

**MVLA  
2019-20  
COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**

**Course Title: A Cappella Women**

**School: MVHS**

**UC/CSU requirement: Yes/Yes**

**Textbook and/or other learning resources: Sheet music provided by teacher and distributed in class**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

In this choir you will learn the techniques of vocal production, choral singing, ensemble skills and choral expression. The choir sings in 3-6 part harmony in a variety of genre from different periods in history. The choir performs at school concerts, local community events and travels internally annually. This choir performs in 20 concerts a year. Students will work on intonation, tone production, tone quality, breathing, diction, articulation, phrasing and increasing range. Students will also learn music reading, related music history, and the study of harmony. This class is audition based, fast paced, and musically very challenging, Students must be able to hold their own vocal line, one on a part, in 4 part harmony, sing scales and intervals with accurate pitch and demonstrate advanced stage presence before entering this class.

**Assessment and Grading ([BP 5121](#) / [AR 5121](#)):** To ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their learning, the course instructors implement aligned grading practices and common assessments with the same frequency.

1. Grading categories and their percentage weights:  
**Standard 1 – Artistic Perception – 20%**  
**Standard 2 – Creative Expression – 20%**  
**Ensemble Skills – 60%**
2. Achievement evidence collected within each grading category:  
**Standard 1** – Read and notate music, sight read music, listen to and analyze music, describe music and the use of musical elements.  
**Standard 2** – Creating, performing and participating in music. Play various genres, styles and cultures with expression, tone quality, articulation both written and memorized, by oneself and in ensembles.  
**Ensemble Skills** – Rehearsal work ethic, sectional preparation, listening, live adjustments, blending, and professionalism are all part of the grading in an ensemble class where individual skills impact group performance.
3. Grading scales:

A+ Over 100%	A 93 to 100%	A- 90 to 92.99%
B+ 87 to 89.99%	B 83 to 86.99%	B- 80 to 82.99%
C+ 77 to 79.99%	C 73 to 76.99%	C- 70 to 72.99%
D+ 67 to 69.99%	D 63 to 66.99%	D- 60 to 62.99%
	F 0 to 59.99%	
4. Homework/outside of class practices ([AR 6154](#)): Students are expected to attend all extra rehearsals
5. Excused absence make up practices ([Education Code 48205\(b\)](#)): Missing a performance cannot be made up and will require a suitable alternative. These will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
6. Academic integrity violation practices ([MVHS Academic Integrity Policy](#)): Please review the appropriate Academic Integrity Policies.
7. Late work practices: Our department believes that all work must be of an excellent quality which means that constant improvement is a necessity. Students are expected to practice until they master their musical part. Late or missing assignments will be marked as 'Incomplete' until requirements have been satisfied.

8. Revision practices: Students will be given multiple opportunities to achieve A-Level work on all appropriate repertoire. For performance-based assessments, students will achieve A-Level work or be given the opportunity to retest.
9. Extra credit practices: No extra credit will be available for this course.
10. Additional grading practices: N/A

**Instructors' email addresses:**

Jill Denny - jill.denny@mvla.net

**Additional information:**

**Performing Arts Department Expectations:**

**Attendance:** *"Attendance is mandatory for all rehearsals and performances."* This is in alignment with the 'Creative Expression' Standard

**Outside Performances:** *"Students will attend community performances of suitable genres that they are not actively participating in."* Quantity and Follow-Up will be determined by individual teachers.

**Performance Proficiency Assessments:** *"Students will be given multiple opportunities to achieve A-Level work on all appropriate repertoire."* For performance-based assessments, students will achieve A-Level work or be given the opportunity to retest.

**Course Specific Information:**

1. Help maintain a Positive and Focused Learning Environment
2. Be supportive of your teachers and peers
3. Be on time and apply a hard work ethic during rehearsal
4. Attendance at all concerts and extra rehearsals is mandatory.
5. 1.5 inch binder with music and pencil in class every day.

**NOTE: Complete costume descriptions and description of Money Matters, scholarship and financial assistance are available online in the Madrigal Handbook**

**Digital Device Policy:**

Devices can only be used in class at the teacher's discretion and should use them in line with the MVLA Digital Device and Behavior Policies. If distraction becomes an issue, the teachers will manage the situation as they would with any other distraction and in line with the relevant policies.