

**2010-2011 Cypress Lake High School
Center for the Arts
Choral Handbook**



**Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the
2010-2011 School Year**

Gary R. Stroh – Director

2010-2011 Officers

Michaela Slamka – President
Tony Sansone – Vice President
Danielle Huston – Treasurer
Haley Huston – Secretary
Justine Fitzgerald – Historian
Emma Coleman - Historian

www.cypresslakevocal.com

2010 All-State Choir Members

Reading Chorus

Lauren Davis

9-12 High School Mixed Chorus

Alissa Roca
Stephanie Wilson

Important Dates and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Performance or Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Aug. 26-27	A Cappella Group Auditions	2:00 pm
Aug. 31-Sep. 3	<i>Nine</i> Auditions	2:00-4:30 pm
Sept. 15	Cheesecake Sale Kick-off	
Sept. 17	All-State Contracts Due – Late Contracts Not Accepted	
Sept. 27	ACDA National Honor Choir Audition Deadline	
Sept. 30	Whet Your Appetite! CLHS Auditorium	7:00 pm
Oct. 9	FVA All-State Qualifying Test @ SWF Christian Academy	8:30 am-2:00 pm
Oct. 12	Solo & Ensemble Registration Due	
Oct. 20	Fall Choral Concert CLHS Auditorium	7:00 pm
Nov. 4	FVA All-State Vocal Auditions @ North Port HS	4:30 pm-10:00 pm
Nov. 10	All-County Rehearsal @ Fort Myers High	6:00–8:30 pm
Nov. 12	All-County Rehearsal @ Fort Myers High	6:00-8:30 pm
Nov. 13	All-County Rehearsal @ Fort Myers High	9:00 am-3:30 pm
Nov. 14	All-County Concert @ Fort Myers High	10:00 am
Nov. 19	FVA Solo & Ensemble MPA @ Lehigh Senior HS	TBA
Nov. 18-21	<i>Nine</i> CLHS Auditorium	7:30 pm
Nov. 30	Madrigal Dinner Rehearsal – Choir Room	2:30-4:30 pm
Dec. 2	Madrigal Dinner Rehearsal – Black Box	2:30-4:30 pm
Dec. 3&4	Madrigal Dinner in Black Box Theatre	5:30-9:30 pm
Dec. 16	Arts with a Heart Charity Concert	7:00 pm
Jan. 13-15	FVA All-State Choir in Tampa	
Feb. 1	Panther Showcase	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Feb. 3	Vocal Dept. Cabaret CLHS Auditorium	6:30 pm
Feb. 17	Pre-MPA Choral Concert @ CLHS Auditorium	7:00 pm
Feb. 24	FVA District Choral MPA @ Charlotte High	TBA
Mar. 4	Theatre & Vocal Cabaret @ Auditorium	7:00 pm
Apr 28-May 1	New York City Trip	
May 5-7	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> – Black Box	7:30 pm
May 11-14	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i> – Black Box	7:30 pm
May 18	Spring Choral Concert CLHS Auditorium	7:00 pm
May 27	Senior Tribute CLHS Auditorium	7:00 pm
June 2	Vocal Department Banquet Center Art Gallery	6:00-10:00 pm
June 4 or 5	Graduation Germain Arena	TBA

All item in bold are mandatory events for all members of the vocal music department.

Classroom Expectations

Exhibit Positive and Effective Behavior in Class and On Stage

Respect:

- Take pride in respecting classmates, director, and property
- Develop a “listening attitude” in following class expectations.
- Refrain from gum-chewing, disruptive talking, and other negative behaviors

Contributions:

- Work on the development of proper vocal skills
- Participate with a positive attitude
- Present an eagerness and willingness to learn

Leadership:

- Set examples of positive self-discipline
- Learn music quickly to help others with their parts
- Take initiative in all class activities

Consequences for students who **choose** negative behaviors:

- Step 1: Verbal warning in class
- Step 2: Teacher administrated detention
- Step 3: Conference with Mr. Stroh and detention, phone call to parents
- Step 4: Written referral to dean, ISS for class period, phone call to parents
- Step 5: Referral, ISS, conference with Mr. Stroh & Mrs. Thimlar

Harassment:

- Music is internationally understood as an art form that brings people of diverse backgrounds and opinions together.
- Harassment in the choral program is unacceptable. We expect you to do your best to resolve simple disagreements on your own.
- If it is impossible to resolve disagreements without assistance, the officers will help to find a resolution.
- Serious issues that remain unresolved by the officers should then be addressed to Mr. Stroh.

Choir Folders and Music:

- Each member will be required to purchase a choir folder. This folder will be used for your entire time at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts.
- You will be issued music throughout the year. This music should be kept in your folder and be with you in class each and every day. You will be charged replacement cost for any lost or damaged music.
- You will be assigned an unsecured slot in the choir room for folder storage. If you choose to keep it in your slot, you are still responsible for the contents therein.

Grading Policy – Cypress Chorale & Intermezzo

Grades will be determined by the effort a students puts into the choral ensemble. The grades will be divided into four categories:

Participation – 40%

Performances – 35%

Assessments – 15%

Center Events – 10%

The purpose of the system is twofold:

- To give the students visible credit for the aspects of the class they normally do, such as attending rehearsals and concerts.
- To encourage the students to become more involved by attending the events of other departments in the Center for the Arts at Cypress Lake High School.

Participation – 40%

Rehearsal Attendance – Students will receive up to 10 points for each scheduled rehearsal they attend. Points will be awarded based on the following rubric.

