

YPAS

Choirs and Voice Handbook

2022-2023



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Mission Statement:

To enhance the whole person; mind, body and spirit through learning and creating music in a supportive environment that welcomes all students dedicated to the discipline of music.

Introduction:

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year in the Youth Performing Arts School Choirs and Voice program. Our program is a diverse program that brings together students from all over Louisville who came to YPAS to study Voice, Musical Theatre, Theatre and all academic disciplines from the duPont Manual magnets of HSU, MST, J&C, and VA. We all come into this program with different backgrounds and differing ability levels. YPAS majors attend YPAS because of the performance based curriculum offered. Others join choirs because they want to participate in music at a high level. No matter one's background or personal reasons for joining our choirs, we are all here for a common purpose. That common purpose is expressed through our mission statement to enhance the whole person through music.

Learning and creating music is something that we seek to do on a daily basis, and through that learning process, we grow in many areas of life. We become better at many things. We become better at dealing with adversity, better at overcoming difficult challenges, and better at struggling through difficult subject matter. We become better at understanding one another, better at respecting the differences of each other, and we become better in our community. We become better at performance practice, better at developing disciplined habits, and better creative artistry. Learning and creating music in the classroom and on stage allows us to transcend our normal and unlock higher potential. I hope that through this work you continually reflect and ask yourself what you did in any given rehearsal to grow as a musician and person. Did you learn today? Did you create something special today?

The YPAS Choirs and Voice program (and YPAS in general) have a strong tradition of excellence and have had many amazing accomplishments. We have performed in a lot of amazing venues and important concerts, but... none of that really matters this year. The past doesn't provide the promise that we will always continue in any certain way. Especially this year, we have the opportunity to write a new future and set our school and program on a new (and maybe better!) path. That will be down to you as students and down to me as teacher. Will we work together to the highest level? Will we leave each rehearsal satisfied that we did everything possible to make it great? These are daily choices that we will make this year, and it won't be easy. I know that if there are 60 people in a room, there are 60 different feelings, viewpoints, histories, etc. It will be our job to work together, accepting each other, and doing our best work daily. I look forward to working with you all this year!

“When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too.”

-Paulo Coehelo, *The Alchemist*

Learning Objectives:

- ★ Develop proper, efficient vocal technique
- ★ Learn and perform a variety of solo and choral repertoire
- ★ Achieve a higher level of proficiency in sight-singing (music literacy)
- ★ Understand musical terminology
- ★ Enhance understanding of music theory
- ★ Demonstrate expressive singing through understanding the expressive qualities of music
- ★ Demonstrate dramatic expression (acting) in solo performance
- ★ Develop a sense of confidence in performance
- ★ Develop rehearsal skills and techniques that contribute to the ensemble's quality
- ★ Develop professionalism and discipline
- ★ Develop leadership skills
- ★ Achieve a level of musical, dramatic, and personal skill to be a lifelong participant in music

Rehearsal Expectations:

- ★ Be on time for class. You should be ready to start rehearsal when the bell rings.
- ★ Refrain from talking during rehearsal (direct instruction) unless instructed otherwise
- ★ No phones. Phones will be placed in hanging storage during class time. We need to be fully focused and present for achieving the best outcomes. This might be hard at first, but it will benefit you and the ensemble. You may come to appreciate disconnecting and engaging with music.
- ★ If your section is not singing, stay engaged. You will learn more about the music if you pay attention to the other parts.
- ★ Good singing posture is an essential part of good technique and it is expected at all times. There will be regular technique assessments (graded) for posture.
- ★ No food or drinks other than water are allowed in the rehearsal or performance spaces at YPAS. This applies at all times. If you bring food into the classroom, you will receive a referral.
- ★ Show respect for yourself by doing your best work.
- ★ Show respect for others by allowing them to do their best work.
- ★ Show respect for the learning environment by meeting expectations and caring for our spaces.
- ★ Be present mentally and physically even when it is hard. I know you aren't going to feel your best every day, but even if we don't feel our best, we should do our best.
- ★ Your questions, concerns, and comments matter. However, during rehearsal might not always be the most appropriate time to express them. Please feel free to speak with me after class or at other appropriate times to discuss any need you may have.

