PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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Portland Middle School Choral Programs-

Samuel Tucker, Choral Director-[stucker@portlandct.us](mailto:stucker@portlandct.us)

Music Department Website: [www.pssmusic.weebly.com](http://www.pssmusic.weebly.com)

Follow Portland Chorus on Twitter: @PSSChorus, A Cappella: @PHSCTACappella, Band: @PortlandHSBand

**A Cappella Singers - Advanced Choral Group**

Course Description, Policies, Procedures, and Requirements

**Core Values and Beliefs:**

-Demonstrate growth and proficiency in critical thinking and creative problem solving

-Utilize technology to obtain, process, and evaluate information

-Communicate expressively through oral, written, visual, artistic, and technical modes of expression

-Work cooperatively with others, recognize individual differences, and respect the rights of others

-Exhibit an understanding of the value of physical fitness and healthy lifestyle choices

-Demonstrate responsibility in self-discipline, self-reliance, time management, and personal behavior

-Demonstrate an understanding of the value of leadership and service to the school and community

-Demonstrate an understanding of cultural and political factors necessary for active citizenship

**Course Description:**

A Cappella is the elite choir of the Portland Public Schools, and as such, is held to the highest standards. **This audition-only course meets at 7 am sharp (before school),** and a commitment to this schedule is an essential part of the class. Members have been selected based on the audition process as well as other criteria, such as the blend and balance of the group. The commitment for this course is for a full year. The selection of music will be diverse, so that the participating musicians will become well versed and well rounded in their performance repertoire. This is a performance-based class.  Participation in dress rehearsals and concerts outside of regular class hours is required.

**Materials Needed:**

-**Black 1” 3-ring binder**, with inside pockets

-**Pencil** – you must have a pencil that “lives” in your choral folder

-**A Cappella “uniform”** – Concert dress/sash for women, concert tuxedo pants/shirt/vest/tie for men.

(Financial assistance available- Please see Mr. Tucker for more info.)

-**Smartmusic** (optional)- Student subscriptions are $40/yr. Download at <http://www.smartmusic.com/>

***Please Note:*** *Students will be charged for music replacement. Please write on music in* ***pencil*** *only.*

**Grading Procedures:**

Each student will be graded in the following areas:

* **Concert Attendance (CA) 24%:** Arrive ON TIME with correct concert dress ready to perform!
* **Rehearsal Technique (RT) 32%:** includes ARRIVING ON TIME, following instructions and rehearsal procedures, being “on task”, taking notes, marking music, maintaining proper singing posture, maintaining a positive attitude, working hard,.
* **Sight-Singing (SS) 12%:** singing correct pitches and rhythms of a new song or musical exercise, solfege, etc…Smart music will be used for SS assessment throughout the year.
* **Theory and Aural Skills (TAS) 12%:** Written theory and aural skills assignments/sub work.
* **Mid-Term and Final 20%-**In accordance with PHS policy.

**Dress Rehearsal and Performance Participation:**

Chorus is a performance-based class and all performances are mandatory. Current administrative policy states that since performing arts classes (chorus, band, drama) are academic classes and performances are part of the grading system, they must take priority over non-academic activities when schedule conflicts arise. Please mark your calendar now and plan accordingly! It is the student’s responsibility to inform coaches of required chorus dates in advance. Any student needing assistance should see Mr. Tucker AT LEAST TWO WEEKS prior to the event. All excused absences (family emergency, illness, etc…) must be ok’d by me ASAP and must be accompanied by a note from a parent/guardian. An alternative assignment will be provided.

**Fundraising:**

Students will be given opportunities to participate in candle sales, pie sales, and other fundraising activities. Participation is optional, but students will not be eligible for financial assistance if they do not participate in the fundraising activities.

**Classroom Rules:**

Students are responsible for the PMS student handbook rules at all times, as well as:

1. Come to class ON TIME and ready to sing, find your folder, and take your seat.
2. NO FOOD OR DRINK allowed in the chorus room!!!
3. Please do not enter the chorus office without my permission.
4. Please respect the music room and its contents. Do not touch the piano, stereo, TV, or classroom computers without specific permission.
5. Please respect each other. Teasing, bullying, and other acts of meanness will not be tolerated, and will be reported to administration when appropriate.
6. Raise your hand if you want to be heard! Otherwise, there is NO TALKING. Especially in larger ensembles, this will help us stay on task.
7. PUT YOUR FOLDER AWAY in the correct spot before leaving the room!

**Discipline Procedures (in addition to loss of points/grade reduction at all levels):**

* 1st offense - verbal warning
* 2nd offense - student/teacher conference, parent contact
* 3rd offense - after school detention, parent contact, referral to admin., loss of credit/removal from A Cappella

STUDENT LAST NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_FIRST NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return this entire form to Mr. Tucker.

**STUDENT:**

I understand it is a privilege to be in A Cappella, and that I am required to be at school ready to rehearse at 7 am every Monday through Friday. I understand that A Cappella is a performance based class. I also understand that the nature of this course requires me to participate in dress rehearsals and concerts outside of regular class hours. I accept responsibility for arranging my schedule so as not to conflict with any performance dates and they are mandatory. **I have read and marked all concert dates on a calendar**. I further understand that I cannot pass A Cappella without attending all required performances.

I have read and understand the course requirements and grading procedures. I know that my grade will not be based on an inherent musical talent, but in the work I do everyday in class.

I know that the only excuse for missing a rehearsal is a doctor’s excused illness. Student absences for vacation are considered unauthorized in accordance with the B.O.E. I understand that, if at all possible, it is my responsibility to communicate with Mr. Tucker about the problem before the rehearsal. It is also my responsibility to obtain the make-up assignment when an absence is excused.

Student Name (print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Year\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Voice Part\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ensemble\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Student Contact Information for Class Delay or Cancellation (email):

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Questions or comments can be directed to Mr. Tucker at [stucker@portlandct.us](mailto:stucker@portlandct.us)