



Chippewa Valley High School Choirs

18300 Nineteen Mile Rd. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

Dear 8th Grade Choir Students and Parents/Guardians,

January 3, 2023

In an effort to help parents and students make informed choices about participation in the choir program at Chippewa Valley High School, I have detailed some information about our choirs, and also listed some reasons to seriously consider your student's music education. Shortly, your student will be selecting courses for their freshman year at Chippewa. With so many interesting classes and so little time, students cannot take every class they would like, and, unfortunately, must make choices. Enclosed is some information you should consider: A "Top Ten Reasons to Stay in Choir." Very few students at Chippewa will go on to careers in music (although, many colleges offer scholarships for music majors and non-music majors to sing in their choirs...get paid to sing! It is great to start the process in high school to build up skills to hopefully earn scholarship money in college). The benefits of a music education, however, extend to many other areas. Educators have known for years that intelligent students participate in music, but new research is revealing that it is the music that makes the students smart. This fact is evident at CVHS. Former band and choir students have gone on to prestigious universities such as Harvard, Northwestern, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan, to name a few. Many of the top ranked students at CVHS are 4 year choir members. While it is difficult to fit choir into a rigorous college prep schedule, it can be done without sacrificing important academic courses and while still gaining admittance to the college of your choice. Several years ago, the Detroit Free Press published the University of Michigan's in-house admittance form: Achieving a first division rating at a State Solo and Ensemble festival earned more points toward admission than getting a perfect score on the ACT. Universities do recognize the value of participation in choir programs, and in today's era of inflated grades, such participation can help a student stand out. Choir also teaches students important interpersonal skills that will help them land and keep jobs later in life.

Incoming 9th grade students will not have to audition. 9th grade students will either sing in Bel Canto (9th-12th grade beginning tenor/bass voices) or Treble Choir (9th-12th grade beginning treble voices). Not only will we learn how to sing, we will learn professionalism, respect, and discipline. I have even been known to bring in a bunch of neck ties and spend a day learning how to tie a tie. Being a choir member is not only about singing; it is about learning how to do your part to contribute to the team and the team's success. This is a safe environment to learn how to "be people"/positively contributing members of society.

PLEASE NOTE – Students are presented with options for classes they can take in 9th grade and many want to take gym, health, and a language to "get them out of the way". Students have 4 years to take these classes. If you are (or your student is) interested in choir and they do not take it in 9th grade and plan to come back in 10th grade, and their friends take choir in 9th grade, their friends might be moving to an auditioned group for 10th grade, and you/your student who is returning in 10th grade will be in the beginning ensembles, which means they might not be with their friends for a 2nd year in a row.

Another fun thing we wanted to mention – we are currently in the planning stages for a trip to **NEW YORK CITY** for next year (Spring 2024)!

Please feel free to call me at (586) 723-2573 with any questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you all and hope to see your student in the choir room next year!

Sincerely,

James Pecar

Director of Choirs, Chippewa Valley High School

(586) 723-2573 jpecar@cvs.k12.mi.us





Choir Courses at CVHS



Treble Choir

This choir is designed for treble voiced students in grades 9-12. Students explore vocal technique, choral singing tone, sight-reading, and performance techniques. Students are required to participate in all concerts, rehearsals, and festivals. Incoming 9th grade sopranos and altos are to sign up for this class.

Bel Canto

This choir is designed for tenor and bass voiced students in grades 9-12. Students explore vocal technique, choral singing tone, sight-reading, and performance techniques. Students are required to participate in all concerts, rehearsals, and festivals. Incoming 9th grade tenors and basses are to sign up for this class.

Choraliens

This is an advanced Soprano/Alto chorus. Students develop vocal technique, choral tone, sight-reading and performance techniques. Students are required to attend all concerts, rehearsals, festivals, and occasional performances outside of school. Admission by audition only.

Chorale

This is an advanced mixed voice choir. Understanding of vocal technique and choral tone is required. Students must be able to sight-read music. Students are required to attend all concerts, rehearsals, and festivals, as well as occasional performances outside of school. Admission by audition only.

Seniority

Seniority is an auditioned choir of senior Soprano/Alto singers. This group sings the National Anthem at home football games and other events within our school and community including Little Caesars Arena, Ford Field, Jimmy John's Field, and more!

Extra-curricular Ensembles

There are extracurricular vocal ensembles that are offered at CVHS. Depending on the year, these ensembles might be Show Choir, Vocal Jazz, A Cappella, Quartets, Chamber groups, Choral Union, or Advanced Chamber Choir to name a few. These ensembles are announced at the beginning of the semester in which they are offered. Admission by audition only.

