



Vocal Music Handbook

2024-2025

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Papillion La Vista South High School

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Introduction:

Papillion La Vista Public Schools and Papillion La Vista South High School are dedicated to a balanced and comprehensive music education program.

Philosophy:

Music is an essential part of education for every child. Music education provides unique aesthetic, creative, and academic experiences that integrate all areas of learning, and fosters the development of life skills. Papillion La Vista South High School will provide varied music opportunities to meet the needs of all students.

Multi-Cultural Music Statement:

The music department does its best to teach the multi-cultural music reflected throughout the community. By educating children to appreciate and respect the similarities as well as the differences, we are preparing them for the complex and multicultural world in which they live. By acknowledging the range of perspectives that comprise our culturally diverse world, we create a learning environment that validates each child, promotes community and provides an honest and useful framework for understanding the world around us.

Belief Statements:

- All students should develop skills that will empower them to become lifelong learners, consumers of and participants in music.
- All students should experience music through playing instruments, singing, moving, creating, listening, and evaluating.
- All students should experience music from various periods of history and world cultures as an expression of human life.
- All students will recognize and appreciate the connection between music and other disciplines.

Learner Outcomes:

- Identify, analyze, evaluate and interpret the inter-relationship of diverse cultures through music and its effect on the past, present and future.
- Explore and respond to the aesthetic sounds and qualities of music.
- Identify, analyze, evaluate and interpret a variety of music.
- Express one's self by creating and performing music works through a variety of techniques.
- Use assessments to evaluate student process and product.

General Objectives:

- The student will grow in familiarity of musical terms, vocabulary, and notation. Each student will be able to look at a piece of music and understand its basics.
- The student will develop his/her sight singing skills, rhythm skills and pitch recognition skills. There will be quizzes and drills on these skills throughout each quarter.
- The students will rehearse music from a wide variety of styles, time periods, and composers.
- The student will learn about a variety of musical time periods, musical styles and composers.
- The student will demonstrate proper techniques while singing, and also demonstrate positive and helpful behaviors throughout the entire class period. The student will display sensitivity to the ensemble singing by their ability to make a positive contribution to the choir.
- The student will be a part of a group that is striving for excellence. The importance of the student's self-discipline within this context will be demonstrated by the singer's contribution toward this common goal.

Classroom Rules:

1. No food (lunch), gum, candy or drinks are allowed in the choir room or the music complex (i.e. music commons area, practice rooms and auditorium). Water is always acceptable in the room.
2. Listen attentively while instructions are being given.
3. Be a productive member of the ensemble.
4. All books and personal belongings are to be kept to the sides of the classroom. Nothing is to be stored under or around your seat.
5. Students will not be allowed to play the classroom piano. You are encouraged to use the practice room pianos instead.
6. Students are encouraged to come in for practice or extra help throughout the school day. A pass will be issued before school or after class and must be signed by Mr. Dugdale or Mr. Johnson.
7. Students must treat the entire music area as they would if they were guests in another person's home. This is to ensure we keep our facilities looking nice and continue our pride in having a clean and neatly organized area.
8. Students who demonstrate a disinterest in the choral curriculum by habitually breaking rules, non-participation, and by demonstrating disrespect for their peers, ensemble, and directors will be subject to an assessment of ability and desire to remain in the class. The student, guardians and administration will be brought into this process immediately. **Choir is not an "easy A" – but an art that requires conscientious preparation.**

Rehearsal Procedures and Expectations:

- Be on time for rehearsals, meetings and performances.
- A “Call Time” will be given for all outside rehearsals, meetings and performances. Students will need to be signed in by that time to receive full credit for that particular performance.
- You will be responsible for your part. All music will be memorized, with correct notes and pitches.
- Students will have a pencil in their music folder at all times.
- Choir students are expected to follow all of Papillion La Vista South High School rules and policies anytime they are representing our school.

Performances/Concerts:

- This class does require performances outside of the regular school day.
- Concert time is generally 7:00 pm with a “call time” of 6:15 pm.
- Professionalism is of the utmost importance. We must look, act and perform at the highest possible level.

Concert Choir Attire (9-12):

All students will be provided with formal concert attire, consisting of either a choir robe, formal dress or a suit. Black dress shoes, black dress socks and a white dress shirt (for those wearing suits) are not provided. Students wearing a formal dress will need to have black flats (or a shoe with minimal heel). Students will need to provide nylons (for those wearing dresses).

Freshman Choir students will need black dress slacks, black dress shoes (minimal heel), white button-down long sleeve dress shirt.

For all students, hair must be styled and pulled back out of the face.



ALL CHOIRS: All piercings (i.e. tongue, lip, nose, eye brow) will need to be taken out before performances. A clear spacer can be used to keep these holes from closing during performance. Ear piercings will be allowed.

