

Prep Chorus, Honors – X Period (Music 2530)
David Kobayashi, Esq. - Director
2018-19 School Year
(updated 9/2/2019)

Prep Chorus is an advanced ensemble that aims to provide an environment for each student to grow as musicians and as persons. Students will develop their musical and performance skills, and establish a work ethic that will lead to success. Students will work on proper vocal technique, musical terms, note reading, and sight-singing.

Requirements

- 1) Show up on time and be prepared.
- 2) Abide by all school rules, including but not limited to the Honor Code.
- 3) Have a good attitude.

Meeting Schedule

This class meets after school and is a full-year course that will have regular rehearsals throughout the academic year. The regular rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Monday	3–4 pm	Sopranos, Chapel
Tuesday	3–4 pm	Altos, Room W207
Wednesday	3–4 pm	All Gentlemen, Chapel
Thursday	3–4:30pm	Full Choir, Chapel (East Top)

Note: On days where the schedule is abbreviated (so-called “PD Days”), rehearsals will start at 2:45pm and end 15 minutes before the above time.

Later this year, all rehearsals will be moved to new room W-001C. Details of this move will be provided as they become available.

Some weeks will require changes to the rehearsal schedule. In addition, there will be additional full rehearsals after school during the week of any performances (see *infra*). Information about these rehearsals and any other changes to the regular rehearsal schedule will be announced in class, posted in Dropbox, Google Classroom, and/or emailed to students, as soon as possible.

Students are responsible for making any necessary arrangements to not miss rehearsals.

The following is the current list of changes to the normal rehearsal schedule described above.

- First meeting of the year: Thursday 9/12. 2:45pm, Chapel.
- Week of 9/30/19: No full rehearsal Thursday 10/3.
- Week of 10/14/19: No sectionals this week, full rehearsal Thursday 10/17.
- Week of 10/28/19: Sectionals only.
- Week of 11/11/19: Soprano and altos will have a joint sectional Tuesday 11/12; Gents will have their normal sectional. No full rehearsal Thursday 11/14.
- Week of 11/25/19 No rehearsals.
- Week of 12/9/19 (Concert Week): Full rehearsal Tuesday 12/10 (3-4pm, Room TBD); Concert run-through Thursday 12/12 (Auditorium, 3-5pm). No sectionals this week!

- **CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2 – SATURDAY 12/14/19. CALL TIME 6PM.**
- No rehearsals until the week of 1/6/20.
- Week of 1/13/20: No rehearsals (Beginner Concert week).
- Week of 1/20/20: Ladies (all sopranos and altos) sectional Tuesday 1/21; regular rehearsals otherwise.
- Week of 2/3/20: Ladies (all sopranos and altos) sectional Tuesday 2/4; regular rehearsals otherwise.
- Week of 3/16/20: No rehearsals (Jazz/Pop concert week).
- Week of 3/30/20: Ladies (all sopranos and altos) sectional Tuesday 3/31; regular rehearsals otherwise.
- Week of 4/6/20: No sectionals this week- full rehearsal Tuesday 4/7.
- Week of 5/4/20 (Concert Week): Full rehearsal Wednesday 5/6 (Auditorium 3-4pm); Concert run-through Thursday 5/7 (Auditorium, 3-5pm). No sectionals this week!
- **SPRING CONCERT 2 – FRIDAY 5/8/20. CALL TIME 6PM.**
- Final meeting of the year: Tuesday 5/12/20. 3pm, Chapel.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. A student who is present for the school day must attend all classes, including those before and after school. As mandated by Mr. Mendolia, students should be aware that “[c]lass attendance at St. Francis Prep is a major priority. All students are required to complete all required work even if they are absent. If a student is absent from class 6 or more times for any given quarter, this will be considered excessive absence. This will result in a mandatory 5 point deduction from the quarterly grade. Please be advised classes missed due to lateness or early dismissal will be included in this group.”

