



**Chippewa Valley High School Choir
Informational Packet**

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Chippewa Valley High School Choirs
18300 Nineteen Mile Rd. Clinton Twp, MI 48038

Dear 8th Grade Choir Students and Parents/Guardians,

January 4, 2024

In an effort to help parents and students make informed choices about participation in the choir program at Chippewa Valley High School, I have detailed some information about our choirs, and listed some reasons to seriously consider your student's music education. Shortly, your student will be selecting courses for their freshman year at Chippewa. With so many interesting classes and so little time, students cannot take every class they would like, and, unfortunately, must make choices. Enclosed is some information you should consider. Very few students at Chippewa will go on to careers in music (although, many colleges offer scholarships for music majors and non-music majors to sing in their choirs...get paid to sing! It is great to start the process in high school to build up skills to hopefully earn scholarship money in college). The benefits of a music education, however, extend to many other areas. Educators have known for years that intelligent students participate in music, but new research is revealing that it is the music that helps make the student smart. This fact is evident at CVHS. Former band and choir students have gone on to prestigious universities such as Harvard, Northwestern, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan, to name a few. Many of the top ranked students at CVHS are 4-year choir members. While it is difficult to fit choir into a rigorous college prep schedule, it can be done without sacrificing important academic courses and while still gaining admittance to the college of your choice. Several years ago, the Detroit Free Press published the University of Michigan's in-house admittance form: Achieving a first division rating at a State Solo and Ensemble festival earned more points toward admission than getting a perfect score on the ACT or SAT. Universities do recognize the value of participation in choir programs, and in today's era of inflated grades, such participation can help a student stand out. Choir also teaches students important interpersonal skills that will help them land and keep jobs later in life.

Incoming 9th grade students will not have to audition. 9th grade students will either sing in Bel Canto (9th-12th grade beginning tenor/bass voices) or Treble Choir (9th-12th grade beginning treble voices). Not only will we learn how to sing, but we will also learn professionalism, respect, and discipline. I have even been known to bring in a bunch of neck ties and spend a day learning how to tie a tie. Being a choir member is not only about singing; it is about learning how to do your part to contribute to the team and the team's success. This is a safe environment to learn how to "be people"/positively contributing members of society.

PLEASE NOTE – Students are presented with options for classes they can take in 9th grade, and many want to take gym, health, and a language to "get them out of the way". Students have 4 years to take these classes. If you a student is interested in choir and they do not take it in 9th grade and plan to come back in 10th grade, and their friends take choir in 9th grade, their friends might be moving to an auditioned group for 10th grade, and you/your student who is returning in 10th grade will be in one of the beginning ensembles, which means they might not be with their friends for a 2nd year in a row. Additionally! If you take Choir for 1 year, that counts as a fine arts credit, if you take a language for a year, that counts as a language credit, and if you take choir for a 2nd year, that can count for your 2nd language credit, so, if you take choir for 2 years, you only need one year of a language.

Another fun thing we wanted to mention – we travel with choir! We are currently getting ready for a trip to **NEW YORK CITY** in March...and are in the planning stages of a potential trip to somewhere warm in the spring of 2026...perhaps **FLORIDA, CALIFORNIA, or HAWAII!** For those trips, students in choir will be able to fundraise directly for the trip through choir in 2024-25 and 2025-26 – they will need to be in choir for both years to do that and attend, so we urge you to join next year so you don't miss out.

Please feel free to call me at (586) 723-2573 with any questions you may have. I look forward to meeting you all and hope to see your student in the choir room next year!

Sincerely,
James Pecar
Director of Choirs, Chippewa Valley High School
(586) 723-2573 jpecar@cvs.k12.mi.us





Choir Courses at CVHS



Treble Choir

This choir is designed for treble-voiced students in grades 9-12. Students explore vocal technique, choral singing tone, sight-reading, and performance techniques. Students are required to participate in all concerts, rehearsals, and festivals. Incoming 9th grade sopranos and altos are to sign up for this class.

Bel Canto

This choir is designed for tenor and bass-voiced students in grades 9-12. Students explore vocal technique, choral singing tone, sight-reading, and performance techniques. Students are required to participate in all concerts, rehearsals, and festivals. Incoming 9th grade tenors and basses are to sign up for this class.

Choraliers

This is an advanced Soprano/Alto chorus. Students develop vocal technique, choral tone, sight-reading and performance techniques. Students are required to attend all concerts, rehearsals, festivals, and occasional performances outside of school. Admission by audition only.

