

West Des Moines Community School District



2009 - 2010

**VALLEY AND VALLEY
SOUTHWOODS HIGH
SCHOOLS**

VOCAL MUSIC

PROGRAM &

CALENDAR

GUIDE

Linda Vanderpool, Director of Vocal Music – Valley HS

Michael Esser, Director of Vocal Music – Valley HS

Jaqueline Scanes, Director of Vocal Music – Valley Southwoods Freshman HS

Catherine Wilson, Director of Music – Valley HS

Valley High School
Valley Southwoods Freshman High School
Vocal Music Guide

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Valley High School
3650 Woodland Avenue
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Valley Southwoods Freshman High School
625 South 35th St.
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

Additional information can be found at www.valleyvocalmusic.com

Valley High School
Valley Southwoods Freshman High School
Vocal Music Guidebook

Welcome Singers!

We are delighted that you have chosen to become of member of the Valley High School or Valley Southwoods Freshman High School choral program. Your membership in the program indicates your interest in music and your willingness to develop and use your talents in service to Valley High School /Valley Southwoods High School and its community. The choral program offers members the opportunity to learn a variety of music, to perform under many different circumstances, and to make friends with students who have similar interests and talents.

Our program cannot accomplish its goals without guidelines and regulations. It is imperative that each member knows what is expected of him/her, the benefits derived from membership in choral ensembles, and the activities planned for the school year.

Please read the information that follows carefully and share it with your parents/guardians for their perusal. If you have any questions at any time during the school year, first contact any vocal music director at the addresses below. We will be happy to assist you with your concerns and will value your feedback to strengthen our program for your students.

We look forward to working with you in a collective effort to produce outstanding musical performances and to experience the special joys that making music brings.

Linda Vanderpool
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2009-2010 Valley Vocal Music Calendar (subject to revision)

August

23	Vocal Music Picnic		Raccoon River Shelter	5:00-7:00
24	Entertainment Book Kick-Off	All VSW/VHS		
29	Waukee All State Camp	Valley Singers/required	Waukee HS	9-3

September

21	VV Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm
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October

3	Drake All State Workshop	Valley Singers/optional	Drake University	9-noon
7	Grandview All State Workshop	Valley Singers/optional	Grandview College	3:30-6:30
11-12	Show Choir Dance Camp	Choralation	TBA	
19	VV Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm
20	Fall Concert	VSW Singers & VHS Choirs	VHS	7:00 pm
24	All State Auditions	VS	Indianola	all day

November

16	VV Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm
19	Opus Festival	VSW	Ames	
20-21	All State Festival	VS	Ames	
23	Picture Day	All VHS Choirs	VHS	
24	Alumni Day	A Cappella & Guests	VHS	10:00 am

December

15	Winter Concert	All VHS & VSW Choirs	Valley	7:30 pm
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January

8-9-10	Show Choir Dance Camp	Choralation	TBA	
11	Valley Voices Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm
15-16	Jazz/Show Choir Competition	Show & Jazz choirs	Waukee HS	
23	Show Choir Competition	Show choir	Johnston HS	
28	Metro Festival	Concert Choir	Hoover HS	TBA
29	Jazz Coffee Shop	Jazz choirs	WDM Christian Church	6:00 pm
30	Second Time Round Dress Sale		VHS Cafeteria	8-3

February

8	Valley Voices Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm
13	State Piano Competition	interested students	TBA	
13	Show Choir Competition	Show choir	Urbandale	
16 & 18	Sweetheart Shows	selected students	Valley	7:00 pm
18	Sweetheart Show Matinee	Stilwell/IH students	Valley	noon
25	WDM Women's Club	TBA	WDM Methodist Church	1:00
26	SWCC Jazz Festival	Jazz Choirs	Creston	all day

March

3-5	NCACDA Conference	Vocalese	Minneapolis, MN	
8	Valley Voices Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm
12-14	Show Choir Competition	Show choir	Wheaton-Warrenville, IL	
25	WDM Women's Club	TBA	WDM Methodist Church	1:00
30	Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships	selected Jazz choirs	TBA	

April

1	Treble Choir Festival	STC & VSW Treble Clef	VHS	7:00 pm
15	9th Grade Coffee Concert	VSW	VSW	7:00 pm
16	Solo/Ensemble Festival	interested students	VHS	3:30-9:00
19	Valley Voices Meeting		VHS	6:00 pm

