.
4. Written notice/phone call to parents.
5. (Severe Clause) Send to D.O.S. for:
  1. In-school suspension
  2. Alternative School assignment OR
  3. Paddling

\*Syllabus is subject to change without notice.

## **ADVANCED CHOIR OFFICERS**

### **Description of Duties**

All officers must:

1. Be willing to follow the description of duties.
2. Be able to take choir **both** semesters.
3. Meet with Mr. Allen with meetings that are agreed as a group.

#### **Manager:**

1. First to arrive and last to leave at all choir functions
2. Maintains order within the choir while respecting the rights of others
3. Delegates orders to other choir members in a tactful, businesslike manner
4. Helps make decisions involving the choir.
5. Will maintain a log sheet that will check off students having materials with them everyday
6. Presides over all choir meetings
7. Reminds others of their clean-up duties after class, rehearsals, and all performances, helps plan social gatherings.
8. Makes suggestions to the Choir Director concerning any and all extra-curricular activities involving the choir
9. Oversees equipment setup
10. Responsible for details with programs.
11. Creates a daily list of warm ups for the class

#### **Assistant Manager:**

1. Answers the office phone during class and rehearsals
2. Keeps up with the minutes of choir meetings
3. Is responsible for organizing and filing music
4. Dispersing the assigned music, giving students numbers that match the music
5. Creates choir programs
6. Does any and all office duties as needed by choir director
7. Composes press releases to be published in the local newspaper, local radio stations, or local cable station. Makes flyers, posters, homecoming parade set up and door distributing choir programs as well as updating the calendar and news on our bulletin boards.
8. Takes pictures at all choir events/activities.
9. Must have good writing/typing skills, excellent command of english usage, and excellent spelling and dictionary usage skills.

Students must be an upperclassman to apply for this position. There will be a quick interview process that the applicants must go through before a decision is made. If you are interested, please see Mr. Allen.



PO Box 70  
Jamestown, TN 38556  
(931) 879-8101

**Alvin C. York Institute Music Department**

Fax (931) 879-2147

**Limited Power of Attorney**

As parent(s) or guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_,  
we/I authorize Josh Allen as Choir Director of York Institute in Jamestown, Tennessee, to transport  
our/my child(ren) to and from activities involving the choir/Note Worthy.

If our/my child(ren) will be transported to and from choir activities in a manner other than that selected by  
Josh Allen, we/I will notify him in writing prior to that event.

We/I further authorize Josh Allen as Choir Director to transport, to treat, or admit for treatment our/my  
child(ren) to a medical doctor or medical facility should it be necessary. We/I understand that we/I as  
parent(s) or guardian(s) are responsible for the payment of any bills by a medical doctor or at a hospital.

This agreement shall be for the 2018-2019 school year, and is signed for the effective

day and date of \_\_\_\_\_.

I have read and understand the policies for rules, attendance, rehearsals, performances, consequences, and  
grading. I agree to abide by these policies and the Limited Power of Attorney.

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Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