Chorale

This is an advanced mixed-voice choir. Understanding of vocal technique and choral tone is required. Students must be able to sight-read music. Students are required to attend all concerts, rehearsals, festivals, and occasional performances outside of school. Admission by audition only.

Seniority

Seniority is an auditioned choir of senior Soprano/Alto singers. This group sings the National Anthem at home football games and other events within our school and community including Little Caesars Arena, Ford Field, Jimmy John's Field, and more!

Extra-curricular Ensembles

There are extracurricular vocal ensembles that are offered at CVHS. Depending on the year, these ensembles might be Show Choir, Vocal Jazz, A Cappella, Quartets, Chamber groups, Choral Union, or Advanced Chamber Choir to name a few. These ensembles are announced at the beginning of the semester in which they are offered. Admission by audition only.

Musical(s)

Chippewa presents an annual musical (or possibly musicals). These musicals are open to all students at CVHS and require an audition. Each musical lasts for 8-12 weeks of daily after school rehearsals. This is a wonderful experience spanning all of the grades and disciplines. Students are always upset when it is over because they love it so much!

Choir Trips

We are currently in the planning stages for a trip to somewhere WARM...perhaps Florida, California, or maybe even Hawaii for the Spring of 2026!

These trips are expensive so we want to give ample time to fundraise over the course of 1.5-2 years to make the trip more accessible to everyone. This means, however, your student will need to be signed up for choir for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, so be sure to sign up for choir next year so you don't miss out on this amazing opportunity!

Traveling with a choir is an important part of and bonus to a well-rounded educational experience! Choirs and Bands at CVHS have traveled to New York, Chicago, Hawaii, Pennsylvania, Florida, Tennessee, all over Michigan, and more!

In the spring of 2024, we took a trip to New York City to see two Broadway shows, *Hadestown* and *Lempicka*, and saw many sights and had great experiences! In 2019, we took a trip to Chicago to see *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Hamilton* (musicals), explore the city, & have workshops in the *Hamilton* rehearsal space. We have had choirs selected to perform at prestigious events all over Michigan. We have traveled to Nashville & Memphis - we had a workshop at Belmont University, visited the Country Music Hall of Fame and Grand Ole Opry, toured & performed at Graceland, recorded in Studio B, toured the Gibson factory, & more! The year prior we spent a few days in New York City. We performed on the USS *Intrepid* with the marching band, toured Radio City, saw an opera at the Metropolitan Opera, & saw *The Phantom of the Opera*, & more. Trips are open to eligible choir students. Sometimes we have small trips that may only be for one of the choirs, depending on the calendar & opportunity. We are always open to new experiences & do our best to make them happen! A few years ago, Chorale was selected/invited to take a 10-day 5 Country Tour in Europe performing in cathedrals and palaces (unfortunately that trip was cancelled, but it is still an honor to be selected!) We would love to try this again in the future! We work hard to provide awesome opportunities to these students!



Sign up for Remind101 Text alerts for the
2024-2025 School Year!

This is where we will send information about summer choir and musical events, and choir and musical for next year. You won't want to miss this information, so sign up right away!

Send a text to 81010 that reads @mrpecar12

Check out our website for information about the CVHS
Choir Department!

www.cvchoirs.weebly.com

Follow Mr. Pecar on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok and Ms. Ferguson (our collaborative pianist) on X (Twitter), and our Choir Council on X for updates and information regarding all fun events related to choir! Be the first to know by following us on our social media platforms! Sign up for notifications!



@cvchoirs



@cvchoirsPF



@CVChoirCouncil

Chippewa Valley High School
Mr. Todd Distelrath, Principal
18300 19 Mile Road, Clinton Township, MI 48308
(586) 723-2300

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM

Chippewa Valley High School

Sample Student Schedule

Choir - 4 Years

WITH STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Period 2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Senior Math
Period 3	Biology	Chemistry I and Physics I	3rd Credit of Science	Elective/Elective
Period 4	World History	US History	Government (One Sem) Economics (One Sem)	Elective/Elective
Period 5	0.5 Health / 0.5 PE	*Foreign Language	Elective/Elective (Choir)	Elective/Elective (Choir)
Period 6	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Choir</u>	<u>Choir</u>

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN SCHEDULING:

