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Web: [www.southlakeschorus.org](http://www.southlakeschorus.org)

FCPS 24/7: <http://fcps.blackboard.com/>

**Join us!**

***Back to School Night: September 11, 6:30 PM***

***Back to Chorus Night: September 18, 7-8 PM***

**Course Offerings:**

Seahawk Chorale: 9-12 grade (Treble Chorus)

Seahawk Camerata 9-12 grade (Basso Chorus)

Bella Voce (Advanced Treble Ensemble Level 1: (9-12 grade, auditioned)

Select Treble (Advanced Treble Ensemble Level 2: (10-12 grade auditioned)

Chamber Singers (Advanced Mixed Ensemble: Level 2: (10-12 grade, auditioned)

**Associated clubs:**

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Basso A Cappella (SMAC)

Treble A Cappella (DoReMigas)

Mixed A Cappella (Noteworthy)

## **I. Course Descriptions**

### **Seahawk Chorale**

#### **TREBLE CHORUS (926016)**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12 **Credit:** one; **Prerequisite:** none

Students will participate in a chorus of women's voices. Emphasis is placed upon correct vocal performance techniques and sight-singing through the study of appropriate choral literature. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

### **Seahawk Camerata**

#### **BASSO CHORUS (926017)**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12 **Credit:** one **Prerequisite:** none

Students will participate in a chorus of men's voices. Emphasis is placed upon correct vocal performance techniques and sight-singing through the study of appropriate choral literature. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

### **Chamber Singers**

#### **ADVANCED MIXED CHORUS (928915)**

**Grades:** 10, 11, 12 **Credit:** one **Prerequisite:** Successful audition

Students are offered advanced choral experiences for mixed voices. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship and proficiency in ensemble performance. Course content includes a study of choral literature, vocal techniques, and sight-singing. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

### **Bella Voce (Level 1: 9, 10, 11, 12) & Select Treble Ensemble (Level 2: 10, 11, 12)**

#### **ADVANCED TREBLE CHORUS (928916)**

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12 **Credit:** one **Prerequisite:** Successful audition

Students are offered advanced choral experiences for women's voices. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship and proficiency in ensemble performance. Course content includes a study of choral literature, vocal techniques, and sight-singing. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must

meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.

**A. From FCPS Regulation 3866: Co-Curricular requirements, page 4**

In addition to extracurricular activities and club-sponsored activities, many courses include participation requirements outside the regular school day in order for students to receive credit for the course. Many courses also provide participation enrichment opportunities outside the regular school day that are optional. In order to participate, students cannot be under any type of suspension, either from school or from the course. The following section defines co-curricular courses that include participation requirements outside the regular school day.

1. Courses with co-curricular participation requirements.

Many courses include participation requirements outside the regular school day. In order to receive credit for the course, students must be enrolled in the course and meet both the school-day and after-school requirements. Additional details for these courses can be found in the course descriptions of the FCPS Standard and Optional Course Offerings catalogs.

2. Courses with co-curricular enrichment opportunities.

Many courses provide optional opportunities for students enrolled in program courses that occur outside the regular school day.

a. Students enrolled in the program courses.

Students participate in these optional enrichment opportunities on the basis of interest and commitment, as determined by audition or other selection processes.

b. Students not enrolled in the program courses.

Participation exceptions in co-curricular opportunities for students not enrolled in the program course may be made for specific membership, audition, instrumentation, voicing, and/or casting requirements. These students will be considered on a case-by-case basis not to exceed 10 percent of the ensemble's membership. [Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) policies may limit participation in sponsored events for students not enrolled in the curricular program. For example, students participating in All-District, All-State, and other VMEA-sponsored events must be enrolled in their school music programs at the time of the event.]

**B. South Lakes High School Course Offerings**

[http://www.fcps.edu/SouthLakesHS/academics/resources/course\\_catalog\\_15\\_16.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/SouthLakesHS/academics/resources/course_catalog_15_16.pdf)

**C. FCPS Chorus Program of Studies** <http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/music.shtml>

## **D. Course Objectives:**

### **Musical instruction focuses on the following concepts:**

1. Following instructions (non-verbal from the conductor and verbal from the teacher)
2. Vocal technique as taught by the teacher/conductor
3. Music reading skills and applied theory
4. Large group (ensemble) performance and etiquette
5. Active listening training (musical and verbal)
6. Balance (volume and dynamics)
7. Intonation (singing in tune)
8. Historical and cultural perspective of repertoire
9. Music theory and ear training using the Kodaly Solfeggio system
10. Stylistic interpretation of vocal music

*The Fairfax County Public Schools Music Program of Studies requires the performance of literature that is both sacred and secular. Balance of music selected and performed from among historical and contemporary composers, genres, and periods is achieved through the course of a year's instruction and not within any individual concert.*

## **II. FCPS Grading Procedures and Grading Scale**

### **A. Evaluation Components**

#### **50% Musical performance and vocal technique**

Daily rehearsal skills & technique evaluations (breath support, posture, embouchure, tone, intonation, articulation, expression, rhythmic accuracy, dynamics, and tempo).

