

Additional Information for Voice Students

Lessons

- Lessons are 25 minutes each and are taught once a week during student's choir period, lunch- time, before or after school. No lesson will be taught during an academic class. Students will average 4 lessons per month. (See cover letter for monthly breakdown.)
- Parents will be billed for lessons and full payment for the month is due at the **first lesson of each month**.

Materials

- Instructional materials, (books, CD's, music, folders, etc.) are an additional cost not to exceed \$75 for the year. A small fee may be collected to offset the cost of an accompanist or facility rental costs, (around \$10).
- Students are expected to have necessary materials at their lesson time. If not, this can result in a defaulted lesson and student sent back to class.

Discontinuing Lessons

- A **two- week notice** is needed if a student plans to discontinue lessons.

Practicing

- Students are expected to practice regularly and prepare lessons in full, per assignments. They may also be asked to keep a practice time log. **Lack of practicing constitutes lack of progress.**

Performances

- Voice students are expected to participate in a Solo Ensemble Contest and a minimum of two recitals a year. All Region choir auditions are highly encouraged.

Private Lesson Curriculum Guidelines

Fundamentals

The following will be monitored and corrected each lesson:

- Relaxed body, jaw, tongue
- Open throat
- Dropped chin
- Breathing
- Body alignment
- Tone quality—free, easy, pleasing
- Intonation (matching pitch & singing “in tune”)
- Rhythms and/or pitches
- Stage presence---work to eliminate stage fright, build confidence
- Practice time
- Singing voice: strengthen head/falsetto and work toward smooth transition from one voice to another

Skills

The following will be addressed in assignments consistent with the student’s vocal needs and choir curriculum:

- Range expansion
- Technical facility—use series of vocalizes that work on relaxed facial muscles, resonance, raised soft palate, uniformity throughout registers
- Agility—scales, exercises--work toward rapid, precise, buoyancy and varying tempos
- Breath control—use series of exercises that work on deep breathing, air flow management, extended phrasing, dynamic contrasts variances, staccatos, legatos
- Articulation—use series of exercises that focus on lips, teeth, tip of tongue—clear, precise diction
- Vowels—exercises that focus on tall, pure vowels
- Sightreading—solfege syllables and hand signs used in choir

Literature

Consultation with Directors:

- All Region music
- Solo/Ensemble Contest
- Recital repertoire—including Classical, Jazz, Blues, Broadway, Folk, Pop, Seasonal
- Variety of languages—English, Latin, Italian, French, German
- Solo, duets, ensembles from studios
- Occasional help on choir or personal audition music if needed