Musical

Chippewa presents an annual musical. These musicals are open to all students at CVHS and require an audition. The musical lasts for 8-12 weeks of daily after school rehearsals. This is a wonderful experience spanning all of the grades and disciplines. Students are always upset when it is over because they love it so much!

Choir Trips

We are currently in the planning stages for a trip to New York City for next year (Spring 2024)!

Traveling with a choir is an important part and bonus to a well rounded educational experience! Choirs and Bands at CVHS have traveled to New York, Chicago, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Florida, all over Michigan, and more!

In 2019, we took a trip to Chicago to see Dear Evan Hansen and Hamilton (musicals), explore the city, & have workshops in the Hamilton rehearsal space. We have had choirs selected to perform at prestigious events all over Michigan. We have traveled to Nashville & Memphis - we had a workshop at Belmont University and visited the Country Music Hall of Fame, Grand Ole Opry, toured & performed at Graceland, recorded in Studio B, toured the Gibson factory, & more! The year prior we spent a few days in New York City. We performed on the USS Intrepid with the marching band, toured Radio City, saw an opera at the Metropolitan Opera, & saw The Phantom of the Opera, & more. Trips are open to eligible choir students. Sometimes we have small trips that may only be for one of the choirs; depending on the calendar & opportunity. We are always open to new experiences & do our best to make them happen! A few years ago, Chorale was selected/invited to take a 10-day 5 Country Tour in Europe performing in cathedrals and palaces (unfortunately that trip was cancelled, but it is still an honor to be selected!) We would love to try this again in the future! We work hard to provide awesome opportunities to these students!



Sign up for Remind101 Text alerts for the
2023-2024 School Year!

This is where we will send information about choir and
the musical for next year. You won't want to miss this
information, so sign up right away!

Send a text to 81010 that reads @mrpecar11

Check out our website for information about the CVHS
Choir Department!

www.cvchoirs.weebly.com



Follow Mr. Pecar on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok and Ms. Ferguson (our accompanist) on Twitter, and
our Choir Council on Twitter for updates and information regarding all fun events related to choir! Be the
first to know by following us on our social media platforms! Sign up for notifications!



@cvchoirs



@cvchoirsPF



@CVChoirCouncil

Chippewa Valley High School
Mr. Todd Distelrath, Principal
18300 19 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48308
(586) 723-2300

CHIPPEWA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
2014-2015 Course Requests - Grade 9

SAMPLE

Student Name: _____
 Due Date: _____
 Middle School: _____

DEPARTMENT	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE NAME	*TEACHER SIGNATURE REQUIRED	CREDIT VALUE
ENGLISH	<input type="checkbox"/> 2033/2034	English 9A/9B		.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2035/2036	English Accelerated 9A/9B	Placement based on Application/Essay	.5/.5
MATH	<input type="checkbox"/> 5043/5044	Algebra 1A/1B		.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5056/5057	Algebra Accelerated 1A/1B	*	.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5083/5084	Geometry Accelerated I/II	*	.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5088/5089	Geometry I/II	*	.5/.5
SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> 7063/7064	Biology I/II		.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7083/7084	Honors Biology I/II	Placement based on Application	.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 7033/7034	Physical Science I/II	*	.5/.5
SOCIAL STUDIES	<input type="checkbox"/> 8023/8024	Global History I/II		.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 8035/8036	AP World History I/II	Placement based on Application/Essay	.5/.5

Counselors will review course selections to determine each student's best placement based on standardized test scores, MEAP scores and current grades. Parents will be notified if alternate course is recommended to help your student be more successful.

Credits Must Equal 4.0 = 4.0

WORLD LANGUAGE	<input type="checkbox"/> 4003/4004	French 1A/1B		.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4103/4104	Spanish 1A/1B		.5/.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 4203/4204	German 1A/1B		.5/.5
HEALTH	<input type="checkbox"/> 3283	Health		.5
PHYSICAL EDUCATION <i>(select gender appropriate PE)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 6033	Boys Physical Education I		.5
	<input type="checkbox"/> 6034	Girls Physical Education I		.5
ELECTIVES: NOTE: If opting out of World Language and/or Health/PE in Grade 9, select other electives. Check course descriptions for more information.	<input type="checkbox"/> /			
	<input type="checkbox"/> /			
	<input type="checkbox"/> /			
	<input type="checkbox"/> /			

Can take Choir in 9th grade / all 4 years.

Credits Must Equal 2.0 = 2.0

ALTERNATE ELECTIVES: <i>Select up to 2.00 credits.*</i>	1)	/		
	2)	/		

see next document

FOR ALTERNATE ELECTIVES, IF SELECTING A FULL-YEAR ELECTIVE, ENTER COURSE NUMBERS FOR BOTH SEMESTERS (/) ON LINE 1. IF SELECTING TWO SEMESTER ELECTIVES, PUT THE FIRST COURSE NUMBER ON LINE 1, THE SECOND COURSE NUMBER ON LINE 2.