Printed Music and Folders:

Each student will be issued a folder, music, and other resources. These materials are the property of PLV South HS. Students are expected to care for these as they would a textbook. Students will be charged the replacement value for lost, damaged or stolen materials as per school policy.

Attendance and Tardy Policy:

- Attendance is expected at all rehearsals and performances. **PLAN AHEAD!**
- Missed performance will require the student to make up the performance 1 week after the missed-concert assignment is given. After one week the grade will be placed a ZERO.
- Recreating the concert setting is impossible. Students missing the concert will be given audio recordings of the music their ensemble performed. It is their responsibility to video record themselves singing their part along with the recorded music. The NSAA District Music rubric will be used to assess the individual performance. It is imperative, for assessment purposes, that their singing is at the forefront of the recording and is clear for the directors to hear. This recording can be done on computer, tablet, cell phone, video camera, etc. and must be shared with the directors through an YouTube link, email, flash drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, or other compatible data sharing methods. The students are graded on intonation, rhythm, phrasing, musicality and tone production.
- Included in this handbook is a tentative schedule of performances. Any additional performances will be added with a two-week advanced noticed.

Extra Credit:

- Those individuals needing extra credit for low daily grades, missed rehearsals, and performances can make up points.

Extra Credit Options:

Writing a report

Attending a non-required concert/performance (i.e. High School, Middle School, Holland, Orpheum, etc.) and a one-page reflection paper submitted.

The preparation of a solo to be performed in front of the class is also an option.

Chain of Command:

Students and parents with concerns must use the chain of command.

Below are the steps!

- Students who have concerns need to meet “one on one” with the directors.
- If the student’s concerns are not met, the student needs to schedule a meeting with student, parents and directors.
- If the concerns are still not met they need to schedule a meeting with student, parents, director and administration.
- The best time to discuss issues that may arise is after rehearsal or after school.

Grading Breakdown

Grade Book: 60/30/10 – Formative = 60%, Summative = 30% & Finals=10%

Standard 1: Student sings alone and with others.

- Rehearsal Technique (using the Rehearsal Technique Rubric)
- Concerts/Performance/Extra Rehearsals
- Quartet Assessment

Standard 5: Reading and Notating music.

- Sight Reading
- Solfege written into octavos
- Music Vocabulary
- Rhythmic Notation
- Numbering measures

Standard 7: Evaluating music and musical performances.

Visual and Audio recording Assessments

Time for Time Rehearsal: 30 minutes of practice room time for each rehearsal missed. You will check in when you start and when you are finished. Rehearsal tracks can be emailed to you so that you can practice on your own with the use of your Smart Phone or electronic device.

Point Breakdown (100 pts. on a weekly basis):

- 20 pts. daily– ALWAYS = 100%
- 16 pts. daily– FREQUENTLY = 80%
- 12 pts. daily– Seldom = 60%

Assignments:

Assignments will include, but are not limited to sight singing, concert reviews, music theory worksheets, as well as other in-class assignments.

Sight Reading Factory

Quick Checks:

<i>Student ID#</i>	<i>Appropriate Singing Posture</i>	<i>Pencil Checks & Directive Notation</i>	<i>Rhythm Sight reading</i>	<i>Small Group Sight singing</i>	<i>Quartet Singing of part</i>	<i>Final Quick Check Percentage</i>
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- We will be implementing objective assessment by creating a quick check template for our high school’s usage. Templates will assess the student’s ability to: use correct vocal posture while singing, have pencils and directive notations in music, sing in small groups (4 to 10 students), sight read exercises on solfeggio syllables, correctly sing their designated parts of studied octavos in quartets, and correctly execute designated rhythmic exercises by clapping. Students will be assessed periodically over the five points of assessment described above. Each check mark will be assessed on a monthly basis with weekly rotations of the five quick checkpoints. Students will continue to be checked for improvement on a weekly basis, re-teaching through modeling and student mentoring. Students may improve their assessment score by observing and demonstrating correct procedures. A final PASS/FAIL will be given at the end of each term.

