

# Vidalia Comprehensive High School Chorus / Show Choir Syllabus 2018-2019

**COURSE NAME: CHORUS or SHOW CHOIR**

**GA PSC CERTIFIED MUSIC TEACHER: Mr. John F. Morgan (T-5 certificate in Music grades P-12)**  
B. M. Ed., Shorter University. MSPSE, Troy University. Yamaha *Music in Education* certification.

Mr. Morgan is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)

Email: [jmorgan@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us](mailto:jmorgan@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us)

Website for GENERAL INFORMATION and Calendar: VCHS website, click on fine arts, then chorus

Website for Curricular Information: <http://johnfmorganmusic.com/moodle/>  
(logins required. Parents may request credentials to check student work)

**COURSE SCHEDULE: Daily plus extra-curricular rehearsals and performances**

**LOCATION: Vidalia Comprehensive High School, Room 111 on the Arrowhead Arts hall**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The Vidalia Comprehensive High School Choral Program is an organization designed to promote musical growth in every student by developing vocal and music reading skills. There are two courses: Show Choir and Chorus. Although the courses are primarily performance based, there is a strong emphasis on sight-reading, ear training, and basic music theory. The courses are a comprehensive approach to musicianship giving students an opportunity to listen, sing, evaluate, and study differing styles of music. We will utilize available technology and some of the course work and evaluation is done via computers and the Internet. Because musical excellence results from students' talent, commitment, and experience levels, students are encouraged to arrange their schedule in coordination with the counselor and their advisor so that they can have four consecutive choral classes by graduation.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will develop a positive attitude toward music and our choral program that includes demonstrating the following abilities:
  - Personal commitment to music
  - Teamwork, group cohesiveness, and goal orientation
  - Responsibility and loyalty
  - Respect and courtesy toward classmates and teacher
  - Pride in musical accomplishments
- Students will demonstrate the following universally recognized choral techniques (from the Georgia Performance Standards, also meeting National Standards from the NAfME):
  - Correct sitting and standing posture for singing
  - Correct breathing techniques for vocal production
  - Developing accuracy in pitch and rhythm, appropriate to prior experience.
  - Sing with clear vowels, appropriate diction, and good tone quality
  - Participate in daily warm-up activities including memorized scales
  - Recognize and perform literature in major and minor keys relating each pitch to the appropriate scale degrees or arpeggios
  - Sing assigned part in chorus within section while responding to conductor's direction
  - Sight-sing choral music individually and chorally at an appropriate level
  - Perform music from memory in public concert

## **SPECIFIC MUSIC READING EXPECTATIONS:**

- ✓ Demonstrate working knowledge of rhythm, time signatures, and conducting.
- ✓ Identify the lines and spaces of the treble and bass clef.
- ✓ Recognize key signatures of each musical selection by demonstrating ability to sing scale degrees.
- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to follow choral scores by "tracking" and maintaining the correct page and system position, including following repeats and demonstrating knowledge of the form of the music.
- ✓ Identify, define, and demonstrate knowledge of music terms included in repertoire.
- ✓ Evaluate daily and concert performances through critical listening.

## **TEXTS AND MATERIALS:**

- ❖ Various sight-singing exercises on paper, on the screen, on the web and in textbooks.
- ❖ Varied choral repertoire. Standards and popular choral literature, both sacred and secular, chosen by the conductor.
- ❖ Selected audio examples.

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- ❖ Concert attire as needed for particular shows.
- ❖ Students should come to class with **sharpened pencils and notebook paper**. Staff paper provided when necessary.
- ❖ A personal device (larger screens of tablets are better than phones) with access to the school WiFi or data is necessary for daily classwork.

### COURSE CONTENT:

- ✓ Warm-up exercises daily (may include stretching and other physical activity or choreography).
- ✓ Sight-singing, musical dictation, ear-training, and notation-reading exercises daily.
- ✓ Singing repertoire, ensembles, and solos - the entire course is based on singing and national music standards. Students are expected to sing alone and with others throughout the period and no excuses will be accepted unless accompanied by physician or parental note. In general, if you are not well enough to sing, you are not well enough to be at school.
- ✓ Creative and analytical thinking skills used daily to expand knowledge of music and relate it to life and culture. Students are expected to learn to write, arrange, and improvise music.
- ✓ Show Choir includes choreography after musical content is learned except during LGPE season.
- ✓ Public performances (required).