10 Points -	Participates fully and attentively during warm-up Involved actively in rehearsal vast majority of time Displays correct posture at all times while singing
9 Points -	Participates fully during warm-up Involved actively in rehearsal most of the time Displays correct posture at all times while singing
8 Points -	Participates in warm-up with minor attention lapses Involved in rehearsal but has minor attention lapses Displays correct posture most of the time while singing
7 Points -	Participates in warm-up with some attention lapses Involved in rehearsal but has some attention lapses Displays correct posture intermittently
6 Points -	Participation in warm-up is casual Involved in rehearsal but is frequently distracted Displays correct posture inconsistently
5 Points -	Fails to take warm-up seriously Involves himself / herself in rehearsal casually and distractions are many Displays correct posture only after warning from director
4 Points -	Infrequently participates in warm-up Infrequently involved in rehearsal and off task a majority of time Infrequently displays correct posture
3 Points -	Rarely participates in warm-up Rarely involved in rehearsal and frequently off-task Rarely displays correct posture
2 Points -	Participation in warm-up is negligible Involvement in rehearsal is negligible Posture incorrectly displayed
1 Point -	No participation in warm-up No involvement in rehearsal No correct posture displayed even after warning from director
0 Points -	Absent from rehearsal, excused or unexcused, or removal from rehearsal for disciplinary reasons

As detailed earlier in this handbook, each student will be assigned a folder and music. The folder, all music and a pencil must be with each student each day. Failure to have the folder and all contents will result in **3 points** being deducted from that day's participation point value.

Rehearsal time is very valuable and we must make use of each and every moment. Tardies will result in **3 points** being deducted from that day's participation point value.

Extra Rehearsal Attendance – Extra rehearsals may be necessary for various performances and may be called outside the school day. Rehearsals will be worth 50-100 points.

Performances – 35%

Performance Attendance – Students will receive up to 100 points per performance providing they arrive at the appointed time, be dressed appropriately, perform and remain until the completion of the performance.

FVA District and State Concert MPA – Students will receive up to 200 points for each FVA MPA performance.

Absences – In order for an absence to be excused, the student must have prior approval from the director. Excused absences will be granted only in extreme circumstances. If an excused absence is granted, an alternate project will be assigned. Work schedules or family trips will be unexcused, as all concert dates are known well in advance. In the event of illness or family emergency immediately before a concert or extra rehearsal, a “good faith” attempt (Parent-link, call to directors home, e-mail, etc.) must be made to notify the director.

Assessments – 15%

iPod Tests – iPod Tests are singing tests in which the participants are either chosen at random or chosen by the director. Portions of the literature will be assigned and then assessed. iPod Test dates will be announced for new material. Unannounced iPod Tests will cover material that has already been assigned. Accuracy, diction, tone, phrasing, and musicianship will be evaluated. Singers will sing their part into an iPod while the entire choir sings. Each iPod Test is worth 50 points. The grading rubric can be found in the appendix of this handbook.

Singing Tests – Students will also be tested on their parts by singing in quartets and octets during class time. Students will be chosen and then sing their part along with the others in front of the class. These tests will also be worth 50 points

Written Work – Quizzes, tests and essays may be utilized during any given quarter. Each assignment will be given a point value ranging from 10 points to 50 points.

Center for the Arts Events – 10%

Each student will be expected to attend at least one performance or event from each of the other departments within the Center for the Arts during the year. Students must attend at least one of the performances or events during each quarter. All students at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts are being encouraged to become more aware of the activities of the entire Center and not just their own departments.

Vocal Department Handbook

In order to receive credit for attending a qualifying performance or event, students must turn in the program, ticket stub and a one page synopsis and review of the performance.

Performance Schedule by Quarter:

1st Quarter

- Oct. 1 – Visual Arts Dept. – *Retrospective Art Exhibit* - Art Gallery - 5:30-7:00 pm - Free
- Oct. 8 – Band Dept. - Fall Band Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Oct. 22-23 – Theatre Dept. – *Beans & Scenes* – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$10.00
- Oct. 22 – Dance Dept. – Fall Dance Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00

2nd Quarter

- Oct. 29 – Media Dept. - Outdoor Media Show – Center Amphitheatre – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Nov. 4 – Orchestra Dept. – Orchestra Recital – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Nov. 5 – Visual Arts Dept. – Gallery Opening – Art Gallery – 5:30-7:00 pm – Free
- Nov. 6 – Band Department – Florida Bandmasters District Marching Band MPA – Fort Myers High
- Nov. 18-21 – *Nine* – Auditorium – 7:30 pm - \$5.00 students
- Dec. 2 – Band Dept. – Winter Band Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Dec. 9 – Dance Dept. – Visions of Sugar Plums Dance Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Dec. 14 – Orchestra Dept. – Winter Orchestra Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00

3rd Quarter

- Jan. 13 & 14 – Theatre Dept. – 3 – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Jan. 27 – Dance Dept. – Newton’s Law Dance Company – Auditorium – 7:00 pm
- Jan. 27 – Band Dept. – Solo & Ensemble Recital – Black Box – 6:00 pm \
- Jan. 28 – Orchestra Dept. – Orchestra Recital – Orchestra Room – 7:00 pm
- Jan. 28 – Media Dept. – Media Show – Media Studio – 7:00 pm
- Feb. 4-6 – Theatre Dept – Play – *The Importance of Being Ernest* – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Feb. 10-12 – Theatre Dept – Play – *The Importance of Being Ernest* – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Feb. 11 – Visual Arts Dept – Art Exhibit Opening – Art Gallery – 5:30-7:00 pm - Free
- Feb. 24-26 – Dance Dept. – *The Little Mermaid* The Ballet – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Mar. 18 – Visual Arts Dept. – Senior Art Exhibit Opening – Art Gallery – 5:30-7:00 pm – Free
- Mar. 18 – Media Dept. – Media Show – Black Box – 7:00 p.m.

