

August 12, 2014

Dear FCHS Choir Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! I would like to congratulate you on becoming a member of the FCHS Choir Program. Your student is now an important part of what has been recognized as one of the finest programs in the state. I hope both you and your student enjoy being a part of this organization, which continues to build a tradition of superior performance and musical excellence.

On the back of this letter, I have provided you with a copy of the choral department calendar so that you can put our concert dates on your calendar ASAP. Please know that all students are expected to be at our performances. A concert in choir is the equivalent to taking a final in another class. Encourage your student to make sure that if they work, that they have asked their boss to be excused from work on the concert day. If, for instance, your child is home with a fever or is throwing up, please send me an email or leave a voice message on my phone and they will be excused from performing that night.

The full choral department handbook can be found at the website listed at the bottom of this page. Please become thoroughly acquainted with the website, as it is where I will post all of information you need throughout the year. The handbook serves as an instruction manual for all things related to the FCHS choral department. It also talks about what is expected, both of your students and of me, in regards to choir this year. Please take the time to read this document thoroughly so that we all are on the same page. As soon as you and your student have read the handbook, please sign the contract attached to this packet.

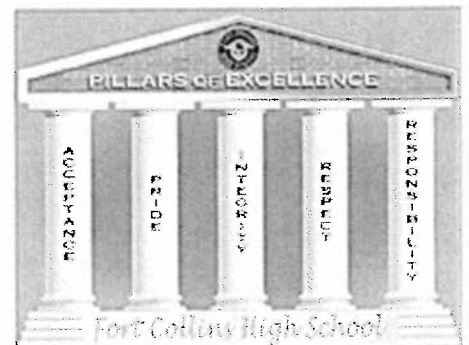
I believe our choir program offers many things to each individual student: an opportunity to demonstrate and build his/her musical ability, an opportunity to develop leadership skills, an opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility, an opportunity to make new friends, an opportunity to represent Fort Collins High School to the community and state, and an opportunity to discover the joys of performing both as a soloist and with an ensemble.

I am sincerely looking forward to working with each one of your students this year. Please feel free to contact me at any point in the year if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin D. Miles
FCHS Director of Choirs
ksilar@psdschools.org
Office Phone: (970) 488-8240

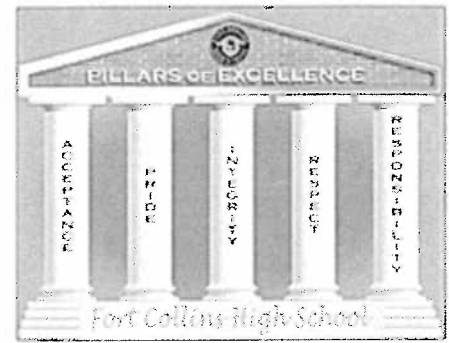
Choral Department Webpage: www.fchschoirs.weebly.com



