

**2023-2024**  
**EPCHS**  
**Vocal Music Handbook**

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## ***East Peoria Non-Discrimination Statement***

***It is the policy of the EPCHS District 309 not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, order of protection status, disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, or unfavorable discharge from military service in its educational programs and its employment practices.***

## Chorale Schedule

2023-2024

**Rehearsals Monday's:** 6:15pm-8:15pm

**No Rehearsals/School:** When there is no school, we will not meet (with the exception of Jan 15)

Monday, Sept 4	Labor Day
Monday, Dec 25	Winter Break
Monday, Jan 1	Winter Break
Monday, Jan 15	Martin Luther King's Birthday
Monday, Feb 19	Presidents' Day
Monday, March 25	Spring Break
Monday, April 1	Spring Break

### Dates

Mon, Aug 7	Chorale Bootcamp 1pm-4pm
Mon, Aug 14	Monday Night Rehearsals begin (6:15pm-8:15pm)
Thurs, Sept 28	Fall Concert EPCHS 7pm <u>Madrigal Show Week (Rehearsal all week)</u> <i>1pm-4pm Dress Rehearsal</i>
<i>Sun, Nov 26</i>	<i>Night Rehearsals</i>
<i>Monday-Thursday</i>	<i>Madrigal Dinner</i>
<i>Friday, Dec 1st</i>	<i>Madrigal Dinner</i>
<i>Sat, Dec 2nd</i>	<i>Madrigal Desert</i>
<i>Sun, Dec 3rd</i>	<i>Caroling: St. Peter's Church 12pm (Lunch Provided)</i>
Thurs, Dec 7	<i>Caroling: East Peoria United Church 1pm</i>
Thur, Dec 14	Winter Concert EPCHS 7pm
Monday, Jan 15	Chorale Rehearsal - No school this day
Monday, Feb 5	Mid-Illini Choral Festival 7pm
Thurs, April 25	Spring Concert/Senior Reconciliation EPCHS 7pm
<b>Sat, May 4</b>	<b>Six Flags Chicago Competition (ALL DAY)</b>
Sun, May 19	Graduation 2pm
Mon, May 20	Chorale Auditions

### Auditioned/Student Selected Events

Tues, <b>Sept 19</b>	District IV Workshop for ILMEA Auditions (Illinois College)
Sun-Mon, Sept 24-25	Milikin Vocal Festival
Mon, Oct 9	District IV ILMEA All-State Auditions
Friday, Oct 13	Bradley Honor Choir
Sat, Nov 4	All-District Festival ILMEA
Thurs, Feb 22	Student Cabaret Dress Rehearsal
Frid, Feb 23	Student Cabaret
Sat, March 2	ISHA Solo Ensemble

**Enriched Choir** (Weighted 5.0) Chorale students are eligible to select chorus for enriched credit and will be treated as an independent study with chorus director approval. Must be enrolled in chorus and in good standing. Students taking enriched choir will be expected to participate in two extra events and complete a choir service project per semester. Possible options include: participating in Chorale/Caroling, auditioning for ILMEA, competing at competition, and singing at graduation.

### **Selection of Choral Literature**

Students participating in courses offered by the Vocal Music Department at EPCHS will study and perform a wide variety of choral literature. Based on the following criteria, the director determines the selection of literature:

- A. The literature should be of appropriate musical material to aid the physical development and function of the vocal mechanism.
- B. The literature will include representation from the historical periods of Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Twentieth Century.
- C. The literature will be written by composers of historical significance or those presenting valid alternative programming opportunities.
- D. The literature will represent a wide variety of text sources and types.

### **Performance Policy**

Participation in public performance is mandatory. Any anticipated absence must be excused by the Director at least two days prior to the performance date. All absences will be reflected in grading assessments. In the event a conflict should arise between activities within the school, an arrangement agreeable to all parties will be worked out in consultation with the student, activity sponsors involved, the principal, and the parent/guardian.

Students will not be allowed to do makeup work for unapproved absence from performances and presentations.

### **Discipline, Expectations, and Consequences**

There is a virtual copy of the student handbook online describing the discipline policy of EPCHS. This handbook clearly defines breaches of discipline and outlines the administrative rules and procedures for handling student discipline. All students and parents should be aware of the contents of this policy. The discipline policy applies to students while on school premises, while on school-owned and operated grounds. It is expected that East Peoria Community School students who participate in vocal music activities will represent themselves and the school in an appropriate and responsible manner. Upon any breach of discipline by a vocal music student, a conference will be held with the student, vocal music director, parents, and principal. Sanctions will be determined at that time and may include out of school or in-school suspension.