4th Quarter

- Mar. 31-2 – Theatre Dept. – Play – *Electra* – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Apr. 6 – Band Dept. – Jazz Night – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Apr. 8-9 – Theatre Dept. – Play – *Electra* – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- Apr. 15 – Orchestra Dept. – Orchestra Recital – Black Box – 7:00 pm
- Apr. 19 – Dance Dept. – New Visions Dance Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- May 5-7 – 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee – Black Box – 7:30 pm - \$5.00 students
- May 11-14 – 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee – Black Box – 7:30 pm - \$5.00 students
- May 17 – Band Dept. – Spring Band Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- May 19-20 – Dance Dept. – Spring Dance Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- May 23-24 – Media Dept. – Media Spectacular – Black Box – 7:00 pm - \$5.00
- May 26 – Orchestra Dept. – Spring Orchestra Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 pm - \$5.00

Jobs/Work & Vocal Department Events

It is your responsibility to notify your place of employment about rehearsal and performance dates. You should submit a copy of the performance schedule along with rehearsal dates to your employer at the beginning of the school year. Employers are happy to work around your schedule if they know it well in advance. They are usually less willing to work around your schedule when they find out the day before. Work is an unexcused absence under any circumstance.

Advanced Vocal Techniques Syllabus

Vocal Technique classes give the vocal major and minor the opportunity to develop their voice through solo and small ensemble literature.

- Requirements -
1. Each student will be required to have a three ring binder. This binder will be used as your repertoire folder. You will keep assigned solos, ensembles, vocal exercises, class notes and sight-reading materials in the binder. The binder must be with during each class period and its presence will be included in the daily participation grade.
 2. Each solo will be graded three times. The first time will be a singing check at the piano. The second time will be in front of class and you can use your music. The final assessment will be the completed solo in front of class memorized.

Repertoire -	<u>3rd Year List – 1st Semester</u> 1 Italian piece from 26 Italian Arias 1 English piece from 1 st Book series 1 musical theatre solo by Rogers & Hammerstein	<u>4th Year List – 1st Semester</u> 1 Foreign Language piece 1 English piece from 1 st Book series 1 musical theatre solo from the Musical Theatre Anthology series
	<u>3rd Year List – 2nd Semester</u> 1 Italian piece from 26 Italian Arias 1 English piece from 1 st Book series 1 musical theatre solo from the Musical Theatre Anthology	<u>4th Year List – 2nd Semester</u> 1 Foreign Language piece 1 English piece from 1 st Book series 1 musical theatre solo from the Musical Theatre Anthology series

- Assessments -
1. Participation will be worth 25 points per week. Students should have all of their materials each day and be actively working during class time to receive all possible points.
 2. Music Theory.net assignments will be given weekly during the first semester. These assignments will be due every Friday and are worth 25 points.
 3. Vocabulary sheets will be given out during the beginning of each semester. There will be quizzes 3 times per quarter. Each quiz will be worth 50 points.
 4. Sight Reading will be a daily activity and there will be sight reading tests each quarter. This test will be worth 100 points.
 5. Each assigned piece must be performed during the semester. The first final assessment will be during week 6 of the first quarter. The second will be during week 7 of the second quarter. The third will be your semester final exam.
 6. An FVA All-State Mock Test will be given in September. It will be worth 50 points.

Musical Theatre Syllabus

Course Objective – This course is designed for 2nd year members of the dance, theatre and vocal departments. The students will learn basic concepts and techniques in each of the three disciplines as well as study the vast history of American musical theatre. Included in the study will be history and performance of various styles and eras. Students completing this course should have a thorough understanding of American Musical Theatre as well as a better understanding of vocal technique, dance & movement techniques and acting and oratory techniques.

Course Grading - Students will be evaluated both objectively and subjectively, as is the case with all performance based classes. The overall quarter grades will be based on cumulative points. Points will be earned in the following areas.

Classroom Participation – 10 points per day.

Students will receive the daily points if they are on time to class and participate fully in the daily activity. Students who are chewing gum or are not dressed appropriately will receive a zero for that day.

Written Tests – 50 points per test

The course will cover over 100 years of musical theatre history. Written tests will be given after each unit. Tests will consist of fill in the blank questions and some essay questions. All new unit tests will include questions about information given in previous units.

Classroom Projects – Up to 100 points, based on the type of project.

There will be a variety of performance based classroom projects. These projects will require the students to exhibit skills learned in the class and will be considered major grades.

Course Weekly Schedule

Quarter 1

Week 1 – Class introductions and team building exercises.

Week 2 – Musical Theatre History – Unit 1 (1893-1927)

Week 3 & 4 – Basic skills by discipline.

Theatre students will meet with Ms. Petro in the Dance Studio

Vocal students will meet with Ms. Petro in the Dance Studio

Dance students will meet with Mr. Stroh in the Choir Room

Week 5 – Musical Theatre History – Unit 2 (1919-1933)

Week 6 & 7 – Basic skills by discipline

Theatre students will meet with Ms. Petro in the Dance Studio

Vocal students will meet with Ms. Petro in the Dance Studio

Dance students will meet with Mr. Stroh in the Choir Room

Week 8 – Musical Theatre History – Unit 3 (1930-1942)

Week 9 – Class Projects – Create your own musical

Quarter 2

Week 10 – Group rotations – the class will be split into two groups with members of all three departments in each group. Each group will be assigned to one of the instructors and work on a project within that discipline from one of the musical theatre periods that have been studied.

Week 11 – Musical Theatre History – Unit 4 (1943-1960)

Week 12 – Groups rotations – Same groups, different instructor

Week 13 – Musical Theatre History – Unit 5 (1957-1979)

Week 14 & 15 – Class Projects – Create your own musical

Week 16 – Musical Theatre History – Unit 6 (1980 – Today)

Week 17 – Introduction to Auditioning

Week 18 – Review for final exams

Quarter 3

Week 1-4 – Auditioning – All students will be preparing an audition and then doing an actual audition as a major project. Work on monologues, solo songs and the ins and outs of auditioning will be covered.