- **CHOIR IN 9th GRADE** - Students who take one full year/credit of a choir class (i.e. choir in 9th grade), will fulfill their one-credit Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts graduation requirement. Choir is a year-long course.
- **CHOIR IN 9th GRADE** - Students registering for choir as part of their first year at CVHS must sign up for either Treble Chorus or Men's Chorus (Bel Canto). Students are able to audition to be a part of the Women's Varsity (Choraliers) or Mixed Varsity (Chorale) classes at the end of their first year in Treble or Men's Chorus.
- **CVHS MUSICALS** - After school activities such as Musical Productions most often include students that have choir as part of their regular schedule. The best way to become a part of these groups is by signing up for choir in 9th grade and looking out for audition information in late spring of 8th grade or summer between 8th and 9th grade, and at the beginning of the school year.
- **PLEASE NOTE** - The basic requirements are represented above. Most choir students take a schedule that similar to the one above, but many often include various honors and/or AP courses.
- ***FOREIGN LANGUAGE** - Choir students are able to exempt/replace the second year of their foreign language requirement by taking a second year (one credit) of a choir class. Students considering using a year of Choir to replace the second year of World Language need to check the requirements for their colleges of interest first (all are different).



2024-25 Chippewa Valley Choirs Parent Informational Pamphlet

Welcome to the 2024-2025 CVHS Choirs! Whether you are a parent/guardian of an incoming student or a returning choir student, we are sure that you are looking forward to an exciting and memorable choir season. This pamphlet includes general choir information as well as ways that you can help as a choir parent/guardian.

Choir Dues

What are Choir Dues and what are they used for?

There is a \$40 fee for all choir students to help defray costs for accompanists, guest speakers/performers, choir attire, t-shirts, piano tuning, and other miscellaneous expenses associated with, and necessitated by a thriving high school choral department. This can be paid via PaySchools.

Student Individual Accounts

Unfortunately, due to new district regulations, we no longer have student accounts. We realize this can become burdensome for families as we have many outside opportunities that require payment. We will do our best to defray costs for events and are planning to limit the number of additional opportunities so families do not feel the strain of too many expenses. If we go on a trip that costs over \$500.00 we are able to set up a temporary student fund program, but any funds raised in addition to the cost of the trip will not be used by your student for future events; it must be absorbed by the general fund.

Choir Boosters

Who are the Choir Boosters?

Every parent/guardian of a student in Bel Canto, Treble Choir, Choraliers, or Chorale, is a member of the Boosters. If you are unable to attend meetings but want to be aware of what is going on, check out the Boosters website for meeting minutes. The Choir Boosters are an extremely important organization that helps and supports the choirs and therefore every student who is in choir.

The success of our choirs depends greatly on **parental support**. Choir Boosters support the choir in many ways such as:

- Setting up before and after concerts
- Selling concessions at concerts
- Helping backstage at concerts
- Fitting, Distributing, and Maintaining Concert uniforms
- Organizing Fundraisers
- Paying for accompanists - pianists, rock bands, other instrumentalists, choreographers, piano tuning, copier service, etc.
- Awarding scholarships to seniors for college
- Organizing the Choir Banquet at the end of the year
- Helping set up, organize volunteers, and sell concessions at MSVMA Solo/Ensemble in January
- Chaperoning the choirs for various travel performances (e.g., festivals, music conferences, etc.)

The Choir Boosters usually meet at 7:00 p.m. once each month. The calendar is released in the fall and will be on the choir and choir boosters websites.

Choir Boosters (continued)

Please consider joining this organization and help your child's choir be successful. If you cannot attend the meetings, but would like to help, please let us know.

I don't have time to attend booster meetings. In what other ways can I help?

We understand that many parents/guardians have busy schedules that don't allow the time to attend booster meetings. However, you can help the choir in other ways, such as:

- Supplying concession items to sell at concerts such as: candy, gum, chips, bottled water, etc.
- Helping with the Annual Musical: costume fittings, help acquire stage props, help with makeup, chaperone in choir room, help with set building and painting, selling tickets, selling concessions, etc.
- Help out at the MSVMA Solo/Ensemble Festival in January with set-up, concessions, and piano moving
- Help with grant writing to obtain funding

The 2024-25 officers will be announced at a later date.

2023-24 CVHS Choir Booster Officers

Lisa Sorbie, President

lsorbie@gmail.com

Sue Clark, Vice President

sclark@cvs.k12.mi.us

Alana Zayed, Secretary

laneypoofer@hotmail.com

Lauri Shields, Treasurer

speechpath07@yahoo.com

Booster email address: cvchoirs@gmail.com

Fundraising

How do we survive?