May

2	Valley Singers Concert	VS & DM Vocal Arts Ensemble	St. John's Lutheran Church	3:00 pm
4	Spring Concert	All VHS Choirs	Valley	7:00 pm
8	Large Group Contest	VHS & VSW Choirs	TBA	
20	VV Meeting		Valley	6:15 pm
20	Senior Recital	All Choir Students	Valley	7:00 pm
23	VSW Vocal/Orch/Band Concert	VSW	VSW	TBA
30	Commencement	A Cappella Choir	Drake Knapp Center	1:00

COURSE OFFERINGS

Curricular Choirs:

(all meet during the school day for credit/grades)

Treble Clef is a core choir designed for any treble voice interested in singing in an ensemble at the 9th grade level. Class will include study of beginning vocal techniques and exercises, beginning theory and terminology, sight-singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and history of choral music through performances of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester the Treble Clef will study and rehearse music to be performed at specific concerts. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each semester and additional non-scheduled calendar events that may arise. Students enrolled in Treble Clef are required to attend group lessons and may audition for state solo and small ensemble contests and jazz and show choir ensembles.

Bass Clef is a core choir designed for any changed voice interested in singing in an ensemble at the 9th grade level. Class will include study of beginning vocal techniques and exercises, beginning theory and terminology, sight-singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and history of choral music through performances of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester the Bass Clef will study and rehearse music to be performed at specific concerts. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each semester and additional non-scheduled calendar events that may arise. Students enrolled in Bass Clef are required to attend group lessons and may audition for state solo and small ensemble contests and jazz and show choir ensembles.

Southwoods Singers is an elective course designed to challenge the 9th grade student interested in singing in a select mixed ensemble. Class will include study of beginning vocal techniques and exercises, beginning theory and terminology, sight singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and history of choral music through performances of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester the Southwoods Singers will study and rehearse music to be performed at specific concerts. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each

semester and additional non-scheduled calendar events that may arise. Students enrolled in this choir are required to be enrolled in Bass or Treble Clef, participate in OPUS Honor Choir auditions and attend state solo and small ensemble contest. They may also choose to audition for jazz and show choir ensembles.

Select Treble Clef is a core choir for students in grades 10-12 who have a treble voice. Class will include study of vocal techniques and exercises, theory and terminology, sight-singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and history of choral music through performances of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester the Select Treble Clef will study and rehearse music to be performed at specific concerts and contests. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each semester and additional non-scheduled calendar events that may arise. Students enrolled in STC may participate in solo and small ensemble contest, state large group contest and may audition for jazz and show choir ensembles. Group Voice Lessons are required of all singers in this ensemble and will be scheduled on a rotational basis with the Director for assessment purposes.

Concert Choir is a core choir designed for the grade 10-12 student who is interested in singing. Class will include study of intermediate vocal techniques and exercises, review of basic theory and terminology, intermediate sight-singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and history of choral music through performances of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester the Concert Choir will study and rehearse music to be performed at specific concerts and contests. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each semester and additional non-scheduled calendar events that may arise. Students enrolled in Concert Choir may participate in solo and small ensemble contest, state large group contest and may audition for jazz and show choir ensembles. Group Voice Lessons are required of all singers in this ensemble and will be scheduled on a rotational basis with the Director for assessment purposes.

A Cappella Choir is a core choir consisting of an auditioned group of grade 11-12 who would like a large ensemble experience. Class will include study of advanced vocal techniques and exercises, review of basic music theory and terminology, advanced sight-singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and the history of choral music through performances of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester A Cappella Choir will study and rehearse music to be performed at specified concert and contest times. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each semester and additional non-scheduled calendar events that may arise. Students enrolled in the choir may participate in solo and small ensemble contest, state large group contest and audition for jazz and show choir ensembles. Group Voice Lessons and Sectionals are required of all singers in this ensemble and will be scheduled on a rotational basis with the Director for assessment purposes.

Valley Singers is an elective course and is the select mixed chamber choir at Valley High School. Membership is open to 10-12 grade advanced singers who successfully complete a rigorous audition process. Members must also be enrolled in one of the core choirs to participate. Class will include study of advanced vocal techniques and exercises, advanced music theory and terminology, advanced sight-singing, study of the human voice, vocal health, and the history of choral music through performance of various styles of vocal literature. Each semester the Valley Singers will study and rehearse music to be performed at specified concert and contest times. The course includes several evening concerts (see calendar) each semester and occasional other concerts in addition to solo and small ensemble contest and All State Auditions. All singers are encouraged to study voice with a private instructor.

