



# Course Syllabus

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**Course:** Choir 1 – 2

**Director:** Mr. Cameron Brown

**About this course:** Choir students will learn vocal technique, rehearsal and performance etiquette, and musical theory, vocabulary, and concepts. Choir students will be presented with musical literature that represents different cultures, styles, and periods of music that is appropriate for their level of ability.

**Course Details:** Choir is open to all 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and no prerequisite musical skills are required, only and interest in singing and learning to sing well. This class fulfills the *Subject F: Visual and Performing Arts* requirement for University of California and California State University schools if the student receives a grade of C or above. This class is repeatable as Choir 3 – 4 (year 2), Choir 5 – 6 (year 3), and Choir 7 – 8 (year 4).

**Course Objectives:**

- Choir students will be able to read, rehearse, and publicly perform appropriate musical literature for their level of ability and ensemble instrumentation.
- Choir students will develop proper singing technique and apply it during both rehearsals and performances.
- Choir students will develop musicianship skills, such as pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, and sight-singing, creative expression, music theory, and more.
- Choir students will develop life skills such as teamwork, self-discipline, personal responsibility, focus, taking initiative, and much more.
- Choir students will learn professional performance etiquette as both a performer and an audience member.

**Necessary Supplies** (provided by student, school, or UCHS Music Boosters):

- A plain, all-black folder
- Pencils (writing in pen is never allowed)
- Performance attire (details later in the syllabus)

**California State Music Content Standards:** These will be addressed throughout the course. They can be found online at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/muprofit.asp>.

**School Policies:** All school policies will be followed strictly by Mr. Brown. Please refer to the UCHS Student Handbook under the “Students” tab at <http://www.universitycityhigh.org>.

**Classroom Guidelines:**

- R-E-S-P-E-C-T
  - Respect Mr. Brown and all staff members
  - Respect your classmates (and their instruments)
  - Respect your creative environment (classroom and materials)
  - Respect yourself; put forth a good effort everyday
- Help when needed
  - If everybody does a little, nobody does a lot
  - We are only as strong as our weakest link
  - “A society is measured by how it treats its weakest members.” -Ghandi
- Appropriate behavior and language
  - Avoid cursing/swearing
  - Control noises/distractions
  - Avoid negative commentary
  - Participate and follow instructions
- Food and drink
  - No food, drink, or gum in the classroom, except during lunchtime (if allowed)
  - Food trash is unacceptable at all times
  - Bottled water is allowed at all times

**Grading:** Attendance and participation during class rehearsal time is of the utmost importance and will make up the majority of your grade. Being prepared for daily rehearsals is a part of the attendance and participation grade (practicing your music outside of class time, memorizing lyrics, etc.). There will also be class work, homework, projects, and assessments (quizzes and tests) that make up a part of your grade. These assessments will vary between musical performance tests and written music theory tests. **Performances are absolutely mandatory. Missing a performance will lower your grade by a minimum of two letter grades from the semester grade unless otherwise excused (this happens very rarely).**

A = 90% - 100%  
B = 80% - 89%  
C = 70% - 79%  
D = 60% - 69%  
F = 59% and under

**Main Grading Areas**  
Attendance and Participation  
Assessments (quizzes and tests)  
Online or Written Assignments  
Projects

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit assignments may or may not be granted at Mr. Brown’s discretion.

