**Tri-Valley**

**Vocal Music**

**2020-2021 Chorus Handbook**

Letter from Director:

Hello All,

My name is Bernard Van Moer and I am in my 9th year of teaching here at Tri-Valley School District. I currently teach 5-12 vocal music. I am originally from Tracy, MN, graduating from Tracy Area High School in 2008. After High School I went to receive my Bachelors of Music Education from South Dakota State University where I graduated in 2012. After college I went on to achieve my Masters of Music in Voice Performance from the North Dakota State University School of Music. I graduated from there in the summer of 2014. I have performed with multiple ensembles throughout my career as well as singing on the solo stage. Some highlights include being a tenor soloist for a world premier men’s choir piece performed by the NDSU Men’s Choir, Performing with Opera South Dakota, being a featured soloist with the Sioux Falls Municipal Band and First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. I also perform professionally with The Good Night Theater Collective in Sioux Falls. This past summer I played the title role in their production of *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown.*

As I enter my 9th year as the Vocal Music Director here at Tri-Valley I enjoy taking a second to look back on where this program has come. When I first took over this program, we had 26 students registered for HS Chorus. Now we have a second curricular choir in the HS. That group has already been recognized at the state level performing at two state conventions last winter. I am so thankful to the students who have put in the effort to come to class every day and put in the hard work. Their dedication is why I enjoy what I do.

My time here at Tri-Valley has been great and I look forward to working with your students once again this year. If you ever need to get a hold of me please do not hesitate in contacting me. The best way of getting ahold of me is through email. My contact information is below.

Bernard Van Moer

[Bernard.vanmoer@k12.sd.us](mailto:Bernard.vanmoer@k12.sd.us)

Cell – (507)828-2449

Office – (605)446-35385 Ext. 326

Vocal Music Ensembles at TV:

Tri-Valley Chamber Singers:

* The Tri-Valley Chamber Singers is our top vocal ensemble. This auditioned group rehearses daily during 2nd period. They perform at four concerts during the school year as well as contest. Members of this chorus also have the opportunity to participate in solo/ Ensemble contest, and audition for All-State Chorus and Honor Choir. This ensemble also competes at Large Group Contest every year.

High School Chorus:

* The High School Chorus meets every day during 3rd period and is open to any student in Grades 9-12. The High School Chorus performs in four concerts throughout the year and sings a varied selection of music from Pop to classical. Members of this chorus also have the opportunity to participate in solo/ Ensemble contest, and audition for All-State Chorus and Honor Choir. This ensemble also competes at Large Group Contest every year.

Junior High Chorus:

* This ensemble meets every day during the 5C period (12:16-12:56) and performs in the four concerts throughout the year. This group is used as a preliminary course for High School Chorus.

6th Grade Chorus:

* This ensemble meets every day during the 5A period (11:30-12:00) and performs in the four concerts throughout the year. This group is used as a introductory course for High School Chorus.

Important Dates

**- Oct 25th - 6-12 Vocal  
- Oct 28-29 - All-State Choir  
- Dec 19th - 6-12 Vocal  
- Mar 14th - 6-12 Vocal  
- Apr 13-15th - Musical  
- May 16th - 6-12 Vocal Pop's  
- May 20th - Graduation**

Concert Attire

TV Chamber Singers-

Men – Black pants, Black socks, black shoes, and tunics

Women – Concert Dresses, and black flats

High School Chorus -

Men – Black pants, black socks, black shoes

Women – Black pants or skirt, Black shoes

(HS Chorus wears robes anything visible below the robe must be black.)

JH Chorus-

Dress clothes. NO JEANS or T-Shirts.

If for financial reasons you are unable to purchase the require clothing please come talk with Mr. Van Moer and we can see if there is some kind of financial aid we can help with.

Absences from Concerts

* It is the student’s responsibility to contact the director within 24 hours of absence from a required event, rehearsal or performance. You all have my phone number and e-mail address.
* All absences and tardies MUST have a note from a parent and/or doctor on file with the director.
* It is not the director’s responsibility to contact or remind the student regarding an absence or tardy.
* Illness and death in the immediate family are excused absences. The director MAY deem other absences or tardies excusable after careful consideration.
* If an absence or tardy is excusable, the student may be assigned an alternative assignment to make up the grade. Otherwise the grade will be recorded as a “0”.
* Please note that the following absences or tardies from performances ARE NOT EXCUSED: work, extra-curricular activities, doctor’s appointments, babysitting, and lack of transportation. (This list is not exclusive.)
* It is important to understand that all absences and tardies will be considered on an individual basis.
* If there is ever a question or concern about an absence or tardy, please contact Mr. Van Moer.

