

# East High School Vocal Music Department 2008-2009

## Vocal Music Performing Ensemble Contract

### Honors Choir

This contract is written so that students in Honors Choir and their parents have a clear understanding of procedures and requirements for students who have been accepted in this group. Parents and students should be aware that by choosing to be in Honors Choir, students are making a substantial commitment of time and effort. Students will be required to attend extra rehearsals (outlined below) and participate in a large number of extracurricular performances. Students who are unable to make this level of commitment should not accept membership in Honors Choir. Both parents and students should carefully read this and the Vocal Music procedures and grading policy.

#### 1. Attendance/Commitment

The single most important factor in the success and quality of Honors Choir is attendance. Students are required be on time and in class every day. In order to remain in Honors Choir, students will not be allowed to have more than 2 excused absences per 6 week period except in rare cases of extended illnesses, family crisis, etc... Students will be required to present a doctor's note in the case of extended illnesses and parents should contact the teacher in other rare cases. Excessive absences and tardiness will result in probationary status and ultimate removal from the class (see absence policy). Students are expected to behave in class in a disciplined, focused manner. Students are expected to do whatever is possible to contribute to class being a productive, encouraging and positive environment.

#### 2. Music Learning

Students in Honors Choir are required to learn and practice music on their own time outside of class. Students in these classes receive accelerated credit and this credit is earned by students completing these "homework assignments". Students should expect to spend between 1 to 2 hours per week learning and practicing music. All students who accept membership in this ensemble will be required to meet a basic competency level on all music that is assigned in order to remain in the ensemble. In order for musicians to make progress they must practice regularly. A significant portion of the grade in Honors Choir will be based upon music learning. Students who do not meet this commitment will be placed on probation and ultimately will be removed from the class. Students will be given a CD to assist them in learning and practicing music.

#### 3. Behavior

Students in Honors Choir are expected to be leaders and representative of the East High Vocal Music Department. Students are expected to behave in a professional and mature manner at performances and festivals that are attended by Honors Choir. Please remember that students are not only representing themselves but also the school and the teacher. Students are also expected to be helpful and assist with setup and breakdown of equipment in class and during performances.

#### 4. Extra rehearsals/retreat

Students in Honors Choir will be required to attend extra rehearsals/retreats at various times during the school year (Lunchtime and evening rehearsals will be held as needed). Attendance at all extra rehearsals and retreats is mandatory and students must make every effort to rearrange work schedules and other conflicts in order to be present at the rehearsal. Students may also be required to attend weekly morning sectional rehearsals as deemed necessary.

#### 5. Performances

Students are required to participate in all performances. Students are expected to be on time for performances and dressed appropriately. Students who do not dress appropriately will not be allowed to perform. Students must be willing to make every effort to do what is necessary in order to be at all concerts and extra rehearsals (i.e. Change work schedules). Students who do not show up for a performance without prior notification or who are late arriving will be placed on probation (see below). Performances occurring during school hours will necessitate students missing classes on occasion. In order to be in this ensemble, students must be willing and able to participate in these performances. Students are responsible for maintaining work and grades in all classes so that absences due to performances do not cause them to get behind. A performance schedule for the year will be provided early in the year so that students can notify teachers and get class work in advance. As other performances are scheduled students will be notified as the earliest possible time.

## 6. Fundraising/Fees

Students will be expected to participate in fund raising activities at an established minimum level. Students in Angelaires may be required to pay the following fees:

\$50 to \$100 Performing outfits	Trip costs
Tickets for school excursions	All state choir audition fees and accompanist fee

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Cabaret/ Silent Auction fundraiser in order to cover these fees. The support and participation of the student's parents/family is vital to the success of these activities.

## 7. Probation policy

Students who are on probation will participate in a conference to determine changes that must be made for the student to be returned to good standing in the group. While on probation, students will not be allowed to participate in performances. The student will be given a reasonable amount of time to exhibit the changes that have been agreed upon. Students on probation who do not make the appropriate changes in the allotted time will be dismissed from the class for the remainder of the school year. Students will be placed on probation for the following behaviors:

1. Missing or being late to a performance without prior notification to Mr. Taylor
2. Tardiness to class in excess of three times per semester.
3. Any Unexcused absence or more than 2 excused absences in any 6 week period (exceptions – school related absences and extended illnesses).
4. Not adequately learning or practicing music.
5. Poor performance and or unexcused absences in other classes.
6. Absences that occur within one week before a performance.

### **Breaking of any part of this Contract is grounds for dismissal from the ensemble.**

Student: I have read and understood the above policies and I accept them along with their consequences. I accept membership in this ensemble with the understanding that I will make a substantial commitment, have excellent attendance and be as helpful as possible to the success of Honors Choir.

---

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian: I have read and understood the above policies and I understand the commitment that my child is making as a member of Honors Choir.

---

Parent/Guardian Signature