PLSHS Grading Scale:

Regular Classes

A+	100.00	96.50	C+	79.40	76.50
A	96.40	92.50	C	76.40	72.50
A-	92.40	89.50	C-	72.40	69.50
B+	89.40	86.50	D+	69.40	66.50
B	86.40	82.50	D	66.40	62.50
B-	82.40	79.50	D-	62.40	59.50
			F	59.40	0.00

All-State & District Music Contest:

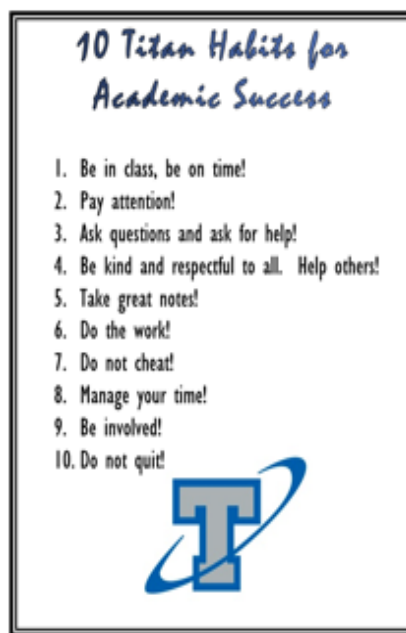
Only currently enrolled PLV South vocal music students will be allowed to participate in Nebraska All-State Choir or District Music Contests.

Music Awards:

Only currently enrolled PLV South vocal music students will be eligible for awards given out by the PLSHS Choral Music Staff.

Graduation:

It is tradition at Papillion La Vista South High School to recognize the seniors in the music department. Only seniors who are currently enrolled in vocal music classes at PLV South High School will be recognized at the final concert of the year and will be allowed to perform at graduation.



Calendar of Events

Aug. 4 - Aug. 5 All State Camp

Aug. 13 1st FULL Day of School

Aug. 16 Show Choir Bonding – Revolution 7 AM to 1 PM & Titanium 1 PM – 8 PM

Aug. 23 Show Choir Bonding – Titan Express 7 AM to 1 PM and Radiance 1 PM – 8 PM

Sept. 8 All State Registration deadline

Sept. 21 Titanium Choreo

Sept. 22 Radiance Choreo

Sept. 23 Express Choreo

Sept. 25 Revolution Choreo

Sept. 26-27 All State Choir Auditions

Oct. 3 Revolution Choreo

Oct. 6 – 10 Show Choir Choreo Camp TBD

Oct. 15 Revolution Choreo

Oct. 21 Revolution Choreo

Nov. 13-16 All School Musical

Nov. 20 – 22 Nebraska All State

Dec. 10 Winter Concert

Dec. 11 Show Choir Picture Night

Jan. 4, 5, & 6 Show Choir Choreo Clean Up

Jan. 15 Show Choir Finale

Jan. 15 Show Choir Debut Night 6:30 & 8:30

Jan. 17 Show Choir @ Gretna

Jan. 24 Show Choir @ Millard West

Jan. 31 Show Choir @ Ankeny Centennial

Feb. 6 STC26 Middle School Contest

Feb. 7 STC26 HS Show Choir Contest

Feb. 14 Show Choir @ Elkhorn South

Feb. 21 Show Choir @ Omaha South

Feb. 25 Choir Concert

March 5 Show Choir Finale 6:30 PM and 8:30 PM

March 7 Show Choir @ Lewis Central

March 14 – 18 Choir Trip to Chicago

April 6 – 10 Show Choir Audition Prep Classes

11 Show Choir Auditions

April 20 – 25 DMC

April 29 PLSHS DMC

May 5 Spring Choral Concert

May 10 Graduation

May 22 Last Day of School

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at:

scott.dugdale@plcschools.org

brian.r.johnson@plcschools.org

anne.smith@plcschools.org

***This handbook can be found in the students' Google Classroom.**

***This handbook can also be found online at <https://plsouthshowchoirs.yolasite.com> under the "PLSHS Choirs" page.**

Papillion LaVista South Vocal Music Department

(Return This Page Only)

This class syllabus can be found online in your student's Google Classroom.

It is the belief of the district's vocal music department that students are to be exposed to a variety of choral literature. The instructor on availability, quality education value, programming opportunity and the suitability for healthy vocal maturation, determines the selection of said choral music. *It is not the intent of this department to persuade student views with opposing beliefs or ideals that the music's text may present.*

Rather, we desire to familiarize students to quality choral literature that will give students a better historical and global conversant with musical aesthetics. It is our intent to give students a broad-based perspective to the numerous choral composers, styles, and types.

This handbook represents that the dates, materials, and expectations for vocal music have been covered and received by the parent/guardian and student. Parents, please take the time to go over this with your student(s).

Once you have read through the handbook with your student(s) please return this page to the vocal music office no later than August 27th, 2025.

This class syllabus can be found in your student's Google Classroom.

We (student and guardian) have read the Vocal Music Handbook and understand what is required of myself and my student for the 2025/26.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Which choir does your student participate in?

_____ 2nd Hour Mixed Choir (10th – 12th grades)

_____ 3rd Hour Concert Choir (Titanium)

_____ 4th Hour Treble Choir (Radiance)

_____ 6th Hour Choir (9th grade)