Students are expected to be in their places and ready to sing by 3pm sharp. Any student not prepared at the beginning of the period will be considered late. Late students will lose 5 points from their quarterly average. Students who arrive before class but then leave without permission and arrive late will be marked so.

Absence

As per official school policy, students in an X period course who miss class time to fulfill obligations in other classes, sports teams, or clubs will be marked as cutting. Students directed to report to another teacher during a scheduled rehearsal or performance for any reason- even if deemed “mandatory”- must take the initiative of speaking with the teacher(s) to sort out any scheduling issues (most teachers are rational human beings and will work to resolve a scheduling conflict). Students having difficulties with a teacher in this regard are encouraged to speak with Mr. Mendolia if the problem persists.

Any unexcused absence will be treated as a cut, which will result in a 15-point deduction from the quarterly average and/or a referral to the Dean’s office.

Students involved in a school-sanctioned activity (e.g., field trip, retreats, AP exams) will not be penalized for missing rehearsal. However, students must be at rehearsal if the activity is completed before rehearsal.

A student may be excused from one rehearsal per quarter provided the following is observed:

- The student’s parent/guardian provides a notice in writing (letter or email) explaining the need for the absence from rehearsal at least 24 hours before the absence.

- The student obtains the necessary pass(es) or other documentation from the Dean's Office and shows it to the director within 1 day of returning to school.
- The student is aware that the absence will be counted toward the attendance policy and may subject him/her to the 5-point deduction for excessive absence.
- In the event of a medical or family emergency, students will make their best effort to provide any relevant documentation (i.e., passes, parent/doctor letter, etc.) as soon as feasibly possible.

Except for prolonged illness, a student who is late or absent more than 10% of the class during a quarter risks failing and may result in not being allowed to participate in a performance. Extenuating circumstances that may result in a prolonged absence or lateness should be discussed with the director as soon as feasibly possible.

Absence From A Performance

Considering that performances are essentially the true assessment of a student's abilities in this class, absence from a performance is strongly forbidden except in extremely narrow circumstances.

A student may be excused from a performance if he/she notifies the director in writing (signed by parent/guardian) of the serious family obligation or religious observance no less than 60 days before the date of the performance.

In the event of an absence from a performance due to a family or medical emergency, a written note from a parent, guardian, or doctor should be submitted as soon as feasibly possible.

Students excused from a performance will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of the music before a panel of at least 2 music teachers within 7 days after returning to school.

Students who cut a performance shall receive a 0 for that performance and will not return to the group for the next school year.

Required Materials

Students may use iPads to read their music during rehearsals. iPads should only be used for purposes relevant to the class. Students using iPads for non-class purposes or phones will lose 5 points per incident. Any student whose iPad is lost, damaged, or otherwise unavailable should have a plain black binder for class with printed copies of the music. Students who are not prepared (i.e., do not have all their music) will lose 5 points.

Phones or other electronic devices may not be used at any time in class, including for the purpose of accessing the music for rehearsal.

Restroom Use

The following is the policy regarding restroom use during rehearsals:

- 1) Class time is of utmost importance, and every effort should be made to avoid missing it.
- 2) While it is understandable that students need to use the restroom from time to time, bathroom usage should be limited where possible.

- 3) Any student who wishes to leave the room during rehearsal will be required to sign out and back into the classroom. A clipboard will be provided for this purpose.
- 4) Students may not leave the room during warmups or the last 5 minutes of class.
- 5) No more than any 2 students will be allowed out of the room.
- 6) Students who are found to abuse the restroom policy (i.e., going anywhere other than restrooms) will lose points, be subject to a referral from the Dean, and/or risk losing the privilege of leaving the room during class.

Illness

Students who are present for the school day are presumed to be able to rehearse. Anyone who is unable to sing due to illness must show proper documentation (i.e., doctor's note, pass from Dean's office). Students will not be excused from rehearsal merely because they don't feel well. Students sitting out will not be allowed to do schoolwork or use any electronic devices.