### MAKE-UP WORK:

There is no way for a student to adequately make-up a rehearsal or a concert, so absences should be rare. Since chorus is a voluntary class, and both a curricular and an extra-curricular activity, concert attendance in concert attire is required and will be graded just as homework (assigned to be done after school hours) is graded in other courses. Other make-up work: Discuss with teacher individually.

### CONCERT ATTIRE: (See Handbook)

### RUBRIC FOR STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

<b>Major grades (tests):</b> <i>Individual Performance Assessments on sight-singing and repertoire. Rubrics are available upon request.</i> 30% of 9-week term grade.	50% per 9-wk term X 2 terms = 100%
<b>Daily grades:</b> <i>Class participation and cooperation.</i> 25% of 9-week term grade.	
<b>Quizzes:</b> <i>Weekly quizzes.</i> 25% of each 9-week term grade.	
<b>Projects and/or singing in scheduled concerts:</b> 20% of 9-week term grade. <b>The director reserves the right to administer midterm exams and final comprehensive exams. Seniors may exempt exams per school policy.</b>	
<b>TOTAL for SEMESTER GRADE =</b>	100%

DIFFERENTIATION: Because Chorus at VCHS is a multi-section class, higher expectations will correlate to more choral experience and greater talent levels.

**DUE DATES and Specific Schedule of Assignments (See: <http://johnfmorganmusic.com/moodle/> login credentials required – parents are welcome to Email the teacher to receive credentials to check their student's assignments)**

**Daily Standards From [GA GPS MHSBC](#):** 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 3a, 3b

**Concerts:** Sept. 25th Booster Concert, and December 4th (Christmas Concert or Madrigal Dinner) LGPE (March) and May (date TBA) Spring Concert. Other Concerts TBA as the opportunities to perform arise.

**Dates subject to change.**

**Quizzes:** *Weekly* dictation-notation-ear-training and/or sight-singing quiz 1a, 3c, 3d, plus quizzes on these subjects and other curricular materials the teacher may add during the term:

Week 1 and 19: Introduction to Choral Music: Choral Score Reading and Basic Notation Review3a
Week 2 and 20: Posture, breathing, dynamics and repeats 1g, 3a
Week 3:and 21 Basic Tempi and diction1g, 3a
Week 4 and 22: Phrases and phrasing 1g, 3a
Week 5 and 23: Textual meaning and interpretation, conducting gestures 1g
Week 6 and 24: Keyboard letters 2a and key signatures, bass clef notation 5a
Week 7 and 25: Simple keyboard songs 2a, 3b
Week 8 and 26: Chords and harmony; minor key signatures. MIDTERM review2a 3b
Week 9 and 27: Scales, arpeggios, and intervals 3b, 3c, 3d
Week 10 and 28: Voice parts and types1f
Week 11 and 29: Vocal anatomy and exploration 4a
Week 12 and 30: Improvisation 4b
Week 13 and 31: Arranging music 5a

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Week 14 and 32: Composing music 5b
Week 15 and 33: Genres, styles, composers, cultures 6a, 9b
Week 16 and 34: No quiz or project due: Catch-up week
Week 17 and 35: Music's Emotional Content 6c
Week 18 and 36: Criteria for Criticism and Audience Etiquette 7a, 7b
Week 36: Final Exam (comprehensive)

### Major Projects:

Week 3 and 21: Vocal Solo (submitted via recording or live) Std. 1 <i>"singing alone" *upper classmen only</i>
Week 8 and 26: Arranging (PROJECT) 5b
Week 10 and 28: Composition (PROJECT) 5a
Week 12 and 30: Genres, styles, composers, cultures (PROJECT) 6a, 9b

**Tests:** Sight-Singing and Repertoire Tests weekly: (Individual Performance Assessments, progressive in difficulty)

**EXAMS:** Pre and Post assessments in addition to Major Concert Grades.

### TUTORING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Morgan will be available from 7:05 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. each morning at JRTMS for tutoring or by prior appointment only after school at VCHS. Please schedule your time at least one day in advance.

**ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** See Mr. Morgan for approval and deadlines to participate.

- All State Chorus membership opportunity. Deadline for school audition, application and fee (\$35 plus cost of audition preparation CD, non-refundable) is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Students must provide their own transportation to auditions. Students must pay their own expenses to participate in All State, including required attire, music purchase, transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals while in Athens, GA for the event.
- District 1 Honor Chorus: Usually held in October. Students chosen by director from class participation and interest. There will be a participation fee of approximately \$35 plus meal and motel costs.
- Literary Meet participation (Boy's and Girl's Solo, Girls' Trio and Boys' Quartet) will be determined at the discretion of the Chorus Director during first semester, although Literary Meet will not be held until second semester.
- Depending on enrollment, talent, and participation, the director may opt for the groups to participate in District 1 Large Group Performance Evaluation or Solo and Ensemble Evaluations.

### PERFORMANCE CALENDAR (Specific Dates on the VCHS website, Fine Arts, Chorus page, calendar)

- See the high school chorus website for current information.
- Students must provide their own rides to and from school for extra-curricular events.
- Booster Concert
- Christmas Concert or Madrigal Dinner
- LGPE (in Savannah)
- Spring Concert
- Other performance opportunities that may occur in the community.

### BASIC CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS: SEE HANDBOOK

1. Abide by all school student guidebook expectations, and choral department handbook and syllabus.
2. Follow instructions and be polite. You represent the school and the chorus at all times.
3. Keep your hands, feet, and inappropriate comments to yourself. Chorus students are not allowed to intimidate others by making judgmental comments about students' vocal tone or ability.
4. Do not play the keyboards without the Director's express permission. Do not play any other instrument in the room that does not belong to you.
5. Raise your hand to be recognized by the Chorus Director before speaking.
6. Be IN THE ROOM with both feet by the time the tardy bell sounds – If you are not in the room, the teacher will count you tardy in PowerSchool. Three instances of tardiness in PowerSchool equal one absence when demerits are tallied. For more than 5 instances of tardiness, see your student handbook. Be in your seat when class begins. This is three (3) minutes after the tardy bell rings. Tardiness has been a problem in the past. Please check the handbook policy for tardiness. Students may not leave the room during the first or last 15 minutes of class.
7. Have all necessary music and a pencil at the start of rehearsal; do not leave your seat during the rehearsal without permission.
8. No food, drink (with the exception of bottled water), candy, sunflower seeds, or gum.

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### **PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS:**

- As Chorus is a voluntary activity, parents should be aware of higher expectations than some other courses require.
- Parents/Guardians of Chorus members should be fully aware of the Chorus performance schedule, available at the school's website.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for student transportation to and from Chorus events. Make sure your child is picked up after Chorus events by a parent/guardian or another responsible party. Rehearsals will begin and end promptly.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for Chorus Uniforms, fees incurred by Chorus students (as listed above) as well as providing meal money for your child for any Chorus trips.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to encourage and endure private practice time at home, especially for those students participating in enrichment opportunities.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to attend performances and applaud vigorously at appropriate times.
- Parents/Guardians should expect to be involved in fundraising activities and double-check any student money and order forms for accuracy.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to get to know the Chorus Director and call him any time with questions regarding the chorus. Office: 912.537-7931 (VCHS)
- Sign and return the MOODLE access and privacy agreement.

***SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER AGREEMENT – Sign and Return***

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**Detach and return with student and parent signatures:**

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*The Vidalia City School System does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, religion, national origin or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment.*

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(printed student name)

Our signatures below certify that we have read and understood expectations and grading for membership in VCHS choral program and agree to participate and act in an appropriate manner during class and chorus events. I agree to perform at scheduled concerts to the best of my ability (with the exception of genuine illness).

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: (name and phone):

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Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_