CO-CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

(all ensembles meet outside of the school day and must be enrolled in a Core Choir to be eligible to participate)

Choralation Show Choir (Varsity) and/or Ignition Junior Varsity Show Choir are select mixed competitive show choirs for grades 9-12 who have completed a successful audition. These ensembles meet 1-2 times each week as scheduled by the Director. It is designed to challenge students to sing while performing with choreography. Varsity Show Choir members will be assessed for a recommended contribution (\$450) and Junior Varsity Show Choir members will be assessed for a recommended contribution (\$200) which covers camps, competitions and costumes. Members will be required to attend camps outside the school day to learn the components of show production. Trips and personal attire will be an additional individual expense. Scholarships are available through Valley Voices. Students will not be denied access to any vocal music ensemble due to financial difficulties.

Syncopation Jazz Choir is a select 9th grade jazz choir that meets 2-3 times a week as scheduled by the Director. Jazz choir members will be assessed for a recommended contribution (\$200) which covers festivals, t-shirts and expenses related to performances. Performance attire will be purchased by each singer with the advice of the Director. Scholarships are available through Valley Voices. Students will not be denied access to any vocal music ensemble due to financial difficulties.

Vocalese and/or Vocal Point Jazz Choir is a select vocal jazz ensemble for 10-12 grade singers who successfully complete an audition process. These ensembles meet 1-2 times per week as scheduled by the Director. Jazz choir members will be assessed for a recommended contribution (\$200) which covers festivals, t-shirts and most expenses related to performances. Performance attire will be purchased by each singer with the advice of the Director. Scholarships are available through Valley Voices. Students will not be denied access to any vocal music ensemble due to financial difficulties.

EDUCATIONAL NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The West Des Moines Community School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability in educational programs and activities.

SELECTION OF CHORAL LITERATURE

Students participating in courses offered by the Vocal Music Department at Valley High School and Valley Southwoods Freshman High School will study and perform a wide variety of choral literature. Based on the following criteria, the director determines the selection of literature:

- A. The literature should be of appropriate musical material to aid the physical development and function of the vocal mechanism.
- B. The literature will include representation from the historical periods of Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Twentieth Century.
- C. The literature will be written by composers of historical significance or those presenting valid alternative programming opportunities.
- D. The literature will represent a wide variety of text sources and types.

WEST DES MOINES VOCAL MUSIC STANDARDS

Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

Reading and notating music

Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

Evaluating music and music performances

Understanding music in relation to history and culture

IOWA CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION POLICY

STATEMENT

It is the position of the Iowa Choral Directors Association that the inclusion of significant sacred and secular music is imperative to facilitate a total music experience for Iowa's youth. From a global perspective, choral music offers a wealth of literature that reflects and supports diverse cultures, traditions and people, as well as compositional styles of all eras. To achieve any educational objective, the quality of repertoire is of paramount importance.

While public school teaching objectives and criteria for repertoire selection should not support religious indoctrination, the selection of quality music will invariably include music with a sacred text within its broad scope. Music without sacred text, architecture minus cathedral, or painting without scriptural themes is incomplete, even from a secular point of view. Therefore, to exclude sacred music from the public school curriculum would hamper student, as well as teacher, opportunities in gleaning artistic understanding and aesthetic expression.

“Sacred” refers to all manner of religious belief and not only to the Judeo-Christian teachings. The term “study” includes not only classroom instruction but public performances as well. Prior to the 17th century, almost all significant choral music was associated with a sacred text. “Secular” refers to non-religious considerations. Since choral music with a sacred text comprises such a substantial portion of the artistic repertoire from the choral medium and the history of music, it should retain an important place in the music education of Iowa's youth.

PERFORMANCE POLICY & DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS

Participation in public performance is mandatory. Any absence must be excused by the Director at least *two days prior* to the performance date. All absences will be reflected in grading assessments.

In the event a conflict should arise between activities within the high school, an arrangement agreeable to all parties will be worked out in consultation with the student, activity sponsors involved, the Principal and the parent/guardian.

The Principal, following consultation with the Director, will make decisions concerning absenteeism beyond this point.

Students with an excused absence from a performance will be required to do make-up work as assigned by the Director. **Students will be allowed two school days for make-up work.** Loss of credit may result if make-up work is not completed promptly.

