



**Park Hill High School Vocal Music
Department
PARK AVENUE SINGERS
2008-2009
COURSE SYLLABUS OUTLINE**

Semesters I- II
Section number: 001, 1 credit hour
RED Days - Block II
Office Hours: By Appointment

Instructor: Keith Curington
Room 531
ph 816-359-6421
email: curingtonk@parkhill.k12.mo.us
Vocal music website: <http://parkhillvocalmusic.com>

Course description: PARK AVENUE SINGERS is the premier choral ensemble at PHHS. PARK AVENUE SINGERS seeks to encourage students to build upon their previous choral experience through becoming individual as well as choral singers. Repertoire is chosen from literature ranging from the thirteenth century through the present. Emphasis is placed on independence, musicality, developing a sense of ensemble, and the building of good sight-reading and singing habits.

Prerequisite: Open to all students at PHHS. Audition is required and is held in the spring semester of each year. At least a year of Men of Troy, Women of Troy, Varsity Men's Choir or PARK AVENUE SINGERS is preferred, but other students not previously involved in the choral program will be considered.

Text and references: Students will borrow materials from the PHHS choral library as assigned by the director. Failure to return assigned music will result in a fine being given to the student for the cost of the music's replacement.

Course objective: PARK AVENUE SINGERS seeks to represent the best in choral music from all eras and genres. Performing in an ensemble of this nature has numerous cross-curriculum benefits. This ensemble is intended to create an atmosphere of collegiality amongst musicians and provide the student with useful tools for their future. Students are expected to display appropriate devotion, social skills, effort, and good humor. PARK AVENUE SINGERS will join other choirs in major works at the conductor's discretion. This choir is designed to provide the PHHS singer with outstanding performing opportunities of sound octavos as well as major choral/orchestral masterworks that are highly regarded.

Content outline: Many of our country's finest choirs are composed of high school students. The content will consist exclusively of choral repertoire chosen by the conductor to reflect the educational, musical, and vocals needs of the group at this particular point in their musical growth. Content will include choral music to teach basic musical skills such as sight-reading, pitch, phrasing, maturity of tone, breath support, and independence.

Instructional activities: PARK AVENUE SINGERS will explore numerous styles in the choral repertoire. Over a period of a few semesters, students will study music from various cultures and eras. Since some choral works are of considerable length and have the potential to consume an entire concert, balance and variety will be achieved over a period of time rather than in one performance.

Field and clinical experiences:

I. FUND RAISERS/CANCELATIONS

Monday	8.25-9.08.08	Fund raiser	Cookie Dough
Monday	9.01.08	No school	Labor Day

Friday	9.26.08	No school	Day after Conferences
Monday	10.13.08	No school	Teacher Work Day
Wed-Thu	11.26-28.08	No school	Thanksgiving Break
Mon-Sun	12.22-1.4.09	No school	Winter Break
Monday	1.12-26.09	Fund raiser	Trash Bags
Monday	1.19.09	No school	MLK Day
Friday	2.13.09	No school	Day after Conferences
Monday	2.16.09	No school	Presidents' Day
Tuesday	2.17.09	No school	Teacher Work Day
Friday	3.13.09	No school	Teacher Work Day
Monday	3.16-22.09	No school	Spring Break
Monday	5.25.09	No school	Memorial Day
Thursday	5.28.09	No school	Teacher Work Day

ACT DATES & POSSIBLE CONFLICTS

Saturday	9.13.08	FYI	ACT Test (Choir Picnic)
Saturday	10.25.08	FYI	ACT Test (All-Choir State Auditions)
Saturday	12.13.08	FYI	ACT Test (No known conflicts)
Saturday	2.07.09	FYI	ACT Test (No known conflicts)
Saturday	4.4.09	FYI	ACT Test (State Large Group at PHHS)

2. PERFORMANCES/ SPECIAL REHEARSALS/DISTRICT & STATE DATES

Saturday	9.13.08	12:00pm-3:00pm	Vocal Music Picnic (@ The Riley's)
Tuesday	10.07.08	3:00pm	Pre-Districts Recital
Saturday	10.04.08	All-Day	All-District Choir Auditions (Lee's Summit West)
Sunday	10.19.08	3:00pm	FALL CONCERT
Saturday	10.25.08	All-Day	All-State Choir Auditions
Thurs-Sat	11.20-22.08	7:30pm	Musical - INTO THE WOODS
Thursday	12.18.08	7:00pm	CHORAL HOLIDAY CONCERT
Friday	12.05.08	TBA	Christmas on the River (optional)
Thursday	3.12.09	3:00pm	Pre- S&E Contest Recital
Tuesday	3.24.09	7:00 pm	PRE-CONTEST DEPARTMENTAL CONCERT
Saturday	4.04.09	All-Day	Large Group Choir Contest
Sun & Mon	4.19-20.09	6:30pm	DINNER THEATER 2009
Tuesday	5.12.09	7:00pm	SPRING CONCERT
Sunday	5.17.09	TBA	Graduation

Other special events may occur and will be accompanied usually with at least two weeks notice.