Concert Etiquette

The SDHSAA has a goal to educate the public as well as the participants of fine arts programs. They have out-Lined what are widely considered appropriate behaviors for audience members at a music or theater performance. In today’s world there are many type of activities in which our students participate, what may be considered appropriate at a basketball game, for example, may not be appropriate at a concert. Please take these suggestions in the spirit they are given. It will increase everyone’s enjoyment of the concert. Thanks You!

A good audience member:

* Remembers to turn off or mute all electronic devices so as to not disrupt or be inattentive to the performers. i.e. texting during a concert/performance;
* Does not bring in food or drink into the performance space;
* Is on time for the concert/performance;
* Show his/her appreciation by applauding at the end of the performance;
* Remembers not to clap for solos during a concert except for show choir;
* Finds a babysitter for young children who are not old enough to understand or enjoy the performance;
* Remains seated for the entire concert/performance;
* Listens to ALL groups performing in the concert, not just the ensembles that their student is participating in;
* If needs to leave the seat, waits until applause begins to leave or return to seat;
* Remembers to remain silent between movements of a multi-movement song/literature;
* Remembers that the performance is being recorded, audio and/or video, and any noise like coughing, baby cries, etc. will be picked up on the recording equipment.

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsals will have a positive vibe if you as students come to class with a positive attitude. I ask that you follow these rules and leave all negativity at the door.

All students are to:

* Sit in assigned seats.
* Be considerate and respectful and cooperate fully with other students, teachers and guests.
* Respect all equipment and technology within the choir room.
* Participate fully when asked to perform in class.
* Be quiet during sectional and solo rehearsals
* Be in their assigned seats when the bell rings.
* Bring music and pencil to all rehearsals (including class).
* Mark music only in pencil and take care of music materials.
* Folders are purchased and owned by the school. Care should be taken to maintain the folders. You may take them home to practice your music, or you may keep them in the holder in the chorus room. DO NOT USE ANYONE’S FOLDER BUT YOUR OWN.
* Maintain acceptable self-discipline.

Additional Rules will be created by each section during the first week of class.

Grading

Each quarter the grade will be split into 3 categories. Each category is broken down as follows:

* Mastery of Music Performance (Concerts, Singing Test, etc.) – 35%
  + - Concert Performance – 50 points
    - Concert Attire – 25 points
    - 2 spot checks – 25 points each
* Mastery of Rehearsal Etiquette (Daily Participation) – 35%
  + - Daily Participation – 50 points for the whole qtr.
    - 2 Score Study Pop Quiz – 25 points each

Choice of the following:

* Mastery of Music Theory (theory work and assessments) – 30%
  + - Theory/Vocab Projects – 10 points each
    - 2 Vocab Quizzes – 25 points each
    - 2 Rhythm Quizzes – 25 points each

Or

* Mastery of Vocal Production (Lessons, Solfege) – 30%
  + - 6 Voice Lessons – 10 points each
    - 2 Solfege Singing Test – 25 points each

A=92-100 B=84-92 C=77-84 D=77-70 F=69 and below

SD Honor Choir and All-State Chorus

SD Honor Choir: Any student in grade 10 or 11 who is enrolled in the choral program at Tri-Valley High School and has the director’s approval is eligible to audition for the South Dakota Senior Honor Choir. The auditions are held in Sioux Falls in April. Exact dates and times will be announced later in the school year.

South Dakota All-State Chorus: Any student in grade 9-12 who is enrolled in the choral program at Tri-Valley High School is eligible to audition for the South Dakota All-State Chorus. Auditions are held the second week of school. Auditions will be recorded and an area choral director will be consulted to select the two quartets consisting of two each: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The students selected to represent our district will travel with their choral director to Sioux Falls and Rapid City (on a rotating schedule) for a weekend of rehearsals culminating in a concert. (2019 is in Sioux Falls) More information for the All-State concert is available on the SDHSAA website: [www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com).