Week 5 - What is happening on Broadway today?

Week 6-9 – Preparation for Musical Review – All students will participate in a final performance of several musical theatre pieces. Class time will be spent rehearsing, choreographing and staging these pieces.

Quarter 4

Week 10-16 – Preparation for Musical Review – continuation of preparation from quarter 3.

Week 17-18 – Sweeney Todd – the original

Beginning Vocal Techniques Syllabus

Vocal Technique classes give the vocal major and minor the opportunity to develop their voice through solo and small ensemble literature.

Requirements - 1. Each student will be required to have a three ring binder. This binder will be used as your repertoire folder. You will keep assigned solos, ensembles, vocal exercises, class notes and sight-reading materials in the binder. The binder must be with during each class period and its presence will be included in the daily participation grade.

Repertoire -	<u>1st Quarter List</u>	<u>2nd Quarter List</u>
	Many a cappella songs to help develop stage presence	1 Art Song sung in English All students will sign same
	<u>3rd Quarter List</u>	<u>4th Quarter List</u>
	1 Art Song sung in English chosen by students	Italian Diction and Weekly Vaccai exercises

Assessments -

1. Participation will be worth 25 points per week. Students should have all of their materials each day and be actively working during class time to receive all possible points.
2. Music Theory.net assignments will be given weekly during the first semester. These assignments will be due every Friday and are worth 25 points.
3. Vocabulary sheets will be given out during the beginning of each semester. There will be weekly quizzes worth 25 points.
4. Sight Reading will be a daily activity and there will be sight reading tests each quarter. These tests will be worth 50 points.
5. Each assigned piece must be performed during the quarter. During the first quarter, students will have many performance grades worth between 10 and 50 points. The assigned solo during the second quarter will be performed during week 7. The assigned solo during the third quarter will be performed during week 8. During the 4th quarter, Vaccai exercises will be performed during the last class meeting of each week.
6. Numerous other quizzes and class projects will be worth between 10 and 50 points.

All-State Choir

Earning a spot in the Florida All-State Choir is one of the highest honors you can earn while at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts. The process is long and demanding, but the reward is great. All members of the All-State Choir travel to Tampa in early January to participate with their All-State group. There are four choirs in which members of the vocal department are eligible to earn membership. All of the All-State choirs are based entirely on each student's performance in the qualification process.

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|-------------------------|---|
| Reading Choir | -- Membership in this choir is considered the highest honor. There are 100 members, 25 per part, selected. Students must pass the musicianship test and have a sight-reading score that is among the highest in the state. The minimum qualifying sight-reading score is 30, but a score of 32 or 33 out of 40 measures is usually the cut-off. Students who are invited to the Reading Chorus do not have to participate in the vocal quality audition. |
| 9-12 Senior High Chorus | -- This choir is an SATB ensemble of 300 members. Tickets for this choir will be awarded to the students with the highest combined musicianship test, sight-reading score and vocal quality score who have passed the vocal quality audition. Students are competing against other students from our district for tickets. A musicianship test score in the mid nineties and a sight-reading score in the thirties is needed to give you a chance at a ticket for this choir. |
| SSAA Women's Chorus | -- This choir will consist of 200 women in grades 9-12. Tickets for this choir will go to the next highest scores after the 9-12 Senior High tickets have been awarded. All soprano scores will be combined as well as the alto scores to award the tickets. Highest scoring students will be given their voice preference until those tickets have been taken. A soprano I could end up with a soprano II ticket. |
| TTBB Men's Chorus | -- This choir will consist of 150 men in grades 9-12. First preference for these tickets will go to the highest scoring students that do not receive a 9-12 Senior High ticket. Schools will also be awarded a ticket that do not have any other students receive a ticket. |

The musicianship test is the first qualifying tool. This test, which consists of aural recognition, written theory and vocabulary, is worth 100 points. You must achieve a score of 70 to pass and move on to the next level. Realistically, you must achieve a score in the upper 80s or 90s to have a good chance of making it.

Vocal Department Handbook

Sight-reading Test

Sight-reading is the second qualifying tool in the All-State process. All 9-12 students will be required to sing 40 measures. There will be 5 exercises, each one consisting of 8 measures.

The following procedures will be used throughout the state during the sight-reading test.

A. Preliminary procedures:

1. Each singer will arrive in the room with sight-reading adjudication forms for each judge, forms supplied by the district chairman. Each student will be asked to put his/her name on the form before entering the sight-reading room. Sight-reading forms will be given to the judges by the singer.
2. Singers will be read the script provided by the FVA for sight-reading.
3. The judges will ask the singer which sight-reading music his/her director instructed him/her to sing from (Treble Clef, Bass Clef or Changing Voice) and whether his/her director has given him/her special instructions regarding the key in which to sing (transpose) the exercises.
4. The judges will inform the singer that he/she may hold the music or place the music on the music stand while singing.
5. One of the judges should be responsible for making sure that the appropriate sight-reading page is in front of the student but that it is turned face down on the music stand until all instructions are completed.
6. Before beginning the sight-reading audition each singer should be asked if they understand the procedure for establishing pitch and if they have any questions before they are asked continue with the audition.
7. Singers will then be reminded of the study time limitations, how tonality and time will be set and the rules for stopping and starting over on an exercise.
8. One of the judges should then ask the singer if he/she has any questions, answer those questions and proceed with the audition.