## **Academic Evaluations**

Choral activities seek to provide EPCHS students with an appreciation of various types of music, attitudes about music as it relates to their lives, an understanding of basic musical concepts, and performance, and listening skills. Student grades will be determined using the following formula:

- Daily Rehearsal Preparation and Participation: 45 %
- Performances: 45%
- Final: 10%

Student assessment is based on their daily participation, consistent application of proper singing technique, responsible membership etiquette in rehearsal and performance, and satisfactory completion of written work.

**IN ADDITION TO WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS, STUDENTS IN ALL ENSEMBLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY OF THEIR LITERATURE BY PERFORMING INDIVIDUALLY OR IN SMALL ENSEMBLES FOR ACADEMIC EVALUATION. SUCH EVALUATION WILL BE CONSIDERED A TEST GRADE AND WILL BE AVERAGED INTO THE DAILY PARTICIPATION GRADE.**

## **Daily Rehearsal Expectations**

The vocal music department is proud of the outstanding accomplishments of the choirs and individual members of the program. The continued success of the ensembles depend upon the daily contribution of each member. Rehearsal time is precious and must not be wasted. Each individual must approach every rehearsal with high expectations and a willingness to work toward the fulfillment and realization of those expectations.

Students will be expected to:

1. Be in their seats with their folder and all necessary materials at the bell. Rehearsals end when the Director gives a dismissal.
2. Bring Materials to every rehearsal
  - a. Pencil
  - b. 1 inch 3 ring binder
3. Focus all mental energy on the conductor and the literature.
  - a. *Stand when your section and full group is rehearsing*
  - b. ***no talking during rehearsals***
4. Focus all their physical energy on the correct application of proper singing technique
  - a. Sit tall; Breathe Deep, Sing with Space
5. Demonstrate respect for the rehearsal facility and equipment
  - a. No playing the piano prior/after rehearsals
  - b. Keep the room and equipment clean and orderly
6. Leave cell phones, food, pop, gum, and candy out of the rehearsal room
  - a. Choirs are working and learning organizations with high expectations and goals. Students are expected to aid in this learning process. Appropriate daily participation is with a major percentage of your grade.

### **Attendance Policy**

Daily attendance is extremely important. Students will be required to make up absences from scheduled rehearsals. Makeup procedures will be in accordance with those established in the EPCHS Student Handbook. Students will be allowed two school days for make-up work for each school day missed. Loss of credit may result if makeup work is not completed promptly. It is the student's responsibility to arrange make-up sessions.

### **Tardiness**

You will be considered tardy if not in your place with materials when class begins at the appointed start time. Rehearsals begin with the important departmental announcement and vocal warm-ups designed to prepare the signing mechanism. It is imperative that all students participate in these opening rehearsal procedures. *Early is on time, on time is late.*

### **Homework**

Students are expected to know the material covered in class. On occasion it will be necessary to take music home for additional practice and memorization. Music will be memorized for performances. Assignments may be made to watch choral performances, attend concerts, or listen to recordings outside of class. In addition, students will be given written assignments and it is imperative that assignments be completed in a timely and thorough manner.

## **Uniform Requirements**

- *Curricular* Choir: Concert Black (black shoes, socks, tights/leggings, etc)
- *Chorale*:
  - Chorale Dress
  - Black button up dress shirt, pants, shoes, and socks along with maroon chorale tie

Special accessories may be allowed only by the director depending on the concert and venue.

Failure to follow the dress code for concerts and any performances will be treated as an unexcused absence from performance. Please make arrangements for appropriate concert attire early in the semester. Please note that some items are available to borrow but are limited. If any assistance is needed please contact Ms. Keeney immediately.

## **ILMEA**

Students will be given the opportunity to audition for ILMEA choral festivals in the fall. Auditions are historically on Columbus day. Students will be selected on the quality of their audition and participate with other students from other schools in the area. ILMEA all-state and Festival participation gives students the opportunity to work with guest conductors in large ensemble situations, an opportunity to sing in master class settings, and to visit various campuses. Festival information will be posted and/or announced in the choral room.