

# **SYLLABUS**

## **♪ Choir**

### ***Pojoaque Valley Middle School***

**Instructor: Isabel Becker-Hudson**  
**Phone: (505) 455-2234 Ext. 1151**  
**Email: [ibh@pvs.k12.nm.us](mailto:ibh@pvs.k12.nm.us)**

**Location: PVMS/PVSGA Choir Rm.**  
**Time: 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Period**

To help us have the most successful year possible, I would like to share several goals for the choir program this year:

- To provide a fundamental background in music appreciation, theory, choral thinking and vocal technique, as well as the skills and knowledge necessary for independent musicianship.
- To establish a means of self-fulfillment as well as a life-long recreational outlet through the development of the student's musical and vocal ability.
- To promote responsibility and good citizenship through participation in a choral organization.
- To encourage self-discipline as well as team cooperation through the mutual goal of musical achievement and excellence in performance.
- To give those students who may choose music as a career a positive, encouraging and successful early experience.

#### **Course Description**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir is a non-auditioned choir for seventh and eighth grade male and female students. Instruction focuses on the basics of music theory and fundamentals of singing. This is a full-year class, which includes school and evening performances as part of the grade. Auditioning for the Honor Choir Festival and participation, if accepted is expected of all choir members who were in choir last year. Honor Choir is November 4 & 5 in Santa Fe. It is also a requirement that all PVMS Choir students participate in the Music Performance Assessment Festival, which will be held on March 1 or 2 at Los Alamos High School.

#### **Music Theory**

Music theory (notation, rhythm, melody, harmony, form) will be studied throughout the year and make up a portion of your grade.

#### **Sight Singing**

Sight singing is crucial to learning to read new music. We will study this throughout the year with occasional performance tests given individually or in small groups.

#### **Materials**

- 2-pocket folder
- College-ruled filler paper
- Pencil with eraser (needed every day!)

#### **Classroom Management**

- Class begins on time. All students must be in their seats and ready to work when class begins.
- Adherence to the PRIDE expectations of PVMS
- Cell phones and other electronics are not allowed.
- Gum, food, candy and drinks other than water bottles are not allowed.
- Teamwork, cooperation and enthusiasm are expected from all members.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on:

- Participation and Effort
- Sight-Reading and Ear-Training Assessments
- Concerts and Performances
- Written Quizzes and Tests
- Skills Demonstrations

**Note:** The skills demonstration grade is not determined by inherent music ability, but rather by the **effort** put forth in class to become a better musician.

Each chorus member is expected to follow the expectations listed below to increase his/her success in demonstrating his/her skills:

- Exhibit excellent posture, good breathing technique and dropped jaw (open mouth) for good vowel sounds
- Maintain consistent focus
- Demonstrate mutual respect
- Display a positive attitude and enthusiasm

**Concert Attendance**

Concerts are **mandatory**. Students must arrive on time and stay for the entire duration of the concert. If you have an excused absence from a concert (i.e. significant illness, family emergency, death in the family), parents/guardians must contact Mrs. Hudson and you will be required to make up the experience by writing a report on a related subject and/or take a singing exam. If you have an unexcused absence, you will receive a zero and will be unable to make up the concert grade. (Mrs. Hudson will determine Excused/Unexcused)

*Examples of unexcused absences:*

- *Lack of transportation*
- *Birthday party*
- *Other events (sports, vacation, etc.)*
- *Homework*
- *Forgot*

**Concert Attire**

Unless specified otherwise, concert attire will be the PVMS Choir t-shirt, black skirt or slacks and black shoes.

**Important Choir Dates – Please put these on your calendar!**

**November 4 & 5** – Honor Choir Festival, Santa Fe

**December 6 (Tentative)** – Winter Concert, 6:30 pm in the PVS Auditorium

**March 1 or 2** – Music Performance Assessment Festival, Los Alamos High School

**May 9 (Tentative)** – Spring Choral Concert, 6:30 pm in the PVS Auditorium

**Please sign and detach the bottom portion. Return to Mrs. Hudson by the due date \_\_\_\_\_**

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*We have read the Chorus Syllabus, understand the contents and agree to abide by the terms described.*

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Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Student signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_