FCHS CHOIR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Performing</u>	
8/22	Friday	3:15 PM	Choral Contracts Due	To Mrs. Miles	All Choirs
8/20-21	Wed-Thurs	during class	Concert Attire Exchange	Music Wing	All Choirs
8/28	Thursday	3:00-5:00 PM	<i>Spelling Bee</i> Auditions	Black Box	auditioning students
9/5	Friday	3:15 PM	Tri-M Applications Due	To Mr. Hermanson	
9/11	Thursday	7:00 PM	Tri-M Induction Ceremony	Large Rehearsal Room	Accepted Students
9/24	Wednesday	3:15 PM	Concert Attire \$\$ Due	To Mrs. Miles	All music students
9/22	Monday	3:15 PM	All-State Jazz Auditions Due	To Mrs. Miles	Juniors/Seniors
9/24	Wednesday	All Day	CSU Choral Leadership Day	CSU Music Building	A Cap & CB
10/3-4	Fri-Sat	All Day	All-State Choir Auditions	FCHS Music Wing	Juniors/Seniors
10/7	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Fall Choir Concert	McNeal Auditorium	All Choirs
10/17	Friday	12:30 PM	FCHS 125 th Anniversary Concert	McNeal Auditorium	A Cappella
10/23-25	Thurs-Sat	7:00 PM	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	Black Box Theater	selected students
10/28	Thursday	7:00 PM	Fall Jazz Concert	McNeal Auditorium	Tower Singers
11/6	Thursday	All Day	Metro State Choral Festival	Metro State College	A Cap/Canta Bella
11/15	Saturday	5:00-8:00 PM	Purple & Gold Dinner/Fundraiser	Small Gym	Tower Singers
12/15	Monday	7:00 PM	Holiday Gift Concert	McNeal Auditorium	All Choirs
1/22	Thursday	7:00 PM	Pre-CMEA Concert	McNeal Auditorium	Canta Bella
1/28-31	Wed-Sat	All Day	CMEA Convention	Broadmoor – CO Springs	Canta Bella
2/5-7	Thurs-Sat	All Day	Colorado All-State Choir	Downtown Denver	selected singers
2/10	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Middle School Choral Invite	McNeal Auditorium	All Choirs
3/5-7	Thurs-Sat	7:00 PM	Spring Musical TBA	McNeal Auditorium	selected singers
3/12	Thursday	7:00 PM	Pre-Europe Concert	McNeal Auditorium	travelling students
3/13-22	Fri-Sun	All Day	Europe Trip	Europe	travelling students
4/2	Thursday	7:00 PM	Pre-CHSAA Concert	McNeal Auditorium	Signori & Anima
4/6	Monday	7:00 PM	Spring Choir Concert	First Presbyterian Church	A Cap/CB/Cansone
4/16	Thursday	7:00 PM	Spring Jazz Concert	Large Reh. Room	Tower Singers
4/16	Thursday	3:00-4:00 PM	Graduation Music Auditions	Large Reh. Room	Seniors
5/4	Monday	6:30 PM	Academic Awards Night	McNeal Auditorium	A Cappella
5/12	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Senior Recital	Large Reh. Room	Seniors
5/13	Wednesday	7:00 AM	Scholarship Breakfast	Small Gym	A Cappella
5/14	Thursday	5:30-7:30 PM	POPs Music Department BBQ	FCHS Commons	All Choirs
5/18	Monday	7:00 PM	End-of-the-Year Concert	McNeal Auditorium	Cansone/Signori/Anima
5/19	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Honors Concert	McNeal Auditorium	A Cap/Canta Bella
5/21	Thursday	6:30 PM	Baccalaureate	Small Gym	Volunteers
5/22	Friday	11:00 AM	Graduation Practice	Moby Gym - CSU	All Choirs
5/23	Saturday	1:00 PM	Graduation	Moby Gym – CSU	All Choirs

FORT COLLINS HIGH SCHOOL
Cansone (Mixed Choir)
Course Number: 2740Y
Instructor: Kaitlin Miles
488-8240 – ksilar@psdschools.org



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Available to all men and women by audition only. Membership in this ensemble will include study in music theory, sight-singing and ear-training. This ensemble performs a variety of musical styles and explores repertoire available for SATB voices. Members in this ensemble will perform in the school, the community and at state functions.

OBJECTIVES:

Instruction in this course will focus on the following teaching and learning objectives:

- Developing correct vocal techniques
- Developing fundamental music skills in notation and sight-singing
- Recognizing musical elements and demonstrate expressive qualities in varying styles of choral music
- Contributing to the blend, balance, and quality of the ensemble by developing the ability to sing a part confidently
- Developing performance confidence
- Gaining opportunities for the enjoyment of music through active participation
- Developing self-discipline by functioning as a responsible member of the ensemble
- Developing personal character traits of leadership, poise, and dependability as well as provide an avenue for self-expression
- Developing a desire to continue musical experiences

ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS:

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to describe, define, and vocally demonstrate:

1. Intermediate Rhythmic Patterns
2. Intermediate Harmony - notes, keys, intervals/ear training, intonation, scales
3. Intermediate Nomenclature - musical terms, symbols, form
4. Technique - healthy vocal production
5. Musicality - articulation, phrasing, tone
6. Ensemble Performance - balance, blend, intonation
7. Musical Styles - history, styles

COURSE LEVEL:

This course is open to all freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, by audition only.

COURSE CONTENT:

Course content will be presented through carefully chosen literature as well as audio-visual materials and occasional outside clinicians who will focus on different aspects of choral singing. Our music will be the primary material for this course, but other sources, including YouTube videos, online listening, and class handouts will be assigned as appropriate.

COURSE INSTRUCTION:

Instruction in Mixed Choir is primarily through active student participation and discussion, however other methods of instruction will be utilized. Those methods include, but are not limited to, lecture, group projects, and audio-video presentation.