Students will not be allowed to do make-up work for unapproved absence from performances and presentations.

DISCIPLINE EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

Each student/parent/guardian is furnished a copy of the Discipline Policy of the West Des Moines Community School District. This document clearly defines breaches of discipline and outlines administrative rules and procedures for handling student discipline. All students and parents should be aware of the contents of this policy.

The Discipline Policy applies to students while on school premises, while on school-owned and operated school buses or on chartered buses, while engaged in school-sponsored activities, and while away from school grounds.

It is expected that Valley/Valley Southwoods students who participate in vocal music activities will represent themselves and the West Des Moines Community Schools in an appropriate and responsible manner.

Upon any breach of discipline by a vocal music student, a conference will be held with the student, vocal music director, parents, and principal. Sanctions will be determined at that time and may include out-of-school or in-school suspension.

ACADEMIC EVALUATION

Choral activities seek to provide Valley/Valley Southwoods students with an appreciation of various types of music, attitudes about music as it relates to their lives, an understanding of basic musical concepts, discriminations regarding compositions and performances, and performance and listening skills. Student grades will be determined using the following formula:

Daily rehearsal preparation and participation	80%
(15% lessons, 5% = written work/exams, 60% = daily participation in rehearsal)	
Evaluation of individual performance in concerts	10%
Performances	10%
(Semester final	10%)

Quarter 1/3 = 45%, Quarter 2/4 = 45%, Final = 10%, Total 100%

Student assessment is based on the quality of their **daily participation**, consistent application of proper singing technique, responsible membership and rehearsal etiquette in **rehearsal and performance**, and satisfactory completion of **written work**.

IN ADDITION TO WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS, STUDENTS IN ALL ENSEMBLES WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY ON THEIR LITERATURE BY PERFORMING INDIVIDUALLY OR IN SMALL ENSEMBLES FOR ACADEMIC EVALUATION. SUCH EVALUATION WILL BE CONSIDERED A TEST GRADE. THE FOLLOWING GRADING SCALE WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE STUDENT GRADES:

A	(92%-100%)	C	(72%-77%)
A-	(90%-91%)	C-	(70%-71%)
B+	(88%-89%)	D+	(68%-69%)
B	(82%-87%)	D	(62%-67%)
B-	(80%-81%)	D-	(60%-61%)
C+	(78%-79%)	F	(59% and below)

DAILY REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The Vocal Music Department is proud of the outstanding accomplishments of the choirs and individual members of the program. The continued success of the ensembles is dependent upon the daily contribution of each member.

Rehearsal time is precious and must not be wasted. Each individual must approach every rehearsal with high expectations and a willingness to work toward the fulfillment and realization of those expectations.

Students will be expected to:

- 1) Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of rehearsal time.
(Be in their seats with their folder and all necessary materials at the bell. Rehearsals end when the Director is finished conducting.)
- 2) **BRING A PENCIL AND FOLDER TO ALL REHEARSALS.**
- 3) Focus all of their mental energy on the conductor and the literature.
(Stand when your section and full group is rehearsing and no talking during rehearsals.)
- 4) Focus all their physical energy on the correct application of proper singing technique. (Sit Tall; Breathe Deep, Sing with Space.)
- 5) Demonstrate respect for the rehearsal facilities and equipment.
(No playing the piano prior to rehearsals. Keep the room and equipment clean and orderly.)
- 6) **Leave food, pop, gum, and candy out of the rehearsal room.**

Choirs are working and learning organizations with high expectations and goals. Students are expected to aid in this learning process. Appropriate daily participation is worth 60% of student grades.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Because of the laboratory nature of class, daily attendance is extremely important. Students will be required to make-up any absences from scheduled rehearsals. Make-up procedures will be in accordance with those established in the Valley High School and Valley Southwoods Freshman High School Parent/Student Guidebook. Students will be allowed two school days for make-up work for each school day missed. Loss of credit may result if make up work is not completed promptly. Students may makeup up to 10 days of absences. More than 10 absences makeup will be at the Directors discretion. **It is the student's responsibility to arrange make-up sessions.**

TARDINESS

You will be considered tardy if not in your place with materials when class begins—when the bell rings or at the appointed start time. Rehearsals begin with important departmental announcements and vocal warm-ups designed to prepare the singing mechanism. It is imperative that all students participate in these opening rehearsal procedures. Students with more than 2 unexcused tardies will be assigned detention within the department; more than 4 unexcused tardies will result in ISS or 3 consecutive days of detention.

