

# Vocal Ensemble

## (Vocal Ensemble Honors - Section 1)

### Syllabus

Mrs. Amy Rolniak

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#### Course Description:

Vocal Ensemble (**VE**) is one of four auditioned ensembles at Westlake High School which meet during the normal school day and one of two UC approved honors courses. Vocal Ensemble is a mixed performing ensemble of 32 singers. This group is comprised of predominantly juniors and seniors. Most members have had at least one full year of choir in the Westlake High School Choir Department and have proven to have above average musical skills in both vocal and dance performance. This group is designed for the very serious performer, and the literature performed by this ensemble is difficult and challenging and will require extra rehearsal time. Members of this group are required to attend additional weekend rehearsals and competitions, and must be truly committed to acting and performing at a professional level. Vocal Ensemble participates in all public concerts held at WHS and will also be involved in at least two overnight trips a year. Other concerts will be added throughout the school year. VE is WHS's competition Choir/Show Choir with shows designed by students and by professional choreographers. This course is an Honors class and requires extra work and time.

#### Goals:

- Continue to work on good vocal intonation
- Study intermediate music theory and sight singing
- Improve skills of good vocal production
- Improve rhythmic articulation
- Expand knowledge of history through music
- Expand knowledge of choral genres
- Continue to develop an appreciation for choral singing
- Continue to develop a critical ear

#### Materials Used:

- Daily sight-singing and theory activities
- Choral music repertoire

## Method of Student Evaluation:

|  |   |     |
|--|---|-----|
| <u>Performances</u>                    | See Handbook for Policies and Dates   | 50% |
| <u>Rehearsal Engagement</u>            |   | 20% |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be engaged at all levels during a rehearsal - this means no cell phones unless requested by teacher for instructional purposes.</li><li>• Have a pencil and your music at each rehearsal.</li><li>• Focus physical energy on the correct application of proper singing technique. Demonstrate respect for the rehearsal facilities and equipment.</li><li>• Be ready to start when the bell rings</li><li>• Leave food, soda, gum, and candy out of the rehearsal room. (Water is fine)</li></ul> |     |
| <u>Sight Singing/Knowledge of Part</u> |   | 15% |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part Quizzes</li><li>• Quartet Rehearsals and Recordings</li><li>• Individual Sight Singing Quizzes</li></ul>   |     |
| <u>Written Assignments</u>             |   | 10% |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Short blog written and listening assignments will be given. Please visit Mrs. Rolniak's blog at <a href="http://www.sothebeatgoeson.com">www.sothebeatgoeson.com</a> to find your assignment.</li><li>• Concert Report - You must attend a live vocal related concert this year and write a concert critique.</li><li>• Other assignments</li></ul>   |     |
| <u>Final Exam</u>                      |   | 5%  |