I. Course Summary
Welcome to the choir department at Highland Park Senior High School! I am looking forward to getting to know you as both a singer and scholar. In choir, every person plays starting varsity. Your choir doesn’t have a second line or a JV. Because everyone is a starter, our expectations are for everyone. As a part of a team, it is necessary to understand that you are vitally important but yet it is not all about you. We will align our choir curriculum this year with the Minnesota State Music Standards, IB Music guidelines and the National Standards for Music.

- **Honors Choir** is made up of students in grades 10-12. This class is designed for singers to continue their knowledge of music theory and music history. Junior and Senior singers in this class are encouraged to take the IB music exam which we will be using class time to prepare for. This is an auditioned choir.
- **Intermediate Mixed Choir** is designed for singers in grades 9–12 that come from all different musical backgrounds. This is a great choir that will perform repertoire in two, three, and four part harmonies. We will start out the year with basic music theory and progress as the year goes on.
- **Beginning Mixed Choir** is designed for singers in grades 9–12 that come from any musical background and want to try choir for the first time. This choir will focus on technique and how to learn music. They will perform repertoire in unison, two and three part harmonies. We will spend the semester learning rehearsal technique, music basics and how the voice works.

### Expectations of Excellence
Here is a list of what we need from every person, every day, all hour to be our best:
- Love singing
- Sing with your mind and body connected
- Respect, support, strengthen and encourage everyone in the room
- Look for ways to improve every time you sing
- Sit, stand and hold music with excellent posture
- Have your music in class every day and always have it out
- Listen when others are talking or singing
- Watch the board for announcements, due dates, concerts and other class details so you are always informed, on time and prepared

II. Unit of Study
Planned units of study will be explored throughout the year according to the needs of the class. Semesters will end with a summative assessment based on the material explored by students and teacher.

- **Unit 1: Music Theory** - 3 Levels of study guided by excellence in THEORY workbooks. Composition projects. Ear training. IB Music.
· Unit 2: Vocal Technique - Explored through rehearsal techniques, auditions, performances/presentations and their preparation.
· Unit 3: College and Career Readiness: Completing presentations and performances of music and information related to music. Preparing and completing auditions. Sharing music and engaging with the community through musical experiences. IB Music
· Unit 4: Connecting and Responding to Music - Classroom discussions and activities on Schoology. Music History.

III. Standards and MYP Aims
We will be using and referring to the Minnesota State Standards for music and tying them into our IB/MYP school wide curriculum.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Music Standards</th>
<th>MYP Aims</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strand I: Artistic Foundation</td>
<td>Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of music using subject specific terminology, understand the role of music in its original context, and use acquired knowledge in the process of creating and performing music.</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of the arts area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Demonstrate knowledge and use of the technical skills of the art form, integrating technology when applicable.</td>
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<tr>
<td>· Demonstrate understanding of the personal, social, cultural historical contexts that influence the arts area.</td>
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<td>Strand II: Artistic Process: Create or Make</td>
<td>Develop a feasible, clear, imaginative and coherent artistic intention through performance.</td>
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<td>· Create or make in a variety of contexts in the arts area using the artistic foundations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strand III: Artistic Process: Perform or Present</td>
<td>Present prepared material to a group while understanding the process behind the performance.</td>
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<td>· Perform or present in a variety of contexts in the arts area using the artistic foundations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strand IV: Artistic Process: Respond or Critique</td>
<td>Create an artistic response, of themselves and others, that will construct meaning and transfer their learning to new settings.</td>
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<td>· Respond to or critique a variety of creations and performances using the artistic foundations.</td>
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IV. Assessments and Grading Scale
You will be graded on content knowledge and participation. I am presuming you will always be here, present and participating. Since choir is a performance based class you will need to be actively participating to the best of your ability. This includes being prepared for class, engaging in activities to your fullest extent and being a responsible member of your section. We will follow the HPSH grading policy and grading will break down like this:
- Summative – 70% of your total grade
- Formative – 30% of your total grade

**Don’t complain or protest everyday activities!**
Singing with energy and effort are basic, everyday expectations. Striving to get better each day is a basic, everyday expectation. Don’t complain, just do.

Since Highland Park Senior High is an IB/MYP school, tests and projects will be assessed using our Arts criterion. Each criterion will have a rubric and students will be provided said rubric when an IB/MYP test or project is assigned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion A</td>
<td>Knowledge and Understanding</td>
<td>Through the study of theorists and practitioners of the arts, students discover the aesthetics of art forms and are able to analyze and communicate in a special, artistic language. This will be assessed by unit tests or quizzes and study guides.</td>
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<td>Criterion B</td>
<td>Developing Skills</td>
<td>Through the development of artistic skills students are provided with active participation in the art form and in the process of creating art. This will be assessed by in class performances and large ensemble performances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criterion C</td>
<td>Thinking Creatively</td>
<td>Thinking creatively encourages students to explore the unfamiliar and experiment in innovative ways to develop their artistic intentions, their processes and their work. This will be assessed using composition assignments.</td>
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Criterion D  Responding

Students have the opportunity to respond to their world, to their own art and to the art of others to encourage students to make connections and transfer learning to new settings. This will be assessed using listening assignments and responding to other performances.

V. Singers Responsibilities
It is your responsibility to be an active member to your ensemble. That means showing up on time ready to sing with all materials and showing up to all performances at your call time with your part learned and dressed in the proper attire.

VI. Performances
- I am uncertain of what performances will be or will look like due to distance learning. I will update information and communicate details with you ASAP.

VII. Classroom Policies and Procedures
This classroom is an environment that fosters creativity and open mindedness. Please keep in mind that each singer brings something different to our class, so please be respectful of your classmates and our creative space. Though you might not always agree with the comments or ideas expressed in class, you are expected to consider ideas thoughtfully, responding respectfully and be sure to always treat your fellow students with dignity and respect. Disruptive behavior may result in a student being asked to leave class.
- Please be in class on time with your materials and ready to sing and participate at scheduled times.
- Be respectful of our environment and those in it. Present yourself appropriately and do not distract from learning as it is taking place. Engage with activities to your best ability and in a timely manner.

VIII. Lettering
Request Google Form from Mr. Bovis to apply for a Letter

IX. Other Music Opportunities
- IB Music Test – Please see me if you are a junior or senior wanting to take the IB music test this year.
- Spring Musical – ..... 
- National Anthem Opportunities – Please inquire if you are interested in singing the National Anthem for a sporting event or other activity
- After School Singing: I am open to helping with after/before school singing activities. Also: Guitar/Ukulele, DJing and Electronic music, composition/songwriting, OPEN MIC, etc...
- **Ordway Honors Choir** – TBD. Other Honors Choir opportunities may come up, stay tuned.
- **Choir Trip** - STILL waiting until the end of 2020… updates will come ASAP.