CHOOSE YOUR ALTERNATES WISELY AS THESE CHOICES MAY BE USED IF NECESSARY DUE TO INSUFFICIENT ENROLLMENT OF A COURSE OR A SCHEDULING CONFLICT.

I have reviewed and approve my student's course requests for next school year.

• Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

• Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

See full course descriptions in our course book available on the Chippewa Valley High School website at:
<http://www.cvs.k12.mi.us/cvhs/scheduling>

CLASS OF 2017 - CVHS FOUR YEAR PLAN OF STUDY - COLLEGE PREP WITH CHOIR

9th GRADE		
1st SEMESTER		2nd SEMESTER
1 English 9	1	English 9
2 Algebra 1	2	Algebra 1
3 Biology	3	Biology
4 Global History	4	Global History
5 Phys.Ed. I	5	Health
6 Choir(fine arts)	6	Choir(fine arts)

11th GRADE		
1st SEMESTER		2nd SEMESTER
1 English 11	1	English 11
2 Algebra 2	2	Algebra 2
3 Physics	3	Physics
4 Economics	4	Phys.Ed. II* or Elective
5 Language II	5	Language II
6 Choir	6	Choir

10th GRADE		
1st SEMESTER		2nd SEMESTER
1 English 10	1	English 10
2 Geometry	2	Geometry
3 Chem. or Con. Phys.	3	Chem. or Con. Phys.
4 US History	4	US History
5 Language I	5	Language I
6 Choir	6	Choir

12th GRADE		
1st SEMESTER		2nd SEMESTER
1 English 12	1	English 12
2 Math Elective	2	Math Elective
3 Government	3	Elective
4 Choir	4	Choir
5 Language III or Elective	5	Language III or Elective
6 Elective	6	Elective

- 1.) Courses in Bold Type indicate CVHS Graduation Requirements
- 2.) Phys.Ed. II may be taken in place of any elective after freshman year.

10 REASONS TO STAY IN CHOIR

"While most of us will never sing like Celine Dion, an education in the arts can help all of us reach our individual dreams. Research now shows that music education not only lifts our children's hearts, but also dramatically increases abstract reasoning, spatial skills, and scores on math and verbal exams. When it comes time to learn and imagine, the arts must be just as central to our children's education as the three R's."

-Hillary Rodam Clinton, former First Lady, U.S. Senator & Secretary of State

- 1.) A ten-year study indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socio-economic background.
- Dr. James Catterall, UCLA.
- 2.) Students who are rhythmically skilled also tend to better plan, sequence, and coordinate actions in their daily lives.
- "Cassily Column," TCAMS Professional Resource Center, 2000.
- 3.) Students who can perform complex rhythms can also make faster and more precise corrections in many academic and physical situations, according to the Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills.
- Rhythm seen as the key to music's evolutionary role in human intellectual development, Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills, 2000.
- 4.) On the 1999 SAT, music students continued to outperform their non-arts peers, scoring 61 points higher on the verbal portion and 42 points higher on the math portion of the exam.
- Steven Demorest, "Does Music Make You Smarter?," Music Educators Journal, September, 2000.
- 5.) Students who participate in All-State ensembles consistently score over 200 points higher on the SAT than non-music students. This figure indicates that students can pursue excellence in music while also excelling academically.
- Texas Music Educators Association, 1988-1996.

- 6.) College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.
 - Carl Hartman, "Arts May Improve Students' Grades," The Associated Press, October 2000.

- 7.) A 2000 Georgia Tech study indicates that a student who participates in at least one college elective music course is 4.5 times more likely to stay in college than the general student population.
 - Dr. Denise C. Gardner, Effects of Music Courses on Retention, Georgia Tech, 2000.

- 8.) Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that 66% of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted.
 - "The Case for Music in the Schools," Phi Delta Kappan, 1994.

- 9.) Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs among any group in our society.
 - H. Con. Res 266, United States Senate, 2000, June 2000.

- 10.) Nine out of ten adults and teenagers who play instruments agree that music making brings their family closer together.
 - Music Making and Our Schools, American Music Conference, 2000.

Much attention is paid in schools today to the education of the mind. Students spend hours learning history, math and science - the facts of our world, while ignoring art, music and literature - the substance of our world. The education of the soul. How much better a place the world would be if we all learned to appreciate the beauty of a Monet painting, a Beethoven symphony or a Robert Frost poem. Avail yourselves of a complete education - participate in the arts.