YPAS Voice Major Requirements:

- ★ Enroll in a minimum of two vocal department classes per year
- ★ Sing a solo jury both semesters. Students will sing 2-3 songs from memory each semester.
 - 9th-10th: two NEW songs per semester (one song per year should be Italian)
 - 11th-12th: three NEW songs per semester (Italian and English required each year)
- ★ Perform solo repertoire in class during the semester prior to juries (performance days)
- ★ Perform in a fall semester solo recital
- ★ Participate in KMEA Solo and Ensemble in April (included in class fees)
- ★ Honor choir participation is encouraged (JCPS All-County, KMEA All-State, ACDA, etc)
- ★ Ongoing private voice lessons (outside of YPAS, a list of possible teachers is in the handbook)
- ★ Attendance and performance in all YPAS Choirs' concerts, rehearsals, and other invited events
- ★ Participation in College and Career Day masterclasses, seniors sing the auditions
- ★ Practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day on vocal technique, solo repertoire, and choral repertoire. Time spent in practice will increase as you advance as a musician. Some of your practice will be required to be recorded in Collabra. Collabra recordings will be graded.

YPAS Musical Theatre Requirements:

- ★ Enroll in at least one vocal department class per year
- ★ Sing a solo jury both semesters. Students will sing 2-3 songs from memory each semester.
 - One of your songs should be in Italian
- ★ Perform solo repertoire in class during the semester prior to juries (performance days)
- ★ Perform in a fall semester solo recital
- ★ KMEA Solo and Ensemble in April (included in class fees)
- ★ Optional participation in honor choirs
- ★ Attendance and performance in all YPAS Choirs' concerts, rehearsals, and other invited events
- ★ Practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day on vocal technique, solo repertoire, and choral repertoire. Time spent in practice will increase as you advance as a musician. Some of your practice will be required to be recorded in Collabra. Collabra recordings will be graded

Elective students from other YPAS majors and Manual Magnets

- ★ Enroll in at least one vocal department class
- ★ Learn one new song per semester for solo jury performance
- ★ Optional participation in a fall solo recital
- ★ Optional performance at KMEA solo and ensemble
- ★ Optional honor choir participation
- ★ Attendance and performance in all YPAS Choirs' concerts, rehearsals, and other invited events
- ★ Develop practice habits in music. Some practice will need to be recorded in Collabra for a grade.

Course Offerings and Extra Curricular Options:

- ★ Vocal Development 1 and 2
- ★ SSA Choir 1, 2, 3, 4
- ★ TTB Choir 1, 2, 3, 4
- ★ Concert Choir 2, 3, 4
- ★ Chamber Choir 3, 4
- ★ Opera Workshop (Vocal Development 3, alternating years)
- ★ Vocal Pedagogy and Repertoire (Vocal Development 4, alternating years)

Grading Policy:

- ★ Student Progression 20%
 - Technique assessments (posture and breath), walk-through or quartet part checks, performance reflections, recorded assessments (Collabra, Sight Reading Factory), written assignments, rehearsal technique, acting technique
- ★ Student Mastery 80%
 - Technique assessments (posture, breath, tone production), Performance assessment (concerts, recitals), in-person sight reading assessment, recorded assessments (Collabra and Sight Reading Factory), written assessments, rehearsal technique, repertoire cards for solo and choral repertoire, acting technique

Attendance policy:

Our classes are performance based classes, and therefore, it is very important to be present. It is not possible to replicate a rehearsal or performance that is missed. However, if a student does have an excused absence, there will be a Collabra assignment given to make up the rehearsal time. If an in class rehearsal is missed, 45 minutes of assigned practice will be due in Collabra. If an after school rehearsal is missed, 60 minutes of assigned practice time will be due in Collabra. Note: absences have to be excused in order to be offered a make-up assignment. If a student is present for school, but misses an after school rehearsal, that absence would be unexcused. Please make every effort to schedule appointments at times that do not conflict with rehearsals. See the schedule in this handbook for after school rehearsals scheduled as of the first day of school.