GRADES:

Letter grades are earned by the student based upon the following percentage of possible points: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, >60% = Failure. Total points possible include numerical evaluations for attendance/participation, performances, homework, in-class assignments, and musical skill evaluations. Participation will be weighted at 50%, Concerts at 35% and Assessments/Assignments at 15%.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES – (students will adhere to all FCHS policies and the Poudre School District “Code of Conduct” at all times to include, but not be limited to, the following):

1. **Attendance** – Students must attend class to receive the greatest benefit from instruction and class interaction. All choral rehearsals are spontaneous and impossible to recreate for individual students. Nevertheless, students with excused absences will be allowed to make up work (including participation points) according to Poudre School District policy. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor – outside of class – to complete missed assignments. Unless prior approval is granted by the instructor, late work will not be accepted.
2. **Participation** – Each student is responsible for participating in rehearsals, class discussions and contributing to the learning environment of the class. In order to fulfill his/her responsibility, it is necessary to be in class, on time with all materials, including music, paper and a writing instrument.
3. **Assignments** – Students are responsible for coming to class prepared. All assignments are due at the start of the class on the date the assignment is due. Please consult the Blackboard Class Calendar for all due dates.
4. **Food, Drink, Chewing Gum, Hats, etc.** – Food, drink and gum are not allowed in class, but water is permissible. Hats are to be removed when crossing the threshold of the classroom and are not to be worn at any time when you are in the classroom. The classroom is a formal setting and calls for a dignified presence, including adherence to the school dress code.
5. **Electronic Devices** – No electronic device of any kind may be used in class without permission. Electronic devices will be confiscated on the first offense and given to the office for disciplinary action. The presence of an electronic device during a test or quiz will be considered *prima facie* evidence of academic dishonesty.
6. **Final Examination** – Failure to take the final examination may result in a failing grade for this class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Each student is required to do his/her own work. Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated, and if detected, will result in disciplinary referral and action. The Fort Collins Student Handbook outlines the consequences for cheating and plagiarism, and the instructor will, with the assistance of an administrator, implement the policy. A first incident of plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a zero. Additional incidents may result in expulsion from school. Please consult the Handbook for the full text of the consequences for academic dishonesty.

PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES IN MRS. MILES' CLASS

Student's Name: _____ **Period:** _____
*Return this signed form to Mrs. Miles by **Friday, Aug. 22, 2014**

We have reviewed the course syllabus issued to my son/daughter, and we have discussed his/her responsibilities which must be met to be successful in this course. We understand his/her responsibilities in this class to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Attending all classes unless excused by a parent. We understand that class attendance is our responsibility, and we have read and understand the Poudre School District and Fort Collins High School Attendance/Truancy Policies.
- Accepting the reduction in points for assignments/concerts/quizzes, etc. which were due on a date for which an unexcused absence was recorded.
- Consulting the concert/assignment schedule and completing all assignments by the deadline. If an absence from a concert is needed, please contact Mrs. Miles outside of class, no later than 2 weeks before the performance. See the syllabus for telephone and email contact information.
- Adhering to all class rules as set out in the course syllabus.
- Completing make-up work within the Poudre School District guidelines. If additional time is needed, please contact Mrs. Miles.
- Contacting Mrs. Miles at the first sign of academic difficulty.
- Taking tests and performing in concerts at the scheduled time. We understand that to protect the academic integrity of the testing process, make-up evaluations may not necessarily duplicate that which other students completed at the scheduled time.
- Obtaining academic progress information through PIV and reporting any discrepancy in PIV to Mrs. Miles immediately.

Parent Name – Print Parent Signature Student Signature Date

The FCHS Music Department is recognized around the state of Colorado for its commitment to excellence. I want that success to continue; the type of success that includes a high level of learning and a good grade for each student. By fulfilling the responsibilities outlined above, every student should leave this class with an enriched understanding of choral music and a respectable grade. *Kaitlin D. Miles*

****TURN PAGE OVER TO COMPLETE THE CONFLICT PAGE****

Choir Parent:

Please read through the calendar of 2014-2015 Choral Music Events and transfer all dates to your family calendar. Every student will be held accountable for participation in all choir events. After reviewing the calendar, please mark the appropriate areas below:

_____ I am willing to help with fundraisers and events. Please contact me when needed.

_____ My student has no conflicts with the events publicized and will participate in them all.

_____ My student _____ has conflicts with the following date(s):

Date: _____

Reason: _____

Date: _____

Reason: _____

Date: _____

Reason: _____

Parent Signature

Student Signature

For more information on the Fort Collins High School choral department, please visit our website at:

www.fchschoirs.weebly.com