HOMEWORK

Students are expected to know the material covered in class. On occasion it will be necessary to take music home for additional practice and memorization. **Music will be memorized for performances.** Assignments may be made to watch choral performances, attend concerts, or listen to recordings outside of class. In addition, students will be given written assignments and it is imperative that assignments be completed in a timely and thorough manner.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Valley Singers

Men - Black tuxedo, white tuxedo shirt, black socks, black shoes. Tuxedos will be furnished by the Valley Voices. Students will need to supply a tuxedo shirt, black shoes and black socks. A \$50.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair due to neglect. NO JEWELRY!

Women - Black dress, black shoes. Dresses will be furnished by the Valley Voices. Students will need to supply black closed-toe shoes and flesh colored hose. A \$50.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair due to neglect. NO JEWELRY!

A Cappella Choir

Men - Choir Robe. The Vocal Music Department will provide a choir robe and stole. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair or replacement due to neglect. Men are required to wear black dress slacks, black dress shoes, black socks, and dress shirts underneath the robes. NO JEWELRY!

Women - Choir Robe. The Vocal Music Department will provide a choir robe and stole. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair or replacement due to neglect. Women are required to wear skirts or dresses, flesh colored hose, and black closed-toe dress shoes underneath their robes. The hemline of the dress must be so that it is not seen below the hemline of the robe. NO JEWELRY!

Southwoods Singers

Men - Black tuxedo, white tuxedo shirt, black socks, black shoes. Tuxedos will be furnished by the Valley Voices. Students will need to supply a tuxedo shirt, black shoes and black socks. A \$50.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair due to neglect. NO JEWELRY!

Women - Black dress, black shoes. Dresses will be furnished by the Valley Voices. Students will need to supply black closed-toe shoes and flesh colored hose. A \$50.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair due to neglect. NO JEWELRY!

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Concert Choir

Men - Choir Robe.

The Vocal Music Department will provide a choir robe and stole. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair or replacement due to neglect. Men are required to wear black dress slacks, black dress shoes, black socks, and dress shirts underneath the robes. NO JEWELRY!

Women - Choir Robe.

The Vocal Music Department will provide a choir robe and stole. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair or replacement due to neglect. Women are required to wear skirts or dresses, flesh colored hose, and black closed-toe dress shoes underneath their robes. The hemline of the dress must be so that it is not seen below the hemline of the robe. NO JEWELRY!

Select Treble Clef - Valley High School

The Vocal Music Department will provide a choir robe and stole. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair or replacement due to neglect. Women are required to wear skirts or dresses, flesh colored hose, and black closed-toe dress shoes underneath their robes. The hemline of the dress must be so that it is not seen below the hemline of the robe. NO JEWELRY!

Bass Clef - Valley Southwoods

A navy blazer will be furnished by the Valley Voices. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Dress slacks, dress shirt and tie will be chosen for purchase by each singer for approximately \$80. Students will need to supply brown shoes and brown socks. NO JEWELRY!

Treble Clef - Valley Southwoods

The Vocal Music Department will provide a choir robe and stole. A \$15.00 recommended contribution will be requested of each student. Students will assume responsibility for repair or replacement due to neglect. Women are required to wear skirts or dresses, flesh colored hose, and black closed-toe shoes beneath their robes. The hemline of the dress must be so that it is not seen below the hemline of the robe. NO JEWELRY!

Failure to follow the dress code for concerts and any performances will be treated as an unexcused absence from performance. Please make arrangements for appropriate concert uniform early in the semester. If any assistance is needed, please contact your vocal music instructor immediately.

PRACTICE ROOM PROCEDURES

Students are encouraged to use the practice facilities available in the Vocal Music Department. Practice rooms are to remain locked when not in use. A key must be obtained from the director to open the room, and again to lock the room upon completion of the practice session. **NO FOOD OR DRINK OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED IN THE PRACTICE FACILITIES.** A maximum of four students will be allowed per practice room. Larger ensembles may use the choir room with special permission from the instructor. Students will be expected to treat the facilities and equipment with care.

HONOR CHOIR FESTIVALS

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in choral festivals held at various colleges and universities. Students will be selected on the basis of their classroom performance. Festival participation gives students the opportunity to work with guest conductors in large ensemble situations, an opportunity to sing in master class settings, and to visit various campuses. The student must pay for the cost of attending these festivals. Festival information will be posted in the choral room.

