

**APAC Vocal Music**

**and**

**Music Skills**

**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

# **APAC VOCAL MUSIC AND MUSIC SKILLS GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

**I love to sing!!**

**I love teaching the Power APAC vocalists to sing!**

I have the pleasure of training Power APAC vocal students on a daily basis as we work on large ensemble, small ensemble, and solo literature. Emphasis is on proper tone production, music reading skills, musicality, diction, and stage presence. Attention is given to the selection of age-appropriate literature. Students frequently perform in class for their peers. Major ensemble performances for the public are held twice a year, usually in December and April. Solo performances are presented in May. In addition, we perform for various community events during the school year.

All music students take a pre-test to determine their depth of music knowledge and are placed in one of three levels (I, II, and III). Each level receives instruction from each music teacher. In addition to teaching the vocalists daily, I also teach music skills: rhythm, ear training, sight singing, and dictation. All levels focus on a different music skill each nine weeks.

My purpose is to share knowledge, guide, and support all students as they strive for excellence through self-discipline, growth as a musician, and development of professionalism on and off stage.

# APAC VOCAL MUSIC GRADING POLICY

**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

Vocal music abides by the JPS grading policy of designated percentages for various test grades and other grades. Daily grades are weighted and are based on: presence of necessary materials, warm-ups, singing quality, appropriate posture and technique, participation, written classwork, quizzes, and assigned keyboard practice. Daily grades are comprised of grades relating to large/small ensemble work and solo work. Homework grades for all students are derived from submission of written reports from attendance at two fine arts events each nine weeks and other assignments. Work begins as soon as students enter the classroom. Unexcused tardies result in deductions from daily grades. It is the responsibility of each student to inquire upon arrival in the classroom about the day's beginning work. **Students must inquire about missed work upon the first day back at school after an absence. JPS policies will be followed regarding the amount of time given to make up work after absences. Failure to inquire about missed work does not warrant an extension of the allotted time frame for make-up work. Full credit is given for missed work with an excused absence; 75% credit is given with an unexcused absence as per JPS policies.**

## DAILY GRADES

### (1) Daily evaluation

15 points - Presence of necessary materials

Music notebook which should include: all music, 5 sections, notebook paper in each section, handouts, 2 sharpened pencils with erasers, manuscript paper, and any other items specified

10 points - Physical/Vocal warm-ups

25 points - Singing Quality

25 points - Appropriate Posture and Technique

25 points - Participation: studying music, guided listening, oral/written response

100 points total

### (2) Written classwork

### (3) Quizzes

### (4) Assigned keyboard practice

## HOMEWORK GRADES

Written reports from attendance at two outside fine arts events each nine weeks

Other assignments

(Continued next page)

# **APAC VOCAL MUSIC GRADING POLICY**

## **(Continued)**

### **UNIT TEST GRADES**

These grades may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Performance Preparation

Dress Rehearsals

Performances – solo and ensemble

Audience department – in-class performances, presentations by guest artists

Written tests

Projects

Portfolio (submitted in May)

Specialized rubrics for evaluating solo and ensemble performances are provided to students. Evaluation areas include: stage presence, accuracy, technique, growth, and artistry.

First semester exam grade for secondary vocal students is the performance in the first semester vocal program. Second semester exam grade for secondary vocal students is the performance in the spring vocal program and the solo program. Exam grades constitute 10% of the semester average. For elementary vocal students, the first semester and spring program and solo performances are weighted Unit Test grades.

**To qualify to remain in the APAC Music program, students must end the year with an average grade of 80 or better. For secondary students, the overall average includes semester exams. Students are always encouraged to expand their horizons by working well above that minimum.**

# **APAC VOCAL MUSIC MATERIALS**

**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

The following materials are needed for vocal music.

Music Notebook

3-ring binder divided into 5 sections

- 1) Vocal
- 2) Music Skills Rotation
- 3) Music Literature Rotation
- 4) Written Theory/Keyboard Rotation
- 5) Journal

Notebook paper in each section

Pencils - 2 sharpened with erasers

Music manuscript paper

Flashdrive for purpose of maintaining updated portfolio materials

Performance attire:

## Standard – for Elementary and Middle School Vocalists

Girls: Long-sleeve solid white blouse (long-sleeve is preferred, but  $\frac{3}{4}$  length is acceptable)

Black skirt of appropriate length for stage performances

Black hose

Black dress shoes - comfortable heel height for standing for extended periods of time

Guys: Long-sleeve solid white dress shirt

Black neck tie (not bow tie)

Black slacks

Black belt

Black socks

Black dress shoes

## Standard – for High School Vocalists

Girls: Sheer white overlay (provided and paid for by the Music Department – school property)

Sleeveless white shell (specific kind to be purchased at student expense)

Black palazzo pants (specific kind to be purchased at student expense)

Black hose

Black dress shoes – comfortable heel height for standing for extended periods of time

Guys: Same as described above

## Special

Special ensemble/solo attire for performances may be required for various occasions as specified by the teacher and/or host. Special attire may result in an additional cost.