**After-school rehearsals** affect the student's grade in the same manner as do class periods.

#### **25% Concert Performances (Exams)**

Students should be aware of the attendance and make-up policies enumerated elsewhere in this document.

#### **25% Music Fundamentals**

Music theory, sight reading, rhythm reading, and/or vocabulary quizzes

- Percentages will be converted to letter grades as specified by FCPS. Quality points may be used to compute final grades in accordance with FCPS- and SLHS policy.
- Evaluations may include written, in-class, and/or recorded tests.
- Attendance & Performance at some after-school rehearsals will be required during the year.
- Attendance & Performance at concerts will be required during the year (all but one of these will be held at South Lakes; one will be off-site).

## **B. Homework & Independent Practice**

**Regulation 3205:** Homework and independent practice make up an essential component of the learning process for students. Assignments should be meaningful, with an emphasis on quality rather than quantity, and should be tailored to match the needs of all students. Homework should reinforce student learning and teachers should provide feedback.

Most chorus homework will consist in honing skills taught in class and familiarization with parts of pieces selected for upcoming performances.

## **C. FCPS Grading Scale**

A (93-100) = 4.0

A- (90-92) = 3.7

B+ (87-89) = 3.3

B (83-86) = 3.0

B- (80-82) = 2.7

C+ (77-79) = 2.3

C (73-76) = 2.0

C- (70-72) = 1.7

D+ (67-69) = 1.3

D (64-66) = 1.0

F (below 64) = 0.0

## **D. Re-Assessment Policy & Late Work Policy**

1. Students should submit a Performing Arts Absence Form. This form is necessary for every absence from events outside of the school day. The SLHS Performing Arts Excused/Unexcused Absence Policies will guide the director's decision on whether the absence is excused/unexcused. **Note: Turning in a Performing Arts Absence Form does not mean the absence is automatically excused.**
2. Students will have the opportunity to make up 100% of the work/grade missed due to an **excused** absence.
3. Students will have the opportunity to make up 70% of the work/grade missed due to an **unexcused** absence.
4. Make-up assignments for missed rehearsals or concerts will consist of the student's performing his or her part for the director for each piece rehearsed or performed. The performance may take place in person or via recording, according to the director's preference, and must be completed within one week of the student's return to school.
5. **Late Work Policy:** Late work deadline will be the day of the Unit Assessment (Concert, or Written Exam) with a 30% penalty.

6. Re-Assessment for individual singing assessments, sight reading assessments, and theory assessments will follow SLHS school wide policies.

## **E. Sports, Clubs, and Other Extra-Curricular Activity Policy**

*Chorus is an academic subject; sports & clubs are EXTRA-curricular.*

While the director will be as flexible as she can, there will be times the student will have to miss one event in favor of another. Here are the most common conflicts and their acceptable solutions:

- After-school chorus rehearsals take precedence over sports practices.
- Sports games/matches may take precedence over chorus rehearsals.

This is usually decided on a case-by-case basis; see the director in this instance.

- Concerts take precedence over practices and games/matches.

We will make an effort to compromise in appropriate cases, but this is possible only with appropriate and early communication with the director.

*Communication* is here defined as a conversation with appropriate documentation (Performing Arts Absence Form).

*Sending an email saying you have a conflict and will not attend a chorus event does not equal an excused absence.*

Compromise is not possible for same-day requests. Compromise will most likely not be possible for same-week requests.

**The key to working through conflicts in your schedule is early communication with your director.**

## **III. Honor Code Statement**

The South Lakes High School community embodies a spirit of mutual trust and intellectual honesty that is central to the very nature of the school and represents the highest possible expression of shared values among the members of the school community -- students, teachers, administrators, parents. Students who commit themselves to upholding South Lakes High School's Honor Code will be instilled with a sense of integrity and personal achievement that will last beyond their high school years.

### **The Code**

Students attending South Lakes High School are expected to conduct themselves honorably in pursuit of their education. Cheating, plagiarism, and fraud violate ethical codes of conduct and will not be accepted at South Lakes High School. The South Lakes Honor Code conforms to FCPS Student

Rights and Responsibilities and aligns to the expectations of the International Baccalaureate program.

#### **IV. Exams**

Students will complete both a performance - and a written examination at the end of the school year. Exams will count as one-fifth of the final grade for the course.

#### **V. SLHS Vision and Mission Statements**

##### **A. Vision**

The vision of South Lakes High School is to develop a community of learners who strive for academic excellence and value diversity, intellectual curiosity, social responsibility, and an international understanding for all students.

##### **B. Mission**

South Lakes High School's mission is to educate in a learning environment where student achievement is a priority and a right for all students. To achieve this, ongoing assessments will drive instruction, effective teaching strategies will address student needs, and the classroom environment will promote a passion for education. School life will encourage academic success and foster positive behavior. School personnel will effectively communicate with parents and solicit their participation in the greater South Lakes High School community.

