

**Carson Middle School
Choir and Musical Theater**



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 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.** www.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 talents. At the moment concerts are listed on the website and are scheduled, but as we have learned from the past few years, we may need to change them. At the moment I don't see a need to change the dates but if we do I will update you as soon as I can. I look forward to making music with all of you in our new classroom.

****The *choir*** will 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 year's schedule we will be moving around and dancing in every class. Please make sure that Miss. 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.

This year I am using parent square as my primary use of communication. This will be used for announcements and updates, as well as being posted to the website. Please make sure you have parent square set up and if you need any help please let me know and I will do my best. This year I am trying to put out a newsletter/ what is going on in our class twice a month, this newsletter will be posted on the Carson Middle Music website. I will also use parent square for all field trip permission slips as well. 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



Grades are earned:

Students will be evaluated off of proficiency scales based on music ensemble standards. These scales will be presented to students in class but will also be posted onto our website as they are developed. the following grading scale will be used and submitted into the gradebook under the following categories: **Creating, Performing, Responding & Connecting** which are the four strands of music standards. Below is the rubric for grading using the scales.



Carson Middle School Proficiency Scale



Critical Concept (Standard)	4 Distinguished	3 Proficient	2 Advancing	1 Emerging	0 Unengaged
	Student consistently meets this standard independently (>90% of the time), and he/she is able to explain and teach it to another.	Student usually meets this standard independently (>80% of the time), but may demonstrate some inconsistency .	Student struggles to meet this standard independently (<80% of the time); however, he/she can meet the standard with assistance and shows consistent effort .	Student cannot meet this standard independently (<70% of the time), and he/she struggles with assistance, but still shows effort .	Student lacks effort or is otherwise unengaged in his/her learning and cannot meet the standard with assistance .
Grade Equivalent	A 100%	B 87%	C 74%	D 61%	F 0%



****Attendance at 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. **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, as well as attached to this document; 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 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 or more casual performances for choir students will be their Music shirts and black pants (no rips or tears).

All Musical Theatre classes will wear Music shirts and black pants at CMS Concerts. Advanced Musical Theatre will be required to provide some costume pieces for their Spring Musical (show TBA).

Music Shirts are Navy blue with white writing (says Carson Middle School Music Department) and it is the same for all music ensembles, you only need one, so if you have one from last year or from another ensemble you can use it for this class as well.

What you need to provide for class:

All Classes *not required but used in class

- Pencil – **NO** pens are to be used on music
- One 3 ring binder - 1 inch, (will be kept in class)
- School device

*headphones/ earbuds (with a cord)

* Colored pencils - Choir

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



Tri M Honor Society:

Tri M is an Honor Society for music students run by music students. The group will work to support the music programs on campus while also working to show why music is important in a school setting. Students need to have a B average in their classes and an A average in their music classes. Information about Tri M will be presented at our Music information night on August 23rd in the gym.

Adv Musical Theatre Spring Musical

This year the Advanced Musical Theatre class will be putting on a full musical. This will be many of the students first opportunity to participate in a full musical. We have not chosen the musical yet but will announce it very soon. Once we have a show students will audition for their parts though all students will participate in some way. This is a great opportunity for students to see how a show is put together from finances, to sets and props to learning all the lyrics and lines. We will have two performances of this performances, Thursday April 25th and Friday April 26th both at 7:00 pm. There will be two after school rehearsals wednesday the 24th and thursday the 25th. Please mark your calendars now so we do not have conflicts for this event.

Class Dojo

In support of our schools positive behavior plan and rewarding students for their hard work we are going to be using Class Dojo in classes this year. Most of you are probably better acquainted with this program than I am so please help me as we go along. Students will earn Class Dojo points for being on task, helping others, receiving 100% on a test or quiz as well as other things. They can also loose points for not participating, chewing gum, late assignments, ect. Points can then be “CASHED OUT” on the last Friday of the month for prizes. Students can earn prizes like pencils and stickers as well as homework passes and getting to choose their seat in class for the day. This is a working program so we will change it as we see a need but I am excited to get to celebrate the students successes in class.

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
Please read the handbook fully before signing

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

- 1.) Verbal Warning and class dojo points removed
- 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** AUGUST 25th

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 _____

Class (please circle all that apply) **Choir** **Musical Theatre** **Int/Adv Musical Theatre**

Parent/ Guardian's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

I prefer EMAIL /TELEPHONE/ PARENT SQUARE for one on one communication. (Please circle one.)

I understand that all group communication and permission slips will be delivered via "Parent Square"

_____ (Initials)

Please check out the CALENDAR located on the Music Website and mark your calendars for all concerts
www.Carsonmiddlemusic.com