After school rehearsals and concerts are part of the class as this class is co-curricular in nature. Missing these rehearsals and performances is the same as not coming to take a final exam as our performances/after school rehearsals are authentic assessments of our work. Excused absences from these events are extremely rare, but some things (such as contagious illness, death in the family, hospitalization of your primary care giver, etc) are unavoidable. If you do miss a concert, it is your responsibility to schedule a make up with Mr. Cook. For a concert to be excused, written documentation will be requested.

Class fees and uniforms:

- ★ Class fees are \$65 per class for up to two classes. If you are in more than two classes, there is no fee for your third and fourth class. Class fees have been assessed online, but you are able to pay class fees via cash or check. Any checks should be made payable to YPAS.
- ★ Uniform fees will be \$65 for everyone in a choir in 2022-2023. We will be changing to a new style of uniform, and you will be able to use the same uniform in future years if it is well kept and fits. See QR code at the end of handbook to pay via “myschoolbucks.”
- ★ Ongoing private voice lessons are important for vocal majors and musical theatre majors. Lessons are encouraged for all because individual lessons will grow your individual technique faster than anything. The cost of private lessons is the responsibility of the student, but we do provide occasional individual coachings to students with funding from the Producers. The artists-in-residence who provided these coachings are background checked and approved visitors in JCPS.
- ★ In January 2023 there is an optional choir tour to Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee. The estimated cost of the trip is \$950.
- ★ All-State Choir is an optional event that has a separate fee. More info to be given in class.
- ★ ACDA National Honor choir will be in Cincinnati in February 2023. All expenses for this honor choir opportunity will be the responsibility of participating students. More information will be given regarding the fee for this honor choir before anyone auditions.

Communication and Technology:

- ★ We will be using **Google Classroom** for most classroom communication. Turn on your notifications so that you receive my posts (assignments, announcements, comments) in a timely manner. If you choose not to use notifications, you need to check Google Classroom every day.
- ★ To communicate with parents, I will use Infinite Campus messenger. Please make sure your parents have a good email address in Infinite campus. If there is an issue that I need to speak with a parent directly, I will call or email them specifically. We may also use the School CNXT system.
- ★ All students will also have a **Collabra Music** account where some assignments will be submitted. Collabra is a great tool that provides practice support. Your login for Collabra will be your JCPS login information. The platform can be accessed through the Google Chrome browser or a mobile app.
- ★ **Sight Reading Factory** is an online resource that we will use to practice and assess literacy skills. Students will be given access to this platform in advance of any assignments given.

Fundraising:

We will participate in some fundraising activities that help run our program. Our main fundraiser is the Variety Show. In 2022-2023 we will resume with our two main selling fundraisers, Kizito Cookie Dough and Poinsettias. These fundraisers will be held in the fall semester. We will also accept donations online when concert reservations are made. Another way you can help is to add your Kroger Plus card to our Kroger Community Rewards program. To enroll your card go to <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. Our YPAS Vocal Department's organization code is PK825. Currently only about 14 of our 110 families participate. If you shop at Kroger, please consider changing your community rewards enrollment to the YPAS Vocal Department.

Co-curricular participation:

Classes in the YPAS Vocal Department are co-curricular classes. This means that performances and after school rehearsals are part of the grade for the class. Our performances and rehearsals are all part of the assessment process. A concert is an authentic assessment of classroom work. We are putting our work on display for the public, and it is the best way to assess student work in a meaningful way.