Grading: Since PARK AVENUE SINGERS is a class participation, performance oriented course, a musical organization whose success is reliant on balance, nuance, and "creating the ensemble," and due to the importance of upcoming concerts, the expectation for each member is to attend ALL rehearsals and performances and become expert on the semester's repertoire.

1. Attendance: Courtesy dictates that the director be notified of all excused absences IN ADVANCE by phone or email.

Students should try to avoid missing rehearsals within 2 weeks of a performance. A doctor's written excuse will be necessary to verify any excused illness. Since your body is your instrument, precaution and remedy must occur to ensure speedy recovery. PARK AVENUE SINGERS members should be punctual, in their places, and ready to sing at the sound of the 2nd bell. Tardiness cannot be allowed. **An excused absence from a performance will result in a loss of the points allotted for that particular concert and a make up assignment will be given. In order to have an absence excused, the student must fill out the Excused Absence Form located on the vocal music website and submit it to the director at least 2 weeks prior to the event. All other absences are considered unexcused and the resulting zero CANNOT be reversed.**

2. Music learning: In order for PARK AVENUE SINGERS to function at its optimum level and maximize each student's experience, some regular individual practice time outside of the normal rehearsal schedule will be required. Memorization and preparedness will be checked periodically.

3. Rehearsal requirements:

1. A positive attitude
2. Pencil - you are musicians and are required to have it and use it **EVERDAY**

3. Notes learned (if required in advance)

4. Black 3-ring binder

****Unprepared students will be given a zero for that rehearsal****

4. **Consistent contributions:** The conductor will also have the prerogative to lower the student's daily grade up to 20 points if excessive "marking" is occurring or it is perceived that the singer is contributing/operating below capabilities.

Point Values

Performance	(Fall+200) (Holiday +300) (Pre-Contest - 400) (Contest & Spring +400)
Daily Adherence to classroom rehearsal procedures	+20
Tardy	-10
Marking	-5 to 20
No Materials (music, folder, pencil, etc.)	-15 (each item, each occurrence)
Gum, Candy, Food, etc. in class	-10 (each occurrence)
Unexcused absence from class	-20

Graded opportunities may include written assignments, sight-reading tests, part tests, rehearsal evaluations, vocabulary quizzes, critical listening and evaluations, music folder maintenance. Attendance at all concerts is required. Grades are cumulative with each activity and day, each being given a specific point value. All accumulated points are averaged to reach a percentage score and a corresponding letter grade.

GRADE SCALE

90-100%	A
80-90%	B
70-80%	C
60-70%	D
59 and below	F

Grades will be posted on POWERSCHOOL weekly.

CONSIDER THIS:

The grade of "B" will most likely be earned by students who meet the following requirements:

1. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals, concerts and performances, including dress rehearsals and rehearsals other than those scheduled on a daily basis.
2. Punctuality at all rehearsals and performances.
3. Demonstrated ability to perform the assigned part.
4. Daily demonstration of a mature, positive and professional attitude while rehearsing and performing.
5. Bringing necessary materials to rehearsals on a daily basis.

Grades lower than "B" will most likely be earned by students who need improvement in one or more of the areas listed above.

The grade of "A" is will most likely be earned by students who demonstrate the requirements listed for the B grade, **IN ADDITION** to the following...

1. A willingness to assist as needed or requested either by the director or other students who would benefit from your example and talent (e.g.: exhibiting leadership in your section, showing interest and participating in co-curricular musical activities, or by auditioning for solo opportunities).
2. An actual individual demonstration of superior technical and musical ability through the performance of passages from compositions rehearsed during the grading period as requested by the director.

Other singing opportunities for students interested in lettering in vocal music:

Private Voice Lessons	On-going
Community Choir Participation	On-going
Church Choir Participation	On-going
*All-District Choir Audition	Saturday, October 04, 2008
*All-State Choir Audition (Jr/Sr Only)	Saturday, October 25, 2008
Christmas on the River	Friday, December 05, 2008
Solo/small ensemble participation (District)	
Solo/small ensemble participation (State)	
<u>*selected by audition</u>	

Dear parent or guardian of a PARK AVENUE SINGERS member:

The information on the previous pages will help you and your son/daughter understand the grading policy used by the vocal music department at Park hill High School. Please read the information carefully, sign it, and have your singer return this sheet by August 22, 2008. Thanks for your child and time! We are going to have an extraordinary year and I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Keith Curington
816-359-6421
curingtonk@parkhill.k12.mo.us

I have reviewed the expectations and grading policy used by the vocal music department at Park Hill High School.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Student name (Please print) _____

Student signature _____ Date _____

Please help us keep you informed by listing your email address below. We will need to contact you throughout the year. Make sure you include the entire email address, i.e. parkavegod@yahoo.com or better yet, go to our website <http://parkhillvocalmusic.com> and register there.

Parent Email

Student Email

Lastly, would you consider sending a box of Kleenex with your singer when he/she returns this form? We have lots of runny noses all year and this kind of a collective effort helps us to always have **Kleenex** available for the one you love!

Please become an active member of PHHS
VOCAL MUSIC BOOSTERS!
We need you!