B. Testing Procedures

1. Singers are encouraged to sing as many of the exercises on the page as they can and to attempt all of the exercises.
2. Exercises must be sung in the order they appear on the page.
3. Before each exercise a judge will establish the key, tempo and meter of the exercise for the singer.
 - Key will be established for each sight-reading exercise by playing an eight note ascending and descending major or minor octave scale (quarter note = 60) followed immediately by the ascending and descending arpeggio. Singers are encouraged to sing the scale and arpeggio while it is played. The singer may continue to establish key in the fashion he/she has learned but without assistance from the judges.
 - The tempo will be set/counted for each simple time exercise at quarter note = approximately 60. The tempo for the compound triple exercise should be set at eighth-note = approximately 90/dotted quarter note = 30. The singer may elect to sing an exercise at a tempo faster than set by the judges.
 - The singer's score should not be affected if the tempo sung is faster than the tempo set by the judge. If the tempo of sections of an exercise is sung slower than the tempo set, the judge should count those sections incorrect.
4. After the key, time and tempo of the exercise has been established, a judge will play the first note of the exercise and ask the singer to sing the note.

5. After singing the starting note a judge will announce the length of time the singer will have to study the exercise and say “study” to begin timing the study period.
 - Senior high singers will be given 10 seconds to silently study exercise #1, 20 seconds to silently study #2 and #3 and #4 and 30 seconds to silently study exercise #5;
6. After the allotted study time expires a judge will call “time”, play the scale and arpeggio, the starting pitch and “count-off” one measure of the exercise in tempo.
 - The singer may sing the exercise using solfege, numbers or a neutral syllable. Because of lack of clarity singers are discouraged from humming the exercises. Judges should not penalize a singer for singing the wrong scale degree number or the wrong solfege syllable as long as the actual pitches and rhythms the singer produces match those of the exercise.
7. Once the singer has begun to sing an exercise he/she should not stop until end of that exercise or until he/she cannot go any further.
 - Judges will use their discretion as to what a “stop” is in the exercise as opposed to a “hitch”, “stumble”, “pause without completely stopping” or etc. A judge will be the sole determiner as to what constitutes a “stop” during singing.
8. If a singer stops before finishing an exercise the singer will be given time to request to begin the exercise again or may be asked, at the discretion of the judge, whether or not the singer wants to begin the exercise again as long as the singer has not “started-over” before.
 - If the singer elects to begin again, the re-start will count as his/her one “start-over” for the entire audition.
 - An exercise that is re-started must be done so immediately after the scale, arpeggio and starting pitch are played again. The exercise should be “counted-off” without additional study time.
9. If the singer finishes singing an exercise but feels he/she can improve his/her score for that exercise the singer can request to sing it again as long as (a) the singer has not moved onto the next exercise or (b) has not started over on any other exercise.
 - It will not be the judges responsibility to ask the singer whether or not he/she wants to begin an exercise over again once he/she finishes the exercise.
10. If the singer does not ask to repeat the last exercise attempted, the judges, after giving the singer time to request a “start-over”, will move to the next exercise on the page (unless all the exercises have been completed).
 - The singer may complete part or all of the exercise then request to sing the exercise again as long as he/she has not taken a “start-over” at any other time during the audition.
11. If the singer informs the judges that he/she has decided to start the last exercise over, the singer will have to start at the beginning of that exercise and will receive a score based on the number of measures sung correctly only on the “start over”, erasing completely the score on the first attempt to sing the exercise.
 - The singer cannot be given the best score between the two attempts; only the “start-over” score, for better or worse, will be recorded.
12. Once the singer has used the allotted “start-over” he/she will not be allowed to restart any other exercise of the audition and may never, after moving to the next exercise, go back to any other exercise whether or not the singer has used his/her “start-over” or not.
13. Judges will not give the singer a “running count” of the number of measures sung correctly, will not inform a singer if the minimum number of measures for passing has been sung and will not inform the singer of the total number of measures sung at the conclusion of that singer’s audition. It will be the responsibility of the singer’s choral director to inform him/her of all scores associated with the all-state chorus audition.

Vocal Department Handbook

Vocal Quality Audition

All students who pass the sight-singing test will then move on to the vocal quality audition. This audition takes place approximately four weeks after the first two tests. Each student will be required to learn the music for the 9-12 Choir. Students will then sing with two other students of the same part for a 3 person judging panel. Students being evaluated will sing along with a CD that has the other parts on it. If altos are auditioning, the CD will include Soprano, Tenor and Bass voices. Each student will be evaluated of the Technical Preparation. All students will be expected to have a thorough knowledge of all pitches and rhythms in all tested musical excerpts. The technical preparation part of the test will be graded pass/fail. Students who do not pass the technical preparation may be given the opportunity to retest. Students that fail will not be eligible to receive an all-state ticket. Each student will also be evaluated on vocal performance. There are two categories for vocal performance: tone quality and musical effect. The criteria for tone quality is the ability to produce a well supported, age appropriate, open and free tone. The criteria for musical effect will be the ability to exhibit dynamic control, phrasing, articulation and expression. Each category for vocal performance has a maximum of 4 points, thus making 8 points the highest that each student can receive from each judge. There will be three judges, so a score of 24 will be the highest possible score.

All-State Ticket Allotments

Students who pass the musicianship, sight-singing and vocal performance tests will be eligible to receive a ticket to all-state. Each qualified student will receive a composite score. This score will be determined as follows:

Musicianship Test - 30%, Sight Reading Score - 35%, Vocal Performance - 35%

The composite scores will then be ranked by vocal part with all of the students in the state. Tickets for the 9-12 Choir will be awarded to the highest ranked students in each vocal part.

Students not receiving tickets for the 9-12 Choir, will still be eligible to receive a ticket for either the SSAA or TTBB choir.