#### **VI. Materials**

##### **A. Choral Music, Sight Reading Factory Account, FCPS Laptop, Pencil & Black Binder**

##### **B. Uniform & T-Shirt**

Students will receive a Chorus T-shirt at the beginning of the school year to wear for different chorus events throughout the year.

Students will be expected to present a professional appearance for every performance. This is standard throughout FCPS Music Programs.

- All **students** will wear either:
  - a full length black gown, black, closed toed, dress shoes, with no more than a 2 inch heel, clear (nude) tights or knee highs and pearl necklaces
  - a white dress shirt, tuxedo pants, blue tie, black satin vest & shoes, dark socks and black dress shoes. Sneakers or casual shoes are not acceptable.
- Uniforms are required to be kept clean and pressed for all concerts and festivals. If students do not arrive to performances with proper attire, that is clean and pressed, he/she will not perform and choose to forfeit their performance exam grade.

- Students are expected to maintain good hygiene for all performances and look like young professionals. Hair is to be neat and clean (all students will wear their hair out of their faces). Deodorize. Do not wear colognes or perfumes. Do not wear any jewelry or accessories, other than modest earrings. Look your best.

### C. Music Practice Accessories (optional)

Metronome, Pitch pipe, Recording Device

## VII. Guidelines for Success

### A. Expectations

- Students will be treated as young professionals.
1. Be **PROMPT**:
    - To class – This means to be in your assigned seat, with music, ready to sing once you arrive to class. Do not wait for the bell to begin working.
    - To rehearsals – This means to be in your assigned seat, with music, ready to sing 10 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time.
    - To performances – This means to be dressed in concert attire and checked in at your call time. Call times are established prior to each concert.  
**\*To be EARLY is to be ON TIME. To be ON TIME is to be LATE. To be LATE is UNACCEPTABLE.\***
  2. Be **PREPARED**:
    - For class
    - For rehearsals
    - For performances

Bring your music every day. You must maintain your folder in an orderly manner. Once music is assigned, it is your responsibility.
  3. Be **RESPECTFUL**:
    - Of yourself
    - Of adults
    - Of your peers
  4. Be **RESPONSIBLE**~ This means to plan ahead when you know about an upcoming rehearsal; turn in assignments on time; communicate important chorus news to your parents
  5. **THINK BEFORE YOU ACT.**

### B. Routines & Procedures

- Practice your music at home.
- Hall passes will be limited to 3 times per quarter. Students must sign in and sign out.



- Per SLHS Policies: Students are not permitted to use the hall pass during the first and last 10 minutes of class.
- Students will be prepared to rehearse during Seahawk Seminar or complete make-up assignments/complete remediation
- Students will be voice matched and seated according to blend and balance within the ensemble. Students may be re-seated throughout the course of the year depending on repertoire.
- **No phones, no food, no disruption.** All students will store their phones in the charging stations or in their backpacks. Phones will only be used for academic purposes.

**Please Note:** Consequences for tardiness and violation of the SR&R will be given in accordance with SLHS/FCPS policies.

Upon entering the chorus room:

- **Get your music** binder and sit in your assigned seat.
- **Follow any assignment instructions** on the board, and begin working upon arrival to class.
- **Read** the daily agenda listed on the board.
- **Participate willingly** in all rehearsals & required performances (during and after school).

### C. Vocal Health in Rehearsal

If a student is sick and not able to participate in class, the director will provide a listening evaluation form to be completed for that rehearsal. The student will follow along throughout every part of the rehearsal and participate as much as possible. **See information about vocal health on the chorus website and blackboard**

### D. Private Lessons

Private lessons are not required, but are strongly encouraged. Private lessons are not remedial, but instead help students at any level to progress more rapidly on their instrument than classroom instruction alone.

A list of teachers is available on the chorus website: [www.southlakeschorus.org](http://www.southlakeschorus.org)

### E. Technology



#### 1. Blackboard

Chorus practice files, announcements, assignments, handouts, and forms will be available on blackboard. *You are required to access blackboard* and can do so through the South Lakes homepage: <http://www.fcps.edu/SouthLakesHS/> and by clicking on the BB icon:

2. **Google Classroom** will be used for assignments regularly. Students will be required to sign up for their ensemble classroom during the first week of school.

3. **Sight Reading Factory:** This program will be used to support sight reading practice & assessments throughout the year. Each student will have an account assigned to him/her at the beginning of the school year.
4. **Remind:** Free text based service that provides reminders to upcoming assignments and events.
5. **Chorus Website** [www.southlakeschorus.org](http://www.southlakeschorus.org)



6. **Charms Office Assistant**

This is a database used by the choral department to organize groups, distribution lists, and reports to keep the department running efficiently.

7. **Email:** All chorus students and parents are expected to provide a working email address.

**F. Social Networking Policy**

Never photograph or record others without their permission. Never tag other people in photos or videos of South Lakes High School Choir performances and events. Identifying others, besides yourself, creates the potential for privacy violations, and could require us to eliminate pictures and videos at performances and events. You may tag yourself.

**Electronic Course Acknowledgement Sign Off Form:**

<https://forms.gle/gGrMoquLwe38kPzGA>

**Please submit this form by September 18, 2019**