



# Choral Handbook

## 2021-2022

**Mr. Tyler Tvrdy**

The objectives for the choral program are to perform music with consistent superior performance qualities, to create a community culture of exceptional character through creating strong leaders in the classroom and to foster a lifelong love for music. Through participation in this program, students will develop many personal attributes, such as independent musicianship and artistry, a strong and efficient work ethic, self-confidence, and integrity. By participating in music, students will broaden their horizons socially, historically, and culturally. Each member will achieve his or her own personal musical goals within a supportive, educational, and professional environment.

Music State Standards can be accessed at: [www.ade.state.az.us/standards/arts](http://www.ade.state.az.us/standards/arts).

### ***CHORAL PHILOSOPHIES***

1. Do the right thing because it is the right thing to do!
2. Leave your drama at the door.
3. You won't know unless you try!
4. Communicate effectively to avoid conflict.
5. Sing loud and proud!
6. Sing with confidence!
7. It's okay if you make a mistake, we learn from our mistakes.

This document serves as a syllabus for the choral program. It outlines the rules, procedures, and expectations for our choir room to foster a safe, positive, consistent, and supportive learning environment. This framework may be altered as necessary.

### ***CLASSROOM POLICIES, EXPECTATIONS, AND REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE***

1. Students are expected to enter the rehearsal space in a quiet and orderly fashion.
2. Collect the daily materials from the back counter (highlighter, pencil, and music folder.)
3. Place belongings on the risers on the side of the classroom.
4. Go to your assigned spot once you've received your materials.
5. Check the board for directions and prepare as Mr. Tvrdy takes attendance.

6. Students are expected to remain quiet, attentive, and actively participating in rehearsals.
7. Rehearsal will start promptly and Mr. Tvrdy will ensure students have adequate time to reach their next class.
8. No food, drinks, or gum are allowed in the music room. Only water bottles will be permitted.
9. Students will actively participate in daily choral activities.

### ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

1. Perform music from a variety of genres (classical, folk, pop, etc.)
2. Perform music using healthy vocal technique and correct singing postures.
3. Participate in a variety of on- and off-campus performances throughout the year.
4. Demonstrate individual and group learning techniques.
5. Develop a strong sense of reliability and responsibility.

### ***REQUIRED MATERIALS***

Students are expected to have their choir music folder, pencil, and highlighter for every rehearsal.

### ***PERFORMANCES***

1. All performances are mandatory for each ensemble. Evening and during the school day performances will both receive summative grades.
  - a. Grades 1-4: 4 point summative
  - b. Grades 6-8: 8 point summative
2. Choirs that meet before school will not be graded, but performances will be mandatory to continue future participation in the choirs.

### ***ATTENDANCE***

1. Calendar
  - a. All events will be posted in the choir/music room (923) and on Mr. Tvrdy's website.
2. Concerts and Festivals
  - a. All students are required to attend concerts and festivals for their grade level ensembles.
  - b. All events are posted on Mr. Tvrdy's website and in the choir/music room (923).
  - c. Students are expected to arrive at the designated call time in proper concert attire.
  - d. Students are required to attend each concert in its entirety.
3. Before School Choirs
  - a. Grades 3-5 choir will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15-8:00 AM.
  - b. Grades 6-8 choir will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:15-8:00 AM.

- c. Attendance at morning rehearsals is important to ensure students are prepared for their performances. If students miss more than three rehearsals each semester, they will not be eligible to perform in the concert.

## **CONCERTS**

As this is a performance-based course, each ensemble (grades 6-8) will have at least one concert per semester. The concert dates listed below are on our school calendar and on Mr. Tvrdy's website.

### Norterra Canyon Choirs Concert Dates

- Winter Concert - Thursday, December 9, 2021 @ 6:30 PM at Norterra Canyon MPR
- Spring Concert - Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 6:30 PM at Norterra Canyon MPR

### Other Choir Event Dates

- Choir Pre-Assessment (Grades 7-8) - Tuesday, October 5, 2021 @ Norterra Canyon MPR
- Choir Post-Assessment (Grades 7-8) - Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ Boulder Creek
- Honor Choir - February TBD, 2022 @ Sandra Day O'Connor

Please mark these dates on your calendar, as these dates will most likely not be changed. If such an event occurs, notification will be provided well in advance. Further concert details will be discussed during rehearsals as well as sent to parents and guardians of these students through email. Parents, family, neighbors and friends are highly encouraged to attend our concerts, as the students have spent many months preparing to perform!

Each group is expected to **arrive 30 minutes prior** to the concert times listed above.

Attendance to each concert is mandatory and factors significantly into the semester's final grade. If a student has a personal emergency conflicting with our performances, please contact me directly as soon as possible!

## **CONCERT ATTIRE**

For each concert, students will be expected to wear their concert attire:

- Norterra Canyon music polo
- Black pants or slacks, no holes
- Black closed-toe shoes with black socks

Not Allowed:

- High-heels or sandals
- No leggings
- No gym shoes or skate shoes
- No dresses or skirts

Long hair that hangs in front of the face or over the eyes must be combed, tied, or pinned back.

### **TEACHER CONTACT**

If you need to get in contact with me for any reason, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to help! I am most accessible via email at [tyler.tvrdy@dvusd.org](mailto:tyler.tvrdy@dvusd.org). I do my best to update my school website calendar whenever a new event is added, so please be sure to check there for any immediate scheduling questions you may have.

### **HELPING OUR PROGRAM GROW**

Donations are always welcome to help our students be successful in the classroom and at performances. Feel free to email me with any questions or if you would like to help out.

- Classroom Materials
  - Tissues, hand sanitizer, pencils, highlighters, black binders and black folders
- Concert Attire
  - Norterra Canyon music polo
  - Black pants or slacks, no holes
  - Black closed-toe shoes
  - Black socks

### **CONCLUSION**

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your students this academic year! I look forward to working together to make this year as educationally and musically enriching for your students as possible.

I appreciate you taking the time to read the Norterra Canyon Choir Handbook. As we are a team working together to achieve your student's success, open communication is extremely important! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Mr. Tyler Tvrdy*

Choir and General Music Teacher  
Norterra Canyon School  
IB World School #060486  
2200 W Maya Way  
Phoenix, AZ 85085  
[tyler.tvrdy@dvusd.org](mailto:tyler.tvrdy@dvusd.org)

