

# SOUTH SENECA VOCAL JAZZ HANDBOOK

## 2015-2016

### **Welcome!**

Based on your audition and merits, you have been selected to be part of the award-winning Vocal Jazz at South Seneca High School.

Being part of Vocal Jazz is a big honor that requires hard work and extra effort. You are part of a small ensemble, and each member needs to be as strong as the next. Each member needs to be up for challenges, such as dancing, improvising while singing, and studying characters in musical theatre. Be prepared to pursue excellence as a musician this year, and be prepared to give your all!

Sincerely,  
Miss Quinn

### **Philosophy and Goals:**

Music is not just the notes we sing. Music is expression of the notes we sing, so performers and listeners alike feel meaning in their very beings. Through an audition process, the strongest singers are selected to be part of Vocal Jazz. Vocal Jazz students are those who show a high level of knowledge of their High School Chorus objectives and will take vocal music to the next level.

*While studying voice in Vocal Jazz, students will:*

- 1) Use knowledge previously learned in High School Chorus and apply it to new music.
- 2) Sing with good technique.
- 3) Sing with accuracy
- 4) Interpret music in a musical way.
- 5) Express music's meaning through physical expression with both the face and choreography.
- 6) Improvise using scat syllables.
- 7) Arrange their own music.
- 8) Study character.
- 9) Hold themselves to the highest standard of good behavior and teamwork.

### **Materials:**

- 1) Pencil
- 2) Chorus Folder (provided)\*
- 3) Vocal Jazz Attire (see Concert Attire section of the handbook)

### **Extra Expenses:**

Students are expected to purchase Vocal Jazz T-Shirts to wear at various functions. Last year, t-shirts cost \$10. Students are expected to pay for their ticket to the Darien Lake Competition. Last year, the cost was \$26.50. We are also planning on going to see the musical, "Pippin," this year, as we are studying this music in the Fall. Cost TBA. Students can raise profits to help with these expenses through Falcon Music Booster fundraising opportunities.

## **Grading:**

Students will be graded on:

Technique (*breath control, flexibility, range, registers, diction, resonance*)

Accuracy (*accuracy of notes and rhythms, steadiness of rhythms*)

Musical Interpretation (*Technique, Accuracy and Interpretation = 25% of grade*)

Physical Interpretation (*25% of grade*)

Quarterly Projects (*25% of grade*)

Concert Attendance (*25% of grade*)

## **Expectations:**

- 1) Students are expected to follow all classroom conduct rules expected in High School Chorus. Students are expected to hold themselves to the highest level of respectability and etiquette. It is an honor to be selected to sing in Vocal Jazz.
- 2) Students are expected to be good team members. This small ensemble must function well as a group, and students will work in smaller groups for Quarterly Projects.
- 3) Students are expected to give their all to all tasks asked of them.
- 4) Good attendance is imperative. If any member misses concerts, misses other singing engagements, or misses more than 40% of rehearsal time, you may be subject to dismissal.
- 5) If any member does not work towards the new challenges that may be outside of particular comfort zones, you may be subject to dismissal.
- 6) Each member is subject to review by the teacher at the end of each year to see if they will be allowed to continue the next year. Each member may be subject to another audition for the following year.

## **Quarterly Projects:**

Students have a project each quarter to test new skills and give students creative space.

- Scat Singing  
Individual students will improvise a melody using scat syllables to a jazz, swing, or blues accompaniment.
- Musical Arrangement  
Students will create groups of at least four students (could be three students only if there are some larger groups in class) and arrange a school-appropriate song to present to the class. The top graded songs will be selected to perform at the POPS concert in March.
- Duet with Movement  
Students will select partners and a duet from a musical theatre production. Students will study their characters.

Quarter 1: Scat Singing / Duets

Freshman and Sophomores - Scat, Juniors and Seniors - Duets

Quarter 2: Arrangements

Everyone. Grade levels can be mixed.

Quarter 3: Scat Singing / Duets

Freshman and Sophomores - Duets, Juniors and Seniors - Scat

**Concert Attire:**

For concerts, students are obligated to wear the designated attire.

For the December and June concerts, men wear black dress pants (no jeans) with a black belt with a plain buckle, and black socks. Men should wear a black dress shirt and a red tie provided through Falcon Music Boosters.

Women wear red dresses provided through Falcon Music Boosters. Women need to provide their own black ankle socks.

All students are provided shoes through Falcon Music Boosters.

**Performances:**

Our concert performances throughout the year are mandatory. Since Vocal Jazz is a small ensemble and choreographed, it is impossible to perform our best without everyone present.

Vocal Jazz participates in all the school concerts, but they also perform at other and exciting engagements. Sometimes, Vocal Jazz is invited to perform at not previously planned events throughout the year, so please be ready.

Vocal Jazz's Darien Lake Competition counts as every student's final exam.

**2015-2016 Vocal Jazz Concert and Event Schedule:**

November 17<sup>th</sup>: Fall Vocal Showcase and Fundraiser

December 16<sup>th</sup>: High School Band and Chorus Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.

March 22<sup>th</sup>: 6-12 Band and Chorus POPS Concert, 7:00 p.m.

May 27<sup>th</sup>: Vocal Jazz Show Choir Competition at Darien Lake

June 1<sup>st</sup>: High School Band and Chorus Spring Concert, 7:00 p.m.

June 11<sup>th</sup>: Interlaken Olde Home Days Festival

June 18<sup>th</sup>: Strawberry Festival in Ovid

**Vocal Jazz Contract**

**Due to Miss Quinn by September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

***I have read this booklet and accept the terms and responsibility of the being part of the award winning Vocal Jazz ensemble.***

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_