This point needs to be reinforced clearly. After school rehearsals and concerts are NOT OPTIONAL. Any conflicts with the syllabus need to be given to Mr. Cook by August 19, 2022. This means that you should not create new conflicts after this date. Any conflict with a syllabus date that isn't given by August 19, 2022 will not be excused. (See excused absences for more information on what type of absence may be excused)

Work, community ensembles, community shows, etc. are not excused absences from YPAS events. If you have a job or audition to be in events outside of YPAS, you need to share your schedule with your managers and/or directors. All YPAS events need to be listed as conflicts on your audition forms and with scheduling work. Make sure that you prioritize YPAS, it is an honor to be part of this school, and your attendance demonstrates your commitment to our programs.

Honor Choir and Optional Opportunities:

- ★ JCPS All-County Choir is back for 2022. Auditioning for All-County is required if you are enrolled in Concert Choir. Anyone else in grades 10-12 are also encouraged to audition. If you are selected for All-County, you will be expected to participate. Participation in All-County is required to audition for All-State Choir.
- ★ Kentucky All-State Choir (10th-12th grade) is part of the Kentucky Music Educators Association conference February 8-10, 2023. Each school is only allowed to send 20% of total choral enrollment to audition for All-State. The 19-21 students we will send will be selected based on All-County audition results. If a student is offered and accepts their spot in the KMEA All-State auditions they will be responsible for a portion of the cost of All-State participation. This fee will be \$200, and it will include registration, music, and two nights stay at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Louisville. Staying at the hotel is required by KMEA and part of the All-State experience.
- ★ 9th grade students may audition for Kentucky Junior High Chorus. More info will be given in Vocal Development class. There will be a fee if selected.
- ★ ACDA National Honor Choir will be close to home this year in Cincinnati, OH. This is a more expensive option than the KMEA All-State opportunities because ACDA requires each student to bring a chaperone. There would be a hotel stay involved in addition to the audition fee and registration fee. I will share more information about this with students as it would be a fantastic opportunity. The clinicians are the best in the country as ACDA is the predominant organization for choral music in the US.

Recommended Private Voice Teachers:

Edward Caruthers- (502) 439-2291

Garrett and Elizabeth Sorensen- (502) 718-8472, <http://www.louisvillevoicelessons.com/>

Jennifer Diamond- (502) 526-2608

Mark Kano- (859)- 457-0304

Emily Fields- (502) 314-3403

Elizabeth Huling- (502) 644-6671, elizabethhuling@gmail.com

Parker Van Houten- (502) 821-5816 (available 2022-2023 school year)