VALLEY VOICES

The Valley Voices Booster Organization exists to support the Vocal Music Department through fundraising and service opportunities. Parents of students enrolled in vocal music ensembles at both Valley Southwoods and Valley High School are encouraged to actively participate by attending monthly meetings. See calendar for specific dates. Valley Voices makes significant contributions to the secondary vocal program and we welcome all parents to get involved and support their student(s).

VOCAL MUSIC AWARDS & LETTERING

In addition to receiving a letter in Vocal Music, students are eligible for a number of awards based on their participation and achievement in various contests, festivals, competitions, and department-sponsored activities throughout the year. A partial list of additional awards includes:

State Contest Merit Awards - Presented to students receiving Division I ratings at State Solo/Ensemble Contest.

All-State Participation Certificates - Presented to students accepted into the All-State Chorus.

Officer Awards - Presented to individuals who act as elected representatives of the ensembles for their leadership and assistance.

Outstanding Male Vocalist - Presented to a senior male vocalist for outstanding contribution to the Vocal Music Department.

Outstanding Female Vocalist - Presented to a senior female vocalist for outstanding contribution to the Vocal Music Department.

American Choral Directors Award - Presented to a senior member in the name of the Iowa Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association for outstanding contributions in scholarship, character, leadership, service, and vocal ability.

The Vocal Music Department proudly acknowledges the outstanding accomplishments of our ensembles and individual members in an annual awards ceremony. Students in each ensemble are eligible to earn a letter award in recognition of their contributions to the program. Letters will be awarded to students who have distinguished themselves through their performance and participation. In order to receive a Vocal Music Letter, a student must earn a minimum of 1000 points during the school year. A letter will be given the first year and a bar for each succeeding year the student qualifies. Points do not accumulate from year to year.

VOCAL MUSIC POINT SUMMARY

Name _____ Grade _____ School Year _____
 Have you lettered prior to this year? Y / N Do you have a Chenille Letter? Y / N

Identify the items in which you have participated during **this** academic year and enter the corresponding points in the column on the right. Total your Vocal Music points for the year on the back of this form. ***THIS COMPLETED FORM MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE VHS or VSW VOCAL MUSIC OFFICE immediately following State Large Group Festival TO BE ELIGIBLE.***

<i>VHS/VSW Vocal Music Department:</i>		- 1 st Year Participant	100	_____
		- 2 nd Year Participant	125	_____
		- 3 rd Year Participant	175	_____
		- 4 th Year Participant	200	_____
BASS CLEF Member	_____		50	_____
TREBLE CLEF Member	_____		50	_____
SOUTHWOODS SINGERS Member	_____		50	_____
	Audition for OPUS Festival	_____	150	_____
	Participate in OPUS Festival	_____	300	_____
CONCERT CHOIR Member	_____		50	_____
A CAPPELLA CHOIR Member	_____		50	_____
SELECT TREBLE CLEF Member	_____		50	_____
VALLEY SINGERS Member	_____		50	_____
	Audition for IOWA ALL-STATE Chorus	_____	200	_____
	IOWA ALL-STATE Chorus Member	_____	300	_____
	Audition for <i>Valley Singers, Southwoods Singers, Show</i>			
	<i>And or Jazz choir</i>	_____	50	_____
	Audition for IOWA ALL-STATE JAZZ Choir	_____	150	_____
	IOWA ALL-STATE JAZZ Choir Member	_____	300	_____
STATE FESTIVAL (Large Group Participant):				
	- Division I Rating _____ ()X		75	_____
	- Division II Rating _____ ()X		50	_____
	- Division III Rating _____ ()X		25	_____
	Audition for an Honor Choir other than Opus/All State	_____	50	_____
	Other Honor Choir Participant	_____	75	_____
	Choir Officer (Curricular Ensembles)	_____	50	_____
STATE FESTIVAL (Solo and Ensemble and/or State Piano Festival Participant):				
	Solo:			
	- Division I Rating _____		150	_____
	- Division II Rating _____		100	_____
	- Division III Rating _____		75	_____
	Ensemble:			
	- Division I Rating _____ ()X		100	_____
	- Division II Rating _____ ()X		75	_____
	- Division III Rating _____ ()X		50	_____
	Best of Center Award and Showcase			
	- BOC Solo _____		150	_____
	- BOC Ensemble _____		100	_____
	Solo & Ensemble Accompanist _____ ()X		75	_____
	Audition for Sweetheart Show	_____	50	_____
	Soloist or Small Group in Sweetheart Show other than Jazz/Show	_____	100	_____
	Show Choir Member	_____	250	_____
	Show Choir Crew or Combo Member	_____	150	_____
	Jazz Choir Member	_____	250	_____
	Jazz Choir Combo Member or Sound Tech.	_____	150	_____
	Private Voice Instruction (PER SEMESTER of Academic Year)	_____	150	_____
	Summer Music Camp Participant (<i>List Camp & Dates</i>)	_____	200	_____
	Church Choir Participant (this academic year)	_____	50	_____
	Community Choir Participation (this academic year)	_____	50	_____