FVA rules only allow each school to have a maximum of 12 female or unchanged voice male students audition. Each school may bring a maximum of 20 changed voice males. In addition, the following caps per part are in place: 3 soprano I, 3 soprano II, 3 alto I, 3 alto II. There are no section limits for tenors and basses. Each year, Cypress Lake Center for the Arts has more students who are qualified to take the test than we are allowed to enter. The spots will be awarded to the students with the highest score on the All-State practice test that will be administered in vocal tech class. The scores on this practice test will be the only determining factor in awarding our all-state spots. Preference will not be given to upper classmen, section leaders or officers.

Solo & Ensemble MPA

The District Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessment is one of the most important events of the year. You have the opportunity to demonstrate your solo abilities and receive feedback from an adjudicator. Small ensembles are also a very good tool to improve listening, blending and balancing abilities. It also gives you the chance to sing literature you wouldn't get to sing in a choir setting. All members of the Vocal Department are encouraged to participate in either a solo or an ensemble. The following guidelines should be adhered to in order to ensure a positive experience at the MPA.

1. Turn in the Solo & Ensemble Registration Form to Mr. Stroh by **October 12th**. This form must be turned in order to be registered for the event.
2. All students that choose to enter the solo category must sing two pieces. One of the pieces must be on the FVA Music List. Please consult with Mr. Stroh about appropriate literature. Those of you studying voice privately should work with your teacher, but do make sure your pieces are on the list before you start working on them.
3. You may participate in more than one event. You can sing a solo and participate in 2 ensembles and play a piano solo. Please be aware of the preparation time if you choose to be in more than one event and plan your time accordingly.
4. You must rehearse with the Mr. Stroh for a minimum of ½ hour in the month of October or November. Once you begin studying and rehearsing the piece, you will find that much more time will be needed. Please feel free to sign up for as much time as you like. Please don't waste Mr. Stroh's time, however, by coming unprepared. You must spend adequate time at home preparing the piece.
5. If you decide at the last minute to DNA (not perform at the MPA), you will have to reimburse the choir for your entry fee. This fee is \$20.00 per solo and \$30.00 per ensemble. We will gladly pay to have you participate, but we will not pay to have you sit at home.

Choral Ensembles

Cypress Chorale

Cypress Chorale is an SATB mixed choir. Placement in this choir will be based on vocal ability and balance within the choir. Membership status in the choir will be reviewed at the end of each semester.

The Chorale is the top performing choir at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts. A wide repertoire of musical styles will be performed and studied throughout the year. Cypress Chorale will participate in FVA District and, if it qualifies, State Choral Music Performance Assessments as well as concerts throughout the year. This choir is open to all students in the vocal music department. It is also open to men not in the vocal department by audition.

Intermezzo

Intermezzo is a women's choir. This choir will focus on three and four part women's literature. Intermezzo will participate in FVA District and, if it qualifies, State Choral Music Performance Assessments as well as concerts throughout the year.

Intermezzo has been created to allow the women in the vocal music program a chance to develop choral singing skills in a positive environment. This choir gives more inexperienced singers the chance to be leaders in a choir and have a positive choral experience. This choir is open to all women in the vocal music department. It is also open to women not in the vocal department by audition.

Concert Choir

Concert Choir is a choir that is open to all students at Cypress Lake High School. This choir will sing a wide variety of musical styles. Concert Choir will participate in three concerts during the school year.

The A Cappella Group

The A Cappella Group is an auditioned group that meets after school weekly. Auditions for the group are usually the first or second week of school. The group performs frequently in the community and competes in competitions.

Student Leadership Positions

Section Leaders – One or two members of each section will be chosen by the director to serve as section leader. Section leaders will serve as role models and teachers for the rest of the students in their sections. Each section leader should possess the highest level of proficiency as a vocalist. They must also be well respected by the section in order to be an effective leader.

Student Librarians – Student librarians will assist the director in keeping the music library neat and orderly. They will also be responsible to checking folders periodically and collecting music when appropriate. Librarians will also assist students with solo and ensemble music.

The following offices are elected positions. Section leaders and student librarians may hold office. Any student wishing to serve as an officer must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. All officers must maintain good attendance throughout the year. Any officer that misses more than 8 days of school during the year may be removed from office.

President – The president will work closely with the director and serve as the voice of the choir. All students should carefully weigh this choice, as they will be the spokesperson for the entire choir.

Vice-President – The vice-president will assist the president and be in charge of social events. The Vice-President will also be responsible for keeping the web-site up to date.

Treasurer – The treasurer must be a trustworthy individual who will handle the collection of money from fund-raiser and ticket sales. The treasurer should possess good organizational skills and be good with numbers.

Secretary – The secretary will be in charge of attendance reporting. The secretary will receive attendance reports each day from the section leaders. They will log those reports and submit them to the director each day. The secretary should possess good organizational skills and have a good attendance record.

Historian – The historian will be responsible for taking pictures and video as well as collecting pictures and video from vocal department members. The historian will keep the bulletin board updated and compile an end of the year video to be presented at the choir banquet.

All leaders will meet regularly with Mr. Stroh to discuss issues that affect the choir and its members.

Concert Attire

All members are required to have formal concert attire and casual concert attire. The formal concert attire for the ladies will be a long formal black dress. This dress has been adopted by the entire music department. Orders will be taken in the fall and the dress will arrive before the first concert. Formal concert attire for gentlemen is a classic black tuxedo. The tux should consist of a white tux shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, formal black shoes and the tux coat and pants. The tux may be purchased at any local retailer. Some local shops offer discounts and specials for Center for the Arts students. Letters with this information will be sent home in the fall.

Each of these purchases should be one-time events. There are no plans to change either the formal or casual concert attire any time in the near future.

