

Terry Sanford High School

Vocal Music Handbook 2017-2018



Aaron Brown, Director of Choirs

910.484.1151 ext. 771

aaronbrown@ccs.k12.nc.us

PHILOSOPHY

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

-Victor Hugo

Music has been a part of human civilization from its very beginning. It has evolved with the customs and feelings of the times and still thrives today. As musicians, it is our honor to continue the advancement of music in the world. Notes are simply ink on a page until someone gives meaning to them. This meaning comes from human emotion. Music provides a way to express fear, hate, love, happiness, laughter, and an endless supply of other emotions in a way that is unique in the world. Music advances the human condition, and must be used to do so.

Music can also be used to advance other life skills, such as teamwork, patience, and independence. It can be used to teach and enhance all other school subjects. This year we will work to become aware of the connections between music and other aspects of education.

This year in vocal music we will work together to advance our knowledge and skills in singing, sight-reading, music history, music theory, and expression. Students in vocal music will receive a plethora of opportunities to think as independent musicians. We will be exposed to a variety of choral literature and vocal music experiences, all grounded in good vocal technique. It is my goal to instill in all students an awareness of music's role in the enrichment of the human spirit

I look forward to a productive and inspirational year!

Aaron Brown

FTS CHOIRS

Concert Choir – This choir is made up of Beginning Level singers, where music theory study as well as sight-reading fundamentals are introduced. 9th through 12th grade singers who take an interest in the choir sing in the choir upon entry into the FTS Choir program. Concert Choir is a one-semester class meeting 2nd and 4th Periods (1st Semester) and 3rd and 4th Periods (2nd Semester).

FTS Chorale – This is a mixed ensemble made up of mainly 10th through 12th grade guys and girls at the Intermediate, Proficient, Advanced Levels. Most of these singers have been in choir a number of years before singing in this group. An good level of understanding of music theory and especially sight-reading is required of all singers in this ensemble. Challenging choral music is explored in this level class. Members of FTS Chorale are Terry Sanford High School’s choral music ambassadors and will take part in many community events and programs throughout the school year.

FTS Vocal Jazz Ensemble – This is an extra-curricular mixed ensemble made up of mainly 10th through 12th grade guys and girls. This group focuses primarily on a cappella and popular music. An advanced working knowledge of understanding of music theory and especially sight-reading is required of all singers in this ensemble. Membership in this group is by audition in the fall. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble will perform at concerts throughout the year, as well as at community events. This is a yearlong after-school commitment, meeting at least once a week.

CHOIR SELECTION

In the spring of each school year choir members are placed for the next year. Each student will (privately) sight read and sing a solo as part of the audition process, on an individual basis. The choir program is competitive, and not every student will move on through the entire program. The following criteria are considered when placing a student based upon audition, observation of the student, and student records. These are in order of priority.

1. Level of talent and ability both as a singer and as a sight-reader of music.
2. The music theory is also factored into a student’s audition score.
3. Work ethic, including maturity, self-discipline, passion, energy, and dedication.
4. Previous experience in choir or on other instruments or in other music classes.
5. Daily attendance, rehearsal/concert attendance, and tardy records for choir.
6. Grades earned in choir.
7. Grade level in school.

CHOIR EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to enter the room, proceed directly to their assigned seat, pull out your notebook and begin the bell ringer. If a student is not in his or her assigned seat when the bell rings, he or she will be marked tardy. Each tardy will deduct 10% of the students’ weekly participation grade.
2. Students must come to class daily with all required materials. These include a pencil, paper, ½” 3-ring binder, and music.

3. USING CELL PHONES or any other classroom disruptions, as determined by Mr. Brown are strictly prohibited. The cell phone policy is as follows: the first time is a warning, the second time I am taking it for the class period, the third for the day and you will get it after school, and the last time I am following the FTS cell phone policy and your parent will have to pick it up on Tuesday or Thursday, 8:00-10:00 AM and 2:00-4:00 PM.

4. Students must show the utmost respect for their assigned sheet music. This music is the most expensive purchase in the choir budget, and must be used for years to come. The only way this is possible is if students do not damage, destroy, or lose it. Music must be kept in the assigned folder, and must be returned in the same condition it was received. Students who damage, destroy, or lose music will be charged.

5. Gum, food, candy, and beverages (other than water) in the choir room are not allowed. Singing with gum and food is dangerous and inappropriate. No gum means upon entering the room and until you exit the room.

