**DVHS Chorus**

 Welcome to Delaware Valley High School Chorus. I anticipate a great time of learning, working and making music together. We will aspire to create music at the highest level of artistry that we can. This can only happen when we work together. Please understand that as we work to achieve a level beyond what you may expect it will, at times, be difficult. Understanding the goal mentioned above, and keeping our purpose in mind will enable us to ‘dig in’ and do our finest work.

 Our process will include knowing, and understanding some of the foundational elements of music-making. These include, but are not limited to reading, listening, analyzing, improvising, and sharing music and musical experiences. In becoming life-long learners, performers and/or consumers of music we aim to create an atmosphere that is respectful and thoughtful. Be aware that from time to time this may include singing in a small group, or even alone.

 You are expected to arrive on time, to do your best, work together, complete work on time, and participate in all concerts. Items and attitudes that do not help us to meet our goals are not to be brought to class. Grades will be calculated using the following criteria:

1. Daily performance and participation. (50%)

Students receive 10 points each week. As the week progresses, these points may be maintained or lost each day. Keeping the points occurs when you arrive as expected with the materials required for the day (a sharpened pencil, chorus folder of music prepared as expected, written work as assigned), and are actively involved in completing the tasks at hand. Points are lost by not following the above guideline and/or causing disruption in the class.

1. Performance. (30%)

Students are expected to attend all performances (concerts). Dates are listed below. When we will be wearing choir robes, the only concern for attire is that you wear black shoes and black or skin-tone socks/hosery. If we wear “black and white”, students are to wear white dress shirt and black dress pants (no skirts/dresses). Sneakers and flip-flops are NEVER acceptable concert attire, even if they are black.

1. Written and Singing assessments (20%)

Your knowledge of musical concepts will be assessed throughout the year. Sometimes it will be through a written assignment in class, other times it may be in the form of homework, yet other times it may be a singing ‘spot-check’. I do not give many such assessments, so it is imperative that you prepare your work in a timely fashion.

Any work/performance not completed by the due date will be given a grade of ZERO until it is made up. I do allow students to make up work, only within the same marking period it was assigned, and for reduced credit. Please complete your work on time! While it is impossible to make up a concert, students who miss due to illness or emergency may sing their repertoire to me for a grade.

Concert Dates: Spring concert: **June 4, 2015** (robe)

 Graduation: **June 19, 20, 21** depending on weather (black/white)

I am so excited to work with all of you this semester, and I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you better, and to see you achieve your individual and our collective goals. Let’s have a Great Year!

 For clarification, I would like to remind students that as we are an ensemble in a class called “Performance Music”, it is imperative that we are dedicated to attending all performances. In addition to this dedication, be reminded that concerts are graded. In the case that a student misses a concert, the grade of a zero will be applied to the performance category for that marking period. The exception to this is that a student who misses a concert with an excused absence is given the opportunity to sing their concert repertoire for Mr. Horst as an alternate assignment. For this to occur, the student is responsible for approaching Mr. Horst and working out a mutually agreed upon time before or after school within the same marking period. An excused absence would include scenarios of an emergency nature, such as a catastrophe, a death in the family, or severe illness.

 For example, if a student misses a performance due to illness and approaches me to sing through his/her concert repertoire, we will meet at the dedicated time and that student would sing through an appropriate representation of their literature. If their daily participation grade, which is half of their quarterly average, is a 94 %, their written and singing assignment average (one-fifth of their quarterly average) is 100%, and they receive a 97% on their performance grade due to taking advantage of their alternate concert assignment, their average would be a 96.1% or an A.

 On the other hand, if that same student either chose not to make up their concert grade, or did not have an appropriately excused absence, they would have 0% for the performance category of their grade. The result would be that they would receive a 67%, or a D.

 1st scenario 2nd scenario

 Daily Participation (50% of total) 94% 94%

 Performance (30% of total) 97% 0%

 In class/at home assignments (20 % of total) 100% 100%

 FINAL QUARTERLY AVERAGE: 96.1% (A) 67% (D)

 We are proud that because music in the Delaware Valley School District is not only valued, but presented at a very high caliber we have been recognized as one of the” Best Communities for Music Education” in the United States. This policy is in place to mark the strength of what we do, to give both validity and continuity to the program, to breed a culture of the value of music and how imperative performance is in a “performance music” course, to teach practical application and follow-through for students’ hard work, and to allow students the greatest experience of being a part of a musical ensemble.

 Please complete and return the form below to Mr. Horst by September 15, 2014.

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I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the expectations outlined for my child

 (Print parent/guardian name)

to participate in chorus at Delaware Valley High School.

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 (Student) (Parent/Guardian signature)

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 (emergency contact #) (Date)