



**Carson Middle School
Choir/ Musical Theatre**

Director: Briana Valley

Phone: 283-2800

Email: BValley@carson.k12.nv.us

Dear Carson Middle School Vocal Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Carson Middle School vocal program. My name is Miss. Briana Valley and I am the Choir and Musical Theatre Director here at CMS. This document is provided to make your orientation to this class a quick and easy task. **Please complete, sign and return the expectations contract that was handed out in class by the date listed. Please use the other information as a reference for the school year, the information will be updated on the music website as the year progresses. CarsonMiddleMusic.com**

I am very excited about this school year and the journey we are going to take together! I look forward to getting to know each of you as we learn and expand your music ability in areas like vocal technique, music reading, rhythm, tone, and stage presence. Participation in a music class will be the means of developing some very close friendships while expanding your musical vocabulary. I know that this year has some unknown areas but I promise to do the best I can to make this experience the best it can be with the situation. At the moment Concerts are listed on the website and are scheduled, but as CDC and district regulations change we may need to change them, please understand that we are doing the best that we can and will update you as soon as we can. In the meantime I hope to make music videos to show you our progress throughout the year.

****The *choir*** will hopefully perform at a wide range of school events, school concerts, and Choir festivals around the area. We will be working on composition, vocal production, reading music as well as learning different genres and music styles.

*****Musical Theatre*** is a class that combines singing, dancing and acting. Due to this years schedule we will be moving around and dancing in every class. Please make sure that Ms. Valley knows of all medical conditions or injuries. Please be dressed in appropriate pants and shoes that are comfortable to move in and that will stay on your feet.**

Thank you for joining me on this adventure, I look forward to an AMAZING year! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Briana Valley
Director of Choir/ Musical Theater
Carson Middle School
BValley@carson.k12.nv.us
(775)283-2800
www.CarsonMiddleMusic.com



Points are earned:

You will receive grades for the following:

The following will be under Benchmark category

Performance Grade - 100 pts

Choir and Musical Theatre students will be required to perform in *at least* two evening concerts this year (subject to change due to restrictions, please see the attached calendar). These concerts are the equivalent of a midterm or final in another class, in the meantime we will perform in music videos and they will count toward a performance grade. If we are allowed to go on trips students will not be allowed to attend any field trip/ festival if they have any D's/ F's or 1's in ANY class.

In-class Tests - 100pts each - Unit tests

Students will be given Unit tests over choreography (just musical theatre), vocabulary, history or theory material covered in class. The grade will be put into the grade-book under the Benchmark category and will be worth 55% of the overall grade.

The following will be under Skills practice category

Quizzes/ Homework - 50 - formative assessments

Occasionally students will be given quizzes over choreography (just musical theatre), vocabulary, history or theory material covered in class. The grade will be put into the grade-book under the Skills Practice category. Homework for both classes is to practice, when students practice at home it helps us move on quicker in class. Rehearsal tracks and choreography videos will be uploaded to google classroom for students to practice. The choir will need to turn in Practice Logs every week, see below for more info.

Daily In Class Participation - 25 pts per week

Students must arrive to class on time and ready to work for each class period. This includes having all your materials with you at the beginning of class. Students must participate to the best of their ability; with energy and enthusiasm, they must listen to student leaders and or the teacher when given instructions and respond with respect.

Distance Participation - 25 pts per week

Students will be required to do some work at home on their distance days. Though they will not be required to check in at a specific time they will need to turn in their assignment by the due date. Please ask if you have any questions, I will try to answer them throughout the day but will get them all answered by 3:00pm.

Practice logs/ Sight Reading Factory - 50 pts per week

At home, practice is a huge way to make the ensemble the best it can be. This year we are going to use an online program called SightReadingfactory.com to help us become better musicians. Students are encouraged to explore the program and work on different exercises. Students are asked to practice 30 min a week which we will track on a google form. This practice time can be in any combination and on any day of the week. Rehearsal tracks will be loaded on google classroom for students to access at home. Practice logs are due at the end of the week on FRIDAYS weather you are at home or in class that day.

Citizenship grades

Citizenship grades are given weekly and are earned based on the following areas. Journals, Attitude, and effort in participation being on time and ready to learn and follow all school rules in class. A mastery grade in citizenship is a 3 (based on school rubrics). In order to obtain a 4 in citizenship, students need to show mastery in the areas above as well as helping other students in class and or going above and beyond in class.

