

SPMS Advanced Choir Welcome Packet



*Please review the syllabus, and complete the [course information assignment](#) before
Friday, August 28, 2020.*

Thank you for your support!



Dear SPMS Choir Family,

On behalf of the Music Department at South Pasadena Middle School, I would like to welcome you (or welcome you back) to the Choral Program! I am delighted that you have chosen to be part of the choir family. To help families begin to plan for the coming year please take the time now to read the materials and complete the google form course information assignment. The information in this packet and other learning resources are also available online at spusdvoice.weebly.com.

For those students new to choir, here is a bit about my background. I am originally from Monterey, California and have twenty plus years of experience as a musician, ten years teaching privately and ten years teaching vocal/instrumental music at the middle/high school level. I received my Bachelor's degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA where I double majored in Music Education and Voice/Piano Performance, and minored in Conducting. This past summer I completed 2/3 of my master's degree in Choral Conducting from CSULA. I have been teaching at SPMS and SPHS for eight years, and also serve as the VAPA Coordinator for SPUSD.

While distance learning, the needs of our program have shifted. The bulk of our budget will be utilized on technology, software, creating virtual choirs, and sheet music. Not all families will be able to support the program financially this year, but we are requesting that those that are able to consider a \$100 suggested donation to [SPMS Music Boosters](#). These donations will stay directly in our program, in your student's class and will only be used to enhance their musical experience at SPMS.

I am looking forward to working with you all. While it is less than ideal to not be making music together in person, my intention is to make lemonade with lemons and provide the best possible choral experience for our students. This will be an opportunity for students to develop their individual musicianship (culminating in combined virtual choir experiences), become scholars of music theory, and work on projects that will be centered around their musical interests. My goal is to make the best music we possibly can. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, email is the best way to reach me. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Lia Donovan-Jones
Director of Vocal Music- SPMS/SPHS
ldonovanjones@spusd.net

South Pasadena



Middle School Choir

1500 Fair Oaks Ave
South Pasadena, CA 91030
Director: Lia Donovan-Jones (Mrs. Jones)
Email: ldonovanjones@spusd.net
Website: spusdvoice.weebly.com
Google Classroom code: 4nu7pvu

We are looking forward to an exciting year as we hope to expand and create enthusiasm about our choir program at South Pasadena Middle School. In order for our choir to sound its best, each of us needs to contribute to the best of our ability. The goals, expectations, and procedures outlined below will allow us to reach our potential.

SPMS Advanced Choir- Course Description

Choir is a performance-based class in which music of a wide variety of styles, cultures and time periods will be studied and performed. Students will learn proper vocal production and technique, music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. This course also provides opportunities for growth in the understanding of musical elements (rhythm, melody, form, harmony, expressive elements, and style) as applied to the music performed. Students will perform in several concert performances (virtual while distance-learning) during the year and also have the opportunity to sing solos and participate in small ensembles.

Philosophy and Goals

Singing is a skill. Skills need to be practiced to improve. I expect every student to give their best effort while learning new singing skills. Participation in class will be required. Singing like most skills, becomes more fun as one's abilities increase.

1. Every choir member will work to increase his/her individual music skills.
2. Choir is a group effort—we will work together to achieve our goals.
3. We will strive to give quality performances.
4. We will work to develop healthy vocal habits for lifelong voice use.
5. We will work to become responsible and mature leaders within the community.

Course Objectives

- Distinguish and apply unison and part singing in an ensemble.
- Recognize and use standard musical terms and markings within the choral repertoire (Notes/Rhythms, Dynamics/Articulation, Time Signature, Key Signature, Tempo, Musical Form).
- Recognize and apply proper vocal techniques. Head/chest voice, tone quality, intonation, diction, phrasing, and care of the voice.
- Demonstrate awareness of and tolerance for the diversity of choral repertoire.
- Develop sensitivity toward musical text as it relates to meaning and emotional quality.
- Evaluate musical performances (recordings, live performances, or their own performances).
- Demonstrate appropriate stage presence, proper performance and audience etiquette, and correct microphone technique.
- Acquire and apply sight-reading and ear training skills.

Common Core

- Regular practice with complex music and its academic language.
- Coherence: linking topics and thinking across grades and subjects.
- Rigor: Pursue conceptual understanding, procedural skills and fluency, and application with equal intensity.

Information on Grades

We do not all learn things at the same rate, nor do we sing and or read music with equal skill. However, your grade is within your control. You will be evaluated based on your class participation, music reading and vocal skill growth, and your ability to turn assignments in on time. *All course communications will be through google classroom.* Your grade will be computed as follows:

1. Class Participation 25%

- Being on time with the computer camera on, microphone muted (unless unmute is requested by Mrs. Jones), and contributing positively to class. Students will earn one point per class for full participation.

2. Assignments and Assessments 50%

- Quizzes (examples: theory, and dictation)
- Projects (examples: virtual choir, programing a concert, acapella/barbershop)
- Assignments (examples: Song Analysis, theory worksheets, creating warmups)

3. Practice Records 25%

- Students will complete recordings of assigned measures of music every two weeks of class, and answer reflection questions. Students will receive Pass/Fail grades (unless partial assignments are submitted) for practice records.

Materials •chromebook •headphones

Uniform

This year, Tiger Cub Choir shirts can be ordered online through custom ink and shipped directly to you! Tiger Cub shirts are not required, but recommended. Many students will wear these shirts for virtual choir performances.

<https://www.customink.com/g/vdc0-00bz-xks6>

Zoom

All class meetings will take place utilizing zoom. These links will be accessed through google classroom. Please review SPUSD “netiquette” guidelines for online behavior.

<https://4.files.edl.io/d538/08/06/20/025640-857a101e-7d5f-4717-88dd-a604de71af40.pdf>

Remind Application

Use the link to sign up for choir reminders via text: <https://www.remind.com/join/spachoirms>
or

Text the phrase “@spachoirms” to the number “81010”.