The fundraisers that are held throughout the school year pay for what isn't provided in the school budget. This includes accompanists, bus transportation (if needed), entrance fees for District & Regional festivals and competitions, choreography, printing, and much more.

2024-25 Fundraisers (tbd)

Fundraisers will be announced during the school year. Watch your for communication and look for flyers that come home with your student.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the choir, please don't hesitate to contact our CVHS Vocal Music Director, **Mr. James Pecar**. The best way to reach him is by e-mail at jpecar@cvs.k12.mi.us. Information is also available at the choir's website at:

<http://cvchoirs.weebly.com>

Choir Booster Email Address:
cvchoirs@gmail.com

We need your help!

Finally, we survive because of our wonderful **VOLUNTEERS!** We need many hands to help in many ways. We know that everyone's time is valuable, but if everyone helped out just one time, no one would feel overwhelmed! There are countless opportunities and ways that you can individually help – every contribution is valuable, even if it is a small time commitment. Please consider your talents and let us know if you can lend a hand. Call or email any of the officers with questions or to let us know what you can do for the Choir. We have a multitude of things that we'd like to accomplish this year, and we'll gratefully accept any assistance you can provide. We survive because of YOU!

Without your support, we do not exist.

This wonderful program continues to grow in numbers and in the outstanding quality that is available for your student(s). Please help us support them in their efforts. We look forward to a wonderful year with the CVHS Choirs!

More information

For more information about the CVHS Choir Boosters visit the Choir website at <http://cvchoirs.weebly.com> and click on the "Boosters" tab, or go to:

<http://cvchoirboosters.weebly.com>



10 REASONS TO STAY IN CHOIR

“While most of us will never sing like Celine Dion, an education in the arts can help all of us reach our individual dreams. Research now shows that music education not only lifts our children’s hearts, but also dramatically increases abstract reasoning, spatial skills, and scores on math and verbal exams. When it comes time to learn and imagine, the arts must be just as central to our children’s education as the three R’s.”

-Hillary Rodam Clinton, former First Lady, U.S. Senator & Secretary of State.

1. A ten-year study indicates that students who study music achieve higher test scores, regardless of socio-economic background.

- Dr. James Catterall, UCLA.

2. Students who are rhythmically skilled also tend to better plan, sequence, and coordinate actions in their daily lives.

- “Cassidy Column,” TCAMS Professional Resource Center.

3. Students who can perform complex rhythms can also make faster and more precise corrections in many academic and physical situations, according to the Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills.

- Rhythm seen as the key to music’s evolutionary role in human intellectual development, Center for Timing, Coordination, and Motor Skills.

4. On the SAT, music students continued to outperform their non-arts peers, scoring 61 points higher on the verbal portion and 42 points higher on the math portion of the exam.

- Steven Demorest, “Does Music Make You Smarter?,” Music Educators Journal

5. Students who participate in All-State ensembles consistently score over 200 points higher on the SAT than non-music students. This figure indicates that students can pursue excellence in music while also excelling academically.

- Texas Music Educators Association.

6. College admissions officers continue to cite participation in music as an important factor in making admissions decisions. They claim that music participation demonstrates time management, creativity, expression, and open-mindedness.

- Carl Hartman, “Arts May Improve Students’ Grades,” The Associated Press.

7. A Georgia Tech study indicates that a student who participates in at least one college elective music course is 4.5 times more likely to stay in college than the general student population.

- Dr. Denise C. Gardner, Effects of Music Courses on Retention, Georgia Tech.

8. Physician and biologist Lewis Thomas studied the undergraduate majors of medical school applicants. He found that 66% of music majors who applied to medical school were admitted, the highest percentage of any group. 44% of biochemistry majors were admitted.

- “The Case for Music in the Schools,” Phi Delta Kappan.

9. Students who participate in school choir, band, or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs among any group in our society.

- H. Con. Res 266, United States Senate.

10. Nine out of ten adults and teenagers who play instruments agree that music making brings their family closer together.

- Music Making and Our Schools, American Music Conference.

Much attention is paid in schools today to the education of the mind. Students spend hours learning history, math and science - the facts of our world, while ignoring art, music and literature - the substance of our world. The education of the soul. How much better a place the world would be if we all learned to appreciate the beauty of a Monet painting, a Beethoven symphony, or a Robert Frost poem. Avail yourselves of a complete education - participate in the arts.