YPAS Choir and Voice Tentative Calendar 2021-2022

August 19	Handbook acknowledgement form due	all classes
August 26	Senior Recital Dress Rehearsal	2:30-4:30 Polly St. Clair Hall
August 29*	Senior Recital	7:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
August 30	duPont Manual/YPAS Open House	TBA
September 25	Junior/Sophomore Recital (slate 1)	3:00 venue TBA (off campus)
September 25	Junior/Sophomore Recital (slate 2)	5:00 venue TBA (off campus)
September 27	All-County Auditions	TBA
October 11	All-County Rehearsal (10th-12th)	6:00-8:00, TBA
October 12*	Prism Concert Dress Rehearsal	2:30-5:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
October 13*	Prism Concert (slate 1)	7:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
October 14*	Prism Concert (slate 2)	7:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
October 18	All-County Rehearsal (10th-12th)	6:00-8:00, TBA
October 20	All-County Day and Concert	7:00, Venue TBA
October 21	College and Career Day	All day (all seniors perform)
October 29	All-State Auditions	TBA Atherton HS
November 10	Vocal Development (9th Grade) recital	7:00 venue TBA (off campus)
Nov. 18-Dec 3	YPAS Musical Performances	TBA
December 8*	YPAS Choir Concert Dress Rehearsal	2:30-4:30 Polly St. Clair Hall
December 9*	YPAS Choir Concert	7:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
December 12-16*	Fall Semester Juries	TBA
January 12-16	Choir Tour (Nashville and Memphis)	Open to all choir students
January 18-19	Opera Works Dress Rehearsals	2:30-4:30 Polly St. Clair Hall
January 20	Opera Works performance	7:00 Polly St. Claire Hall
February 4	KMEA All-State Rehearsal	10:00-2:30 UofL SoM
February 8-10	KMEA All-State Choir	KCA and Hyatt Regency
February 9	SSA Choir perform at KMEA	3:00, Cathedral
February 22-25	ACDA National Honor Choirs	Cincinnati, OH
March (tba)*	KMEA District Choral Assessment	TBA
March 1-21	Possible extra rehearsals for Variety	2:30-4:30 various spaces
March 22-23*	Variety Show Dress Rehearsal	2:30-5:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
March 24-25*	Variety Show Performances	7:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
April (tba)	KMEA State Choral Assessment	TBA
April 22*	KMEA Solo and Ensemble	TBA UofL School of Music
May 8*	Major Work Concert Dress Rehearsal	2:30-4:30 Polly St. Clair Hall
May 9*	Major Work Concert	7:00 Polly St. Clair Hall
May 10-25*	Spring Semester Juries	TBA

* Applies to all choir students

How Parents Can Help:

- ★ Join the Producers, which is the YPAS PTA. <https://www.producers-ypas.org/> They support all our programs, and YPAS wouldn't be what it is without them. Four years of membership would also make your student eligible to apply for a Producer's scholarship should they choose to major in a performing arts related field in college.
- ★ Bookmark www.ypasvoice.com for information about our events, and sign up for Google Classroom digest where you can see all class communications.
- ★ Show an interest in your student's work. Ask them about what they are learning in class and how they feel they are doing. Taking an interest in your student's work goes a long way to show them that you support their efforts and care about their music learning experience.
- ★ Make arrangements for your students to attend all after school rehearsals and concerts. This will take planning, but all of these events are important. See the section on co-curricular classes and grading policy of after school and evening events.
- ★ Allow students to practice and record their singing at home. Students who practice outside of class will accelerate their skill level significantly more than those who do not. Also, practice at home and recording is a part of the class grade.
- ★ Schedule appointments, trips, or other items that will require missing school around the YPAS choir classes. It is easier to make up an individual based class such as math, science, or English than it is to make up a group performance class. Any absence from class will require make-up singing and recording at home.
- ★ Feel free to email or call about your student's progress or if you have questions. (502) 485-8355 or jacob.cook@jefferson.kyschools.us
- ★ Attend concerts and recitals. It means a lot to students for them to have support in the audience rather than being dropped off at our events.

QR Code for paying uniform fee:



Handbook Acknowledgement Form

To be completed by Student

I, _____, have received and read the YPAS Vocal Department Handbook. As long as I am a participant in a Vocal Department class, I agree to abide by the standards and policies in the handbook.

I, _____, understand that participation in YPAS Vocal Department classes means there will be outside of class activity that is required for my grade. I will attend all events and rehearsals. I understand that this means our classes are co-curricular.

I, _____, commit to doing my best work. I understand that practice and hard work is part of the discipline of music. I understand that I will have to practice at home to achieve the best outcomes for class.

I, _____, understand that phones will not be allowed in class time or rehearsals. I agree to place my phone in the hanging storage unit at the beginning of each class block or after school rehearsal.

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

To be completed by parent or guardian

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Handbook. I know what my student's requirements are in terms of class fees, grades, attendance, practice time, and the nature of a co-curricular class. I understand that my student will need to sing and record music at home as part of the class. I understand that my student will not have their phone on them during class time and that if I need to reach them, I will call the YPAS office at (502) 485-8355.

_____ (parent of _____)

Parent Contact Information:

Phone number (s): _____

Parent Email: _____