6. Students are **required** to buy and maintain appropriate concert attire. Details and costs will be available during the first week of class. Valuing uniformity is a professional mindset when it comes to formal performances. Although we are all creative individuals, presenting a group performance should be seen as a team activity where no single person sticks out. For individual needs, please speak with Mr. Brown.

7. Students are expected to adhere to the Cumberland County Schools and Terry Sanford High School Code of Conduct while participating in activities off of school grounds. While traveling in the community we are the face of Terry Sanford High School. Please show pride in yourself and your school.

8. Students are expected to arrive at required concerts in appropriate concert dress one half hour before the start of the concert. Students who arrive after this time will be marked tardy and will be deducted at least 20% of their concert grade. Student who arrive to the concert without proper concert attire will be asked not to sing, will be marked as an unexcused absence, and will receive a failing concert grade.

9. Students are expected to attend class daily. Vocal music is a participation-based class and we need everyone present to move forward as a choir. As such, all absences will be counted as unexcused until a note from a parent is produced. Each unexcused absence will deduct 20% of the participation grade for the week.

GRADING

The FTS Choirs conform to the school grading scale:

A – 90 - 100	D – 60 – 69
B – 80 – 89	F – Below 60
C- 70 – 79	

The distribution of grading components is as follows:

Participation/Classwork/Homework	30%
Quizzes	25%
Tests/Projects/Performances	45%

Classwork/Homework

Every morning the students will have an assignment as they enter into the classroom. The assignment will consist of vocal pedagogy, music theory, or music history lessons that we have previously covered the day before. This starter will be graded and turned in every day. Practice will be homework.

Participation

Participation in all classroom activities is required of all students. Coming to class prepared, with all required supplies, is also part of the participation grade. This category also includes any homework assignments given and will be worth 40% of the students' overall grade.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes given approximately every week in class. These quizzes will include written work, sight-reading, and performance skills, recordings, and will make up 25% of the students' overall grade.

Tests/Projects/Performances

There will be projects assigned and tests given throughout the semester. Also, attendance at the concerts throughout the year is mandatory. Students will be working hard as a group to become the best choir possible, and everyone's participation in the concerts is needed. This category will be worth 30% of the students' overall grade.

Calendar of Events (Fall Semester)

9/1/17, 7pm	Home vs Cape Fear (football)
9/4/17	LABOR DAY!! NO SCHOOL
9/9/17, 9am-12pm	NC Honors Chorus Training @Methodist
9/27/17	EARLY RELEASE!!!
9/28/17	NC Honors Chorus Auditions @Meredith College in Raleigh
9/29/17, 7pm	HOMECOMING vs Grays Creek (football)
10/7/17, TBA	FTS Chorale Singing at the 50th Class Reunion
10/13/17, 7pm	Home vs Westover
10/27/17, 7pm	Home vs Pine Forest
10/30/17	NO SCHOOL/TEACHER WORKDAY
11/9/17	EARLY RELEASE!!!
11/10/17	NO SCHOOL!!!
11/11-14/17	I will be leaving for NCMEA Conference in Winston-Salem
11/16/17, 4:30pm	All County Auditions @ Grays Creek
11/22/17	NO SCHOOL/TEACHER WORKDAY
11/23-24/17	THANKSGIVING!!!
12/11/17, 5:30	After School Dress Rehearsal
12/12/17, 7pm	FTS Choral Concert
12/19/17	EARLY RELEASE!!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!
1/15/18	MARTIN LUTHER KING

Please fill out and return only this sheet to Mr. Brown by Friday, September 1st

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____ Period _____

Home Address _____ Student # _____

Address (cont.) _____ email address _____

Cell Phone # (for emergency contacts only) _____

Important Health Information _____

(cont.) _____

(cont.) _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Additional Parent/Guardian _____

Home Address (if different from above) _____

Address (cont.) _____ email address _____

Home phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Place of work _____ Work Phone # _____

Student: I have chosen to participate in Vocal Music classes at Terry Sanford High School. I have read and understood the requirements outlined in this course handbook and I agree to meet those requirements or to abide by the penalties also contained herein. I understand that at any time I may contact Mr. Brown for additional help, tutoring, or to discuss a grievance.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian: I have read and understood the requirements of my child listed in this handbook and the penalties for failing to meet those requirements. I understand that I may contact Mr. Brown at any time to discuss my child's progress or to request additional information.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____