SUBTOTAL FOR YEAR _____

Extra Activities:

Community / Civic Performances: (This includes singing a solo or with a small group at a public event, or place outside of a school sponsored performance. This does not include church worship services as a choir. It DOES include church choir special events outside of worship, Dickens Dinners, Caroling, Nursing Home group singing, National Anthem singing, Iowa Youth Chorus or Heartland Youth Chorus.) (List activities: 25 points each)

Service Work in the Vocal Music Departments at VHS/VSW: (This includes work such as filing music for a director, working for the Vocal Music Department, setting up risers/shells and chairs in a performance space, ushering for performances, setting up for and assisting judges for contest (Large Group and Solo/Small Ensemble. This does NOT include other fundraisers.) (List activities: 25 points each)

Extra am/pm rehearsals: (This includes rehearsals for school ensembles that are outside the usual, normal scheduling time frame. This does not include scheduled rehearsals for show and/or jazz choirs, summer rehearsals for Valley Singers/Valley Southwoods Singers, a reasonable expectation for adding instruments, or sectionals called due to the need for improvement. (List rehearsals: 25 points each)

Date / Ensemble / Points

1000 POINTS = Vocal Letter	Subtotal from Year's Offerings	_____
1500 POINTS = Bar & Lyre	Community / Civic Perf. Subtotal	_____
1750 POINTS = Bar, Lyre and	Service Work Subtotal	_____
Service Award	Extra am/pm Rehearsals Subtotal	_____
	Grand Total	_____

Music Department Out-of-School Performance Practices

Performing groups utilize both classroom and out-of-class time in nature. They are considered co-curricular because the outcomes of class instruction are used in public demonstrations for an audience. The groups most frequently used in such a dual role are band, orchestra and choral ensembles. The vitality and value of these classes are much affected through preparation as a group for public performances at out-of-class times. The student cannot be a satisfactory member of the organization if his/her only participation is that part carried on in the classroom in school time. Satisfactory membership must also include the out-of-class time participation.

It is essential that students who enroll in such classes understand that the conditions for satisfactory grades include out-of-class performances. A schedule of performances for the semester will be given to students at the beginning of each semester and sent home to parents/guardians for their information. Written agreement of the out-of-class schedule from both parents/guardians and students is necessary. Approved absences will be honored only when the director is informed before the performance. The Principal, following consultation with the Director, will make decisions concerning absenteeism beyond this point.

If a student is absent, arrangements to make up the absence should be discussed with the Director. Students are encouraged to make up the work in advance if possible. Parents are asked to provide a written excuse to the Director when their student will be absent from a performance. In the event a conflict should arise between activities within the school, an arrangement agreeable to all parties will be worked out in consultation with the student and the activity sponsors involved.

All performing groups encourage parent/student communication with the respective directors. Parental participation in the junior and senior high schools continue to enhance the performance program. The Directors will be continually informing administration, students, and parents of upcoming events, performances and festivals that will take place during the year. The structure and implementation of these out-of-school performance practices in the music disciplines should be consistent within each building and throughout the district.

Some of the class and co-curricular activities are conducted off campus and students are responsible for arranging their own transportation. Notification of any such event will be sent to parent/guardian prior to performances.

Thank you for reviewing the information presented. The communication and performance expectations are important to your child's development in the music program. Please detach and return the form below to your vocal music director by **September 4, 2009.**

Please sign, detach, and return this form to Valley High School and/or Valley Southwoods Vocal Music Department.

*We have received and reviewed the information and understand the additional
commitment to out-of-school performances and presentations.*

Student: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____