**Online Grade Access:** Online gradebook will be accessible through Zangle ParentConnect.

### **Make-up / Late Policies:**

- Assessments, Projects, and Assignments: Anything missed due to an unexcused absence, truancy, tardy greater than 30 minutes, etc. may not be made up. Anything missed due to an excused absence must be made up within two school days of the student's return to school. Make-ups can be done in class, at lunch, after school, or by appointment, depending on the assignment. Work turned in past the deadline may or may not be accepted by the director for half-credit or less at his discretion, depending on how late the work is.
- Attendance and Participation Points: There is no make-up for daily attendance and participation points for unexcused absences, truancy, tardy greater than 30 minutes, etc. Students who are excused from absences will not be penalized any attendance and participation, unless they fail to catch up in a timely manner and their lack of preparation for daily rehearsals becomes a hindrance. Students who cannot rehearse for temporary medical reasons will still receive full points for following along in their music and being involved in all usual aspects of the rehearsal, or possibly completing a make-up assignment. Students not well enough to sing must present a note from a medical professional or parent on the date in question. No notes after the fact will be accepted.
- Performances: As this class falls into the category of the performing arts, attendance and participation in performances and dress rehearsals outside of school hours will be required. No student will be required to participate in an event with less than 14 calendar days' prior notice. All requests to miss a performance for conflicting events must be discussed with the director.
  - Acceptable Excuses for Missing a Performance: Hospitalized illness, unforeseen accident or emergency, major religious observation, or death in the close family. Other prearranged circumstances may excuse a student from a performance at the discretion of the director, but this is very rare. A make-up project or assignment may or may not be assigned at the discretion of the director.
  - Unacceptable Excuses for Missing a Performance: Didn't have a ride, homework, babysitting, work/volunteering schedule conflict, falling asleep/slept through alarm, medical/dental/vision appointments, didn't have appropriate attire, amongst others. Students that miss a performance for an unexcused reason will lose a minimum of two letter grades from their semester grade. In some cases, the director may offer a make-up of one of the lost letter grades, but this is very rare in the instance of an unexcused absence.
  - If a student cannot perform due to unpreparedness, inappropriate attire, inappropriate behavior, or any other reason, the director reserves the right to dismiss the student from the performance. He/she will then incur the same two-letter-grade-minimum penalty as missing the performance without an acceptable excuse.

**Citizenship Guidelines / Traits of a Positive Music Student:**

- Treats staff, students, instruments, and class environment with respect and care.
- Arrives on time, assembles instrument, and begins warming up for the day's activities quickly.
- Attends all performances prepared, in correct attire, and behaves in a professional manner.
- Has binder with music, maintenance materials, and a pencil always ready.
- Assists others when help is needed.
- Puts forth their best effort at all times.
- Consults the Chain of Command when problem solving and asks for help when needed.
- Takes time outside of class to improve musicianship.
- Shares a passion and excitement for music and an appreciation for the opportunity to play music in school.

**Performance Attire:** Being that 2011-2012 is Mr. Brown's first year at UCHS, we will gather input from students regarding the required performance attire and issue a memo regarding the decision on these requirements no less than 30 days prior to the first concert of any UCHS Music performing ensemble.

**Trip Policies:** All class and school policies apply when on off-campus, choir-related trips. You are a representative of your director, University City High School, its community, and the school district. Inappropriate or illegal behavior will result in disciplinary steps in accordance with school or district policy. It may also serve as grounds for dismissal from the trip or performance in question, or the UCHS Music program altogether. If a student is arrested, UCHS and SDUSD relinquish responsibility for the wellbeing of the student. If a student is dismissed from a trip due to improper behavior, they may be sent home at the parent/guardian's expense, prohibited from participating in future activities, or other disciplinary actions. If a student cannot attend a scheduled trip, an alternative assignment may or may not be provided at the discretion of the director, depending on the circumstances.

**Donations and Fundraising:** Students and parents are encouraged to participate in fundraising and make donations to the UCHS Music program to help cover expenses. Students may be expected to attend fundraising events throughout the school year, and may optionally participate in fundraisers to benefit the program or the student's individual account. If you're interested in getting involved with the UCHS Music Boosters, please notify the director.

**Statement Regarding Materials and Fundraisers from SDUSD:**

**Dear Student:** The Constitution of the State of California requires that we provide a public education to you free of charge. Your right to a free education is for all school/educational activities, whether curricular or extracurricular, and whether you get a grade for the activity or class. Subject to certain exceptions, your right to a free public education means that we cannot require you or your family to purchase materials, supplies, equipment or uniforms for any school activity, nor can we require you or your family to pay security deposits for access, participation, materials, or equipment. Under certain circumstances, students involved in extracurricular programs, clubs and/or sports may be required to attend fundraising events held by the program, sport or club just as you may be required to attend any other event put on by that program, club or sport. However, you will not be required to raise funds as a condition of participation.

For more information visit [www.sandi.net/staff/studentfees](http://www.sandi.net/staff/studentfees)

**Statement from the UCHS Music Boosters:**

The University City High School Music Boosters need your support!

The UCHS Music Boosters operate under the UCHS Centurion Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The UCHS Music Boosters are a group of dedicated parent volunteers who assist the Music Director with all aspects of the music program. The Music Boosters are working hard to ensure that each student receives a first-class musical experience. Even more so than in years past, there are many exciting events and enriching opportunities planned for the students.

In order to deliver a high quality music program for students at UCHS, we depend on the voluntary efforts of parents and community members. These efforts come from volunteers who are willing to donate their time and labor, or through actual financial assistance to the music program at UCHS.