Folders & Music

Each member of the vocal department is required to purchase a black folder. These folders will be ordered in the fall each year. This folder should last for the entire time that a student is a member of the vocal department.

During the course of the year, students will be issued a great deal of music. All music is expected to be kept in the folder and brought to class each day. Each student is responsible for all lost or damaged music. Replacement costs for each piece of music range from \$1.65 to \$7.95.

It is imperative the all students have their folder and all music at every rehearsal. Section leaders will keep track of which students have their music each day. Failure to have your folder and music will result in a 3 point deduction from the daily participation grade.

Academic Eligibility

All students enrolled in the Center for the Arts at Cypress Lake High School must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 to remain a part of the Center. Students will immediately be removed from the Center if the cumulative average falls below 2.0. Students who have not attended Cypress Lake Center for the Arts for at least four semesters will then have to go through student reassignment at School Choice for placement. This means that students who are removed from the Center will be assigned to a different high school.

Appendix

Center Performance Report Form (8)

Solo & Ensemble Intent Form

Transportation to Events Form

iPod Check-out Form

A Cappella Group Contract

Lottery Rubric

Student Assessment Form

Handbook Receipt Form

Center Performance Report Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Performance: _____

Department of Performance (Circle one):

Band Orchestra Theatre Dance Visual Arts Media

Name of Concert: _____

In order to receive full credit for this performance, you must attach a program signed by the teacher in charge and a 1 page summary and critique of the show. Summary/Critiques that are not typed will lower the grade by 30%

I verify that I attended, in its entirety the performance listed on this page.

Signature of student

Center Performance Report Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Date of Performance: _____

Department of Performance (Circle one):

Band Orchestra Theatre Dance Visual Arts Media

Name of Concert: _____

In order to receive full credit for this performance, you must attach a program signed by the teacher in charge and a 1 page summary and critique of the show. Summary/Critiques that are not typed will lower the grade by 30%

I verify that I attended, in its entirety the performance listed on this page.

Signature of student

Center Performance Report Form

Name: _____

Date: _____

Date of Performance: _____

Department of Performance (Circle one):

Band

Orchestra

Theatre

Dance

Visual Arts

Media

Name of Concert: _____

In order to receive full credit for this performance, you must attach a program signed by the teacher in charge and a 1 page summary and critique of the show. Summary/Critiques that are not typed will lower the grade by 30%

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Date: _____

Date of Performance: _____

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Orchestra

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Department of Performance (Circle one):

Band Orchestra Theatre Dance Visual Arts Media

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I verify that I attended, in its entirety the performance listed on this page.

Signature of student

Solo & Ensemble Registration Form

This form is due no later than October 12, 2010 to be entered

Name: _____

SOLO: _____ ENSEMBLE: _____

If Ensemble, please list all members:

Please list the titles and composers of the pieces you plan to perform if you know them.

I, _____, agree to all of the guidelines listed in the choral handbook and will adhere to them while preparing for the Music Performance Assessment.

(Signature & Date)

Transportation to Events – Vocal Music

From time to time, it is necessary to transport students via private vehicles. We need to have on file permission for each student to travel in a private vehicle. Please initial the appropriate choice(s) of travel for your child. Students and parents must sign and date bottom of form.

1. _____ Student may ride with director or another parent.
2. _____ Student may ride with another student.
3. _____ Student will drive his/her own car and may transport other students.
4. _____ Student will drive his/her own car, but may NOT transport other students.
5. _____ Student may NOT ride with another student.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Parent's signature _____ Date _____



Driver Information

Necessary information for all drivers (students, teachers, parents) will need to be on file for the duration of the year and includes the following:

1. Driver's Name _____
2. Driver License Number _____
3. Car Registration Number _____
4. Make and Model of Car _____
5. Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____
6. License Plate Number of Car _____ State _____

iPod Check-out Form

The vocal department owns several iPods. These iPods are loaded with choral music, musicals, contemporary a cappella music, learning parts for pieces that the choirs are singing and learning tracks, for all volumes of The First Book series and The Musical Theatre Anthology series. If you are assigned a solo in vocal techniques, the learning track and accompaniment tracks are on the iPods.

In order to make these an even more valuable resource for students, we allow them to be checked out overnight and over the weekend. If you are interested or think you might be interested in checking out an iPod, please complete this form. Once the form is turned in, you just need to notify Mr. Stroh when you would like one. iPods will only be checked out to students who have this form on file.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail address _____

I, _____, agree that by checking out an iPod from the vocal department, I will, to the best of my ability, take proper care of the device. I understand that if permanent damage or theft results from my negligence, I will be held responsible for the replacement cost of the device. Submersion in any liquid, drops from great heights, throwing the device and leaving the device out in a public place are all considered negligence.

I also understand that if the device fails while in my possession, through no fault of my own, I will not be held responsible. I will report any malfunction or failure immediately to Mr. Stroh.

Date _____

Student Signature _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

A Cappella Group Member Participation Contract

Congratulations on your membership into the A Cappella Group at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts. In order to maintain the high level of performance and achieve new levels for the group, each member must agree to the following conditions. These few rules and guidelines should help us make effective use of our time and allow the A Cappella Group to be one of the premier groups in our state.

1. Attendance is mandatory at rehearsals. The group only rehearses one time each week and it is essential that all members be in attendance. It is impossible to learn new music and rehearse effectively with members missing. If you must be absent for any reason, you must let Mr. Stroh know in advance. Any member who misses more than 2 rehearsals for any reason will be dismissed from the group and will be replaced.
2. Discipline at rehearsals. This is an after school group with limited rehearsal time. Time can not be wasted dealing with discipline issues and talking. If you are talking and disruptive, you will be asked to leave the rehearsal and that will count as an absence.
3. Promptness - Rehearsal begin at an assigned time. That means we start singing at that time Any tardiness cuts into our limited rehearsal time. Excessive tardies will result in dismissal from the group.
4. Music – Each member will be issued music for each piece that the group sings. It will be your responsibility to put your name on each piece of your music and to keep it in a 3 ring binder that you have with you at every rehearsal. Failure to bring music to rehearsals on a regular basis will be cause for dismissal from the group.
5. Performances – All A Cappella Group performances will be announced in advance and all members will be expected to be in attendance. Failure to attend performances will be cause for dismissal from the group.