COVID Safety:

Due to CDC and school district guidelines this year will look a lot different. When you enter the room you will notice X marks on the floor, these marks are for you to keep your distance from the students around you. Once we have assigned seats I will ask students to remain in their seats as much as possible. If and when we are dancing (musical Theatre) we will wipe down the chairs before putting them away and students will return to their designated mark to learn choreography. Masks will be worn at all times. The drinking fountain in the classroom is out of order so please bring a reusable water bottle you can fill in between classes. These guidelines change as the situation changes and I will let you know if and when they do.

**Attendance at Performances: (if we are allowed concert performances)

Performances are important. It is the final product of hours, days, and weeks of hard work and practice. Each performance is worth 100 points. These points are then worth 55% of the student's overall grade for the semester or otherwise known as a benchmark grade. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY!** A performance missed without a legitimate excuse will result in a 0 for the concert grade. A student with a legitimate excuse will be allowed to make up the grade by completing a designated assignment that will be due within **one week** after the performance. A calendar of dates can be found on the music website; I will send changes out as soon as I can if needed. Performances include concerts, festivals, and other functions that each performing ensemble is required to attend. If you are going to miss a performance, please notify me as soon as you can. If it is not an emergency, I must be informed with a legitimate reason for missing a performance **at least one day in advance**. If it is a family emergency, please call me as soon as possible and let me know.

**Concert Dress:

Concert attire is important. A great Ensemble not only sounds good but also looks good. The concert attire for all choir groups is all black (preferably nicer than everyday clothes) including shoes, and I will provide a scarf or tie that matches the class color. Day time performances for choir students will be their choir shirts and blue jeans with no rips or tears. Musical Theatre will wear Musical Theatre shirts and black pants. *Shirt order forms will be handed out later in the semester.*

What you need to provide for class:

All Classes

- Pencil – **NO** pens are to be used on music
- One 2 pocket folder or binder (can be shared with other classes)
- School devices will be used EVERY class
- headphones/ earbuds would be useful

* Students WILL NOT have the option to keep music and materials in a folder in class this year do to CDC guidelines*

Grading Scale:

100% - 95% = A
94% - 90% = A-
89% - 85% = B
84% - 80% = B-
79% - 75% = C

74% - 70% = C-
69% - 65% = D
64% - 60% = D-
59% - 0% = F



Ms. Valley's Expectations

In order to have a successful music program at Carson Middle School, it is important that a list of guidelines is followed in order to achieve our goals. These guidelines are mandatory for all students to follow. It is important to me that you have an opportunity to learn and that I have the opportunity to teach. As well as the following; all school rules apply in the classroom as well.

Make good choices

Use class time wisely

Show kindness to others

Instruments handle with care

Choose to be your best

Expectations Contract

The following consequences will result if you choose not to follow the list of expectations:

- 1.) Verbal Warning
- 2.) Note in file and a conference with the teacher to determine a consequence
- 3.) Note in file, lunch detention with teacher and parent contact
- 4.) Note in File, Behavior contract with the teacher, limitation of activities, which will likely negatively impact course grade
- 5.) Note on discipline file and referral to administration; limitation in activities, which will likely negatively impact course grade

By signing, you, the student indicate that you understand what is expected of you and the consequences involved if you choose to ignore them. A list of expectations will be posted in the front of the room for immediate reference.

Student Signature: _____

***Please return this page to Miss Valley **No Later Than** 9/11

I have read the Handbook information and will help my child in completing a successful year in the Carson Middle School Vocal Program. I understand the policies and by attending the required performances and actively participating in class my child will achieve success in the music program.

******* If your student is in more than one of Miss Valley's class please only turn in ONE expectation form and please indicate BOTH classes below*******

Student's Name _____

Student Class / Period _____ Student Grade level _____

Medical Conditions _____
(of which Ms. Valley should be aware)

Parent/ Guardian's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You may use photographs/video of my student for promotional or classroom materials. ___ Yes ___ No

I prefer E-MAIL/TELEPHONE communication. (Please circle one.)

CALENDAR is located on the Music Website

Carsonmiddlemusic.com