

St. Veronica Vocal Ensemble - 2020/2021

(during COVID-19)

Director: Mr. Adam Gardner

Associate Director: Mrs. Monica Yates

It is imperative that students have access to an equitable delivery of arts education that includes dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts that supports their educational, social, and emotional well-being, taught by certified professional arts educators in partnership with community arts providers.

-This statement of support for arts education has been reviewed and endorsed by the National Association for Music Education and multiple other national organizations that support the arts.

More information can be found here:

(https://nafme.org/wp-content/files/2020/05/Arts_Education_Is_Essential-unified-statement-3.pdf)

I believe that music education is vital to the students' well-being - now more than ever. While there are many challenges facing music education during this pandemic, a lot of research has been collected over the last several months to find safe ways to hold music rehearsals to benefit the social, emotional, and musical development of all students. The procedures that I am implementing for Vocal Ensemble come from an International Performing Art Aerosol Study out of the University of Colorado which became the recommendations from Gov. DeWine in restarting school music rehearsals.

Who Can Join?

The Vocal Ensemble (VE) is a school choir that is open to any student at St. Veronica in grades 5-8. The chorus will rehearse regularly throughout the year. This packet has been created to provide the information needed for parents and students interested in joining the Vocal Ensemble.

Rehearsals

The Vocal Ensemble will rehearse after school on Mondays from **3:15-4:30** outside whenever possible. Students can be picked up after rehearsal in the rear parking lot. Our first rehearsal is on Monday, October 5, 2020. Please keep a close watch on your primary email for changes and updates to the rehearsal schedule.

Health/Safety Precautions

- Rehearsals will take place outdoors whenever possible. Students will maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet (or more if space allows) throughout rehearsal.
- All students and directors must wear a mask outdoors/indoors while singing.
- Every 30 minutes of playing during rehearsals will be followed up by a 5-minute break to allow adequate time for aerosol droplets to disperse.
- If the weather forces us to rehearse indoors, we will utilize the space of the gym. Singing indoors will only happen minimally, with the majority of the time working on humming melodies/harmonies, clapping rhythms, discussing song elements and vocal elements of each piece.
- If St. Veronica School moves to a hybrid learning model (2 days in school, 3 days online) OR a 100% online learning model, Vocal Ensemble will move to weekly online rehearsals on Zoom; similar to how we worked classes this summer. Smaller group rehearsals may be implemented for more individualized instruction. A schedule will be sent out only if this is needed. We will resume in-person rehearsals once the school resumes in-person learning 5 days/week.
- There will be no live Christmas concert. However, a pre-recorded/virtual concert will be made and sent out to families in December. We will reassess things after the new year to determine the best course of action for spring.

Fees

There is a **one-time fee for \$100** to join the Vocal Ensemble. This money covers their participation in the VE for the whole school year and is due when you turn in this permission form. If you are unable to afford the cost to have your child participate in the VE, please contact Mr. Gardner and special arrangements can be made.

All money turned in is non-refundable.

VE Rules

Since we are only able to rehearse once a week, it is very important that everyone is present and remains focused at each rehearsal. Attendance, therefore, is critical, but I understand that many students are busy with schoolwork and other extra-curricular activities. If you are unable to make a rehearsal, please bring in a note from a parent and give it to Mr. Gardner as soon as possible. If a student does not bring in a note, it will count as an unexcused absence. If the student has three or more unexcused absences, they may be asked to leave the Vocal Ensemble. Also, please note that students who miss rehearsals may miss opportunities for performance solos or to be included on any recordings made.

It is also important that each student behaves well and in a manner that keeps everyone properly focused during rehearsals. If we find that a student is behaving in a manner deemed inappropriate, we will contact a parent regarding the matter. If this continues, the student will be asked to leave the Vocal Ensemble.

Students may bring a snack for before or after rehearsal. Students are responsible for cleaning up their garbage when finished with their snacks. Students are not to share snacks or drinks with any other student for any reason.

Students are highly encouraged to bring a bottle of water to rehearsal.

PERFORMANCES

We will not be having any live performances between now and Christmas. However, we will pre-record rehearsals and edit things together to present a virtual Christmas concert that you can share with family and friends. We will reevaluate things in January and beyond to see if/when we will be able to have any performances or attend any competitions in the spring.

DRESS CODES

Since we have no live performances on the schedule, we will not have any official dress code for the time being. If things change after Christmas, students might be required to purchase a VE music polo shirt if they do not already have one.

Permission Slip - Return to Mr. Gardner by Wednesday, September 30, 2020

I have read all of the information and give permission for my child to be in the Vocal Ensemble. I also understand that St. Veronica School may record (video and/or audio) the Vocal Ensemble for the purpose of virtual concert, potential radio contest, etc. I give St. Veronica School permission to use the recordings of my child.

This signed permission form will also serve as your note to the school office that your child will be staying after school every Monday that we have VE rehearsal. You will only need to send a note in on Mondays if your child is unable to stay for VE rehearsal in order to let the office know how they are getting home.

Student's Name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Parent's Primary Email Address:

*An email chain will be used to inform parents and guardians of any changes to the VE rehearsal or performance schedule. It will also be used to remind family and friends of upcoming events in the Vocal Ensemble.

***Please enclose your registration fee of \$100 to register for Vocal Ensemble. Checks should be made payable to St. Veronica School.**

****Just a reminder - rehearsals begin on Monday, October 3 and will end at 4:30PM. Please pick up your child in the back of school.****