With the assistance of the Music Director, the Music Boosters have compiled a financial operating budget for the 2011-2012 school year that can be reviewed by requesting a copy of the budget from the Music Director. It's important to note that the music program at UCHS receives only a very small portion from the school to cover some of these costs. The rest is up to us and we believe we can do it with your help! Based on this year's budget, our fundraising goal for the 2011-2012 school year is \$17,632. Because many have inquired as to what the typical donation range is, we share that for most, a voluntary donation from a family is about \$250.00. Please know, however, that **ALL** students will receive the same opportunities, experiences, and/or materials regardless of whether or not a contribution is made. Please also know that if we do not raise the anticipated amount set aside for the budget this year, the program will have to cut back on the traditional events, competitions, and activities that make for a complete overall music experience.

So here's your chance to help make this year an incredible learning experience for the students. We happen to believe we have a fantastic new Music Director and he needs your help to reach our fundraising goals! Please consider this opportunity and need. Your donation, in any amount, would be greatly appreciated. Donations are 100% tax deductible. In addition, your donation also qualifies for matching funds if your employer offers this service. The UCHS Music Boosters thank you for your continued support of our talented students!

**Tentative Schedule:**

- Dec. 8 or Dec. 15, 2011 – Winter Concert
- Mar. 1 or Mar. 8, 2012 – Pre-Festival Concert
- 1 – 2 competitive concert festivals to be scheduled at a later time (March – April)
- Possible Spring Trip to a competitive concert festival followed by a day at a Southern California theme park (To occur in April or May)
- May 24 or 31, 2012 – Pops Concert

**Eligibility:** Choir students must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above in order to participate in co- and extra-curricular activities like this one as stated by the San Diego Unified School District. Current semester grade point averages must also be 2.0 or above in order to participate in extracurricular activities associated with this class.

# Syllabus Acknowledgment

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Please detach, complete, and return this form to Mr. Brown by \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the University City High School Choir syllabus. We agree to all rules, regulations, and requirements for participation in Choir for the 2011-2012 school year, and understand that failure to abide by these guidelines may result in lower academic and/or citizenship grades, referrals, or removal from the UCHS Music program. We hereby relinquish all interpretation of rules, regulations, requirements, or consequences covered or not covered in this syllabus to Mr. Brown and will do our best to fulfill the requirements of the course and the expectations of the director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell phone (*optional*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student e-mail address (*optional*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian e-mail address (*optional*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Other phone

# Media Release Form

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I, the undersigned, give consent for my student to be photographed, audio-recorded, and/or video-recorded in association with this class during the 2011-2012 school year. I also give permission for my student's name and/or image to appear on the University City High School website, the UCHS Music Department's website, or in any other publication or media source (newsletters, newspaper, television, websites, etc.) authorized to display such images and names by the University City High School Music Department. I relinquish all rights and ownership of these photographs or recordings to University City High School. I also release University City High School and its employees/officers of any liability or damages resulting in my student's participation in events at which photographs or audio/video recordings are taken of their presence and/or participation.

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Student name

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Date

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Student signature

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Parent/Guardian name(s)

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Date

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Parent/Guardian signature(s)

# Emergency Information Form

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**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

The medical information, emergency contact information, and medical release are needed in the case of accidents or emergencies while on field trips or during after-school events. Medical information is confidential and will only be available to staff/chaperones and medical personnel when absolutely necessary. Please complete to the best of your ability and update the director if anything changes during the year.

FATHER/GUARDIAN EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE #1: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #2: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER/GUARDIAN EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE #1: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #2: \_\_\_\_\_

NON-PARENTAL EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_  
RELATIONSHIP TO STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE #1: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #2: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL CONDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MEDICATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHYSICIAN'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
INSURANCE: \_\_\_\_\_ POLICY # \_\_\_\_\_

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL RELEASE AUTHORIZATION

In an emergency situation when my student \_\_\_\_\_ is presented for or requires medical treatment of any kind during a field trip or after-school event, I understand that an attempt will be made to contact me in the most expeditious manner possible. In the event I cannot be reached, I, the parent/guardian of the above-named student, do hereby grant permission to the staff of the University City High School Music Department to act as guardian and consent to any medical treatment or care deemed necessary in the best interest of my student. I will not hold the school or anyone acting in the school's behalf responsible for injury to the above-named student, and I also guarantee payment of all charges incurred for medical treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian signature(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date