I look forward to an exciting year with the A Cappella Group and I hope that you will take the responsibilities seriously.

Gary Stroh,
Vocal Music
Cypress Lake Center for the Arts

I, _____, agree to the terms of this contract and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

iPod Test Rubric

Category	1 points	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points
Tone Quality	Tone is very breathy and lacks much clarity. Tone is bright or dark to a displeasing extent.	Tone is breathy and lacking clarity. Tone has a noticeably consistent bright nasal or dark throaty quality.	Tone has some breathiness or lacking some clarity and has some nasal or throaty qualities.	Tone is slightly breathy or lacking a little clarity and is slightly forward or back from center	Tone is clear and well focused with no breathiness and well center.
Intonation	Pitches are rarely in tune and it is impossible to establish a tonal center.	Pitches are infrequently in tune and student tends to either be consistently sharp or flat throughout.	Pitches are somewhat in tune, but with many notes that are sharp or flat.	Pitches are mostly sung in tune with an occasional sharp or flat pitch.	Pitches are consistently sung in the middle of the pitch center.
Pitch Accuracy	Majority of pitches are sung incorrectly. Preparation has not been done.	Many pitches are sung correctly, but there are many wrong notes being sung as well.	Pitches are sung with some consistency, but more than an occasional error exists.	Pitches are mostly sung correctly with the occasional error.	Pitches are always sung correctly. Student appears to know the part.
Vowels/Diction	Vowels are obviously closed and not open at all. Diction is sloppy.	Vowels are more closed than open. Diction is not very clear.	Vowels are somewhat tall and open. Diction is somewhat clear and precise	Vowels are usually tall and open. Diction is usually clear and precise.	Vowels are always tall and open. Diction is always clear and precise.
Musicality	No musical details are attended to as student seems to be more focused on just singing correct notes.	Few musical details are attended to, including dynamics.	Some of the musical details are attended to, including dynamics, proper breathing and blend.	Most of the musical details are attended to with some phrasing, dynamics, proper breathing, style and blend	Great attention to detail is displayed with proper phrasing, dynamics, proper breathing, style and blend.

Center for the Arts Performance Assessment

August 1, 2010

Dear Arts Students and Parents:

Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts offers an exciting opportunity for high school students in Lee County who are especially talented in some area of the arts; dance, drama, media arts, music, and/or visual arts. Once accepted and enrolled in the Arts program, students become a part of an artistic environment designed to develop their talents to the highest possible level while fostering a growing appreciation and love of the arts.

At the end of each semester that a student is enrolled in the Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts, the Arts faculty will complete an assessment for students enrolled in the Major or Minor arts program. This assessment will be used as a tool to evaluate each student's progress in his or her arts discipline. Students will be expected to maintain an assessment level at 7 or above. Students who score below a 7 on their semester assessment will be placed on probation with the implementation of a "Contract for Improvement." This contract will list the specific areas where improvement is to occur during the semester of probation. The "Contract for Improvement" must be signed by the student and at least one parent/guardian and returned to the instructor within ten days. At the end of the semester of probation, any probationary student who receives below a level 7 on his/her assessment will be recommended for removal from the Center for the Arts program at Cypress Lake High School.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment, "Contract for Improvement," and/or the probation process at Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts, please contact me at 481-2233.

Sincerely,

Shelly Thimlar
Assistant Principal

**CYPRESS LAKE HIGH SCHOOL
CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Music
STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

Student _____ Semester _____
Date _____ Grade _____

ASSESSMENT KEY

1-3 UNACCEPTABLE 4-6 PROBATION 7-10 GOOD STANDING

SECTION ONE: ARTISTIC PREPARATION AND GROWTH

Preparation for Technique Class Recitals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Preparation for Large Ensemble Rehearsals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Preparation for other Music Classes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Development of Technical Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Overall Artistic Growth	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comments _____

TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____

SECTION AVERAGE _____

SECTION TWO: COMMITMENT AND DISCIPLINE

Discipline in Large Ensemble Rehearsals	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Discipline in Technique Classes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Contribution to Large Ensemble	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Concert Attendance	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Comments _____

TOTAL POINTS EARNED _____

SECTION AVERAGE _____

ASSESSMENT KEY

1-3 UNACCEPTABLE 4-6 PROBATION 7-10 GOOD STANDING

Overall Final Assessment Average _____

Comments _____

Discipline/Number of Referrals _____ *Attendance/Number of Absences _____

- Students may be denied class credit and/or placed on probation if ten (10) or more absences in class are accrued.

Status:

_____ Good Standing _____ Probation _____ Reinstatement _____ Dismissal

ASSESSOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Handbook Summary Receipt Form

I have read and agree to the requirements outlined in the Vocal Department Handbook. I have read the Course summaries and syllabus for the following courses: (please circle each course for which you are enrolled)

Cypress Chorale

Intermezzo

Beginning Vocal Techniques

Advanced Vocal Techniques

Musical Theatre

Parent Signature

Student Signature

PRINT Student's Name _____

PRINT Parent's Name _____

Address _____
Street City Zip Code

Home
Phone _____

Work
Phone _____

Student's e-mail address _____

**This form must be returned by August 27, 2010
Receipt of this form will be worth a 25 point assessment grade**