Grading Policy

Quarterly grades are based on the following: a) musical aptitude 33%, b) participation/attitude 33%, c) quarterly writing assignment 33%, and d) minus any deductions. The final grade will be an average of the 4 quarters (20% each) and the final exam.

There will be at least one performance exam each quarter. Students will be notified of exams in advance.

Disruptions of any kind are not welcome. Students who are unable to act maturely will have 5 points deducted from their quarterly grade per incident and are subject to being reported to the Dean's office for repeated disruptions.

2019-20 Performance Schedule (current as of 8/20/2019)

- Saturday, December 14, 2019: Christmas Concert 2 (7:45pm)
- Friday, May 8, 2020: Spring Concert 2 (7:45pm)

There may be other performances throughout the year as opportunities arise. Students will be notified in advance of additional performances as they become available.

The dress for all performances will be discussed in class as dates draw near. The default dress code is as follows:

- Ladies: black dress purchased from Cousins Concert Attire (measurements will be taken in October). Silver jewelry that is not excessive is allowed. Shoes should be comfortable for prolonged standing and must not have an excessively high heel (no more than 2 inches).
- Gentlemen: solid black business suit with black dress shirt. Silver tie. Black belt, socks, and dress shoes. Silver jewelry that is not excessive is allowed. Shoes should be comfortable when standing for prolonged periods.

Students who fail to wear the proper dress will not be allowed to perform and are subject to automatically failing the quarter. Denim and sneakers are not permitted under any circumstances.

Outside Music Lessons

The director strongly believes that all Chamber Choir students should take regular outside music lessons from a professional voice instructor (in addition those offered at the Prep). This is especially true for anyone considering studying music in college. A good instructor will help students develop their technique and assist in preparing a repertoire of music that will be needed for the college audition process. A list of recommended instructors will be posted and updated regularly on the class webpage. Students should make the effort to contact an instructor and arrange to have at least one lesson with him/her.

Continued Membership in the Prep Chorus

A student's membership in the Prep Chorus is a privilege. Continued membership in the ensemble will depend on the following: a) overall academic standing, b) attendance/lateness record, c) adherence to these rules and the school's rules of conduct, and d) continued development and improvement of musical abilities. The director, at his discretion, may elect to not have a student return to the ensemble if he/she cannot meet any of the above.

Etc.

Students, parents, and/or guardians who are concerned about their child's performance are encouraged to communicate with me as soon as possible via email at dkobayashi@sfponline.org or by phone at (718) 423-8810 x255.

10 RULES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

BY JOHN CAGE

- Rule 1: Find a place you trust, and then, try trusting it for a while.
- Rule 2: (General Duties as a Student)
Pull everything out of your teacher.
Pull everything out of your fellow students.
- Rule 3: (General Duties as a Teacher)
Pull everything out of your students.
- Rule 4: Consider everything an experiment.
- Rule 5: Be Self Disciplined. This means finding someone wise or smart and choosing to follow them. To be disciplined is to follow in a good way. To be self disciplined is to follow in an even better way.
- Rule 6: Follow the leader. Nothing is a mistake. There is no win and no fail. There is only make.
- Rule 7: The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It is the people who do all the work all the time who eventually catch onto things. You can fool the fans—but not the players.
- Rule 8: Do not try to create and analyze at the same time. They are different processes.
- Rule 9: Be happy whenever you can manage it. Enjoy yourself. It is lighter than you think.
- Rule 10: We are breaking all the rules, even our own rules and how do we do that? By leaving plenty of room for “x” qualities.

Helpful Hints:

Always Be Around.
Come or go to everything.
Always go to classes.
Read everything you can get your hands on.
Look at movies carefully and often.
SAVE EVERYTHING. It may come in handy later.

FIRST HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

I hereby affirm that I have a) reviewed the course requirements for Chamber Choir/Prep Chorus (please circle the applicable ensemble) with my parent or guardian, and b) signed up to receive email notifications via MySFP.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Class: Chamber Choir