# **APAC VOCAL MUSIC PERFORMANCES**

**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Director**

Vocal music students love to perform! Many opportunities are provided for students to hone their performance skills during class as they present solos and large and small ensemble literature. Performance opportunities outside of class are valuable learning experiences also.

## Annual vocal programs include:

First semester program, usually in December

Spring program in April (admission charged)

(One of the above programs will be choreographed each year on an alternating basis. Students are encouraged to help create choreography.)

Senior and Eighth Grade recitals in April

Solo programs in May are held in the classroom during regularly scheduled class times. Family and friends are invited to attend.

## Other select vocal performances include:

Fifth grade vocalists are selected to audition for the All-State Elementary Honor Choir. Students chosen for this distinguished choir perform at the Mississippi Music Educators Association and American Choral Directors Association State convention.

High school vocalists may audition for the All-State High School Honor Choirs and enter the Mississippi Music Teachers Association (MMTA) vocal competition, The Classical Singer vocal competition, ACT-SO vocal competition, and other online competition opportunities.

High school seniors have the opportunity to apply for the Young Arts program.

**Fees are involved in registration and participation in Honor Choir, MMTA, Young Arts, The Classical Singer, and other online competitions.**

**We love to perform for community events!**

**APAC VOCAL MUSIC**  
**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

**DAILY RUBRIC**

(Classwork Grades)

	<b><u>Total Points</u></b>
Possession of Necessary Materials Music notebook which should include: all music, 5 sections, notebook paper in each section, handouts, 2 sharpened pencils with erasers, manuscript paper, and any other items specified by the teacher	15
Physical/Vocal Warm-ups	10
Singing Quality	25
Appropriate Posture and Technique	25
Participation Engaged practice Studying music Guided listening Oral/written response Assigned keyboard practice	25
	<hr/> 100

**APAC VOCAL MUSIC**  
**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

**ELEMENTARY GRADING SYSTEM**

Grading percentages are based upon JPS policies.

	<b><u>Total Percentages</u></b>
Daily Grades 40%	40
Weekly classwork grade	
Written assignments	
Homework Grades 10%	
Written reports on outside fine arts events attended	5
Other assignments	5
Unit Tests 50%	50
Specified performances	
Audience deportment	
Projects	
Written	
Portfolio	
	<hr/> 100

**ELEMENTARY:** The vocal average counts 80% of the nine weeks average. The other 20% is an average of the three (3) rotation classes – Music Skills, Music Literature, and Written Theory/Keyboard Skills. One grade is entered on the report card.

**To qualify to remain in the APAC Music program, students must end the year with an average grade of 80 or better. Students are always encouraged to expand their horizons by working well above that minimum.**



**APAC VOCAL MUSIC**  
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**SECONDARY GRADING SYSTEM**

**Grading percentages are based upon JPS policies.**

Daily Grades 40%

- Large Ensemble work
- Small Ensemble work
- Solo work
- Assigned keyboard practice
- Written assignments
- Quizzes

Homework Grades 10%

- Written reports on outside fine arts events attended 5%
- Other assignments 5%

Unit Tests 50%

- Specified performances
- Audience department
- Projects
- Written tests
- Portfolio

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:** The vocal average counts 50% of the nine weeks average. The other 50% is an average of the three (3) rotation classes – Music Skills, Music Literature, and Written Theory/Keyboard Skills. One grade is entered on the report card. Exam grades constitute 10% of the Semester grade.

**HIGH SCHOOL:** Two (2) separate grades are entered on the report card. One grade is for vocal, and the other grade is an average of the three (3) rotation classes – Music Skills, Music Literature, and Written Theory/Keyboard Skills. Exam grades constitute 10% of the Semester grade. Senior high grades are weighted for purposes of GPA computation. For high school students, a failing average for the year in the applied area or the rotation area will result in the loss of receiving a Carnegie Unit credit for the course.

**To qualify to remain in the APAC Music program, students must end the year with an average grade of 80 or better. For middle school students, the overall average grade of 80 or better includes semester exams. The overall average grade of 80 or better for high school students includes the end of year average for the applied area of study, rotation classes, and semester exams. Students are always encouraged to expand their horizons by working well above that minimum.**

# **APAC MUSIC SKILLS GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

Music skills rotation class covers a different skill each nine weeks: rhythm, ear training, sight singing, and dictation. Work is cumulative. Keeping materials and remaining organized throughout the school year is of utmost importance for student success.

Each student receives grades based on presence of necessary materials, participation in class activities, tests, and written assignments. Students are to be prepared with all necessary materials including **pencils**, notebook paper, handouts, and manuscript paper. **Students must inquire about missed work upon the first day back at school after an absence. JPS policies will be followed regarding the amount of time given to make up work after absences. Failure to inquire about missed work does not warrant an extension of the allotted time frame for make-up work. Full credit is given for missed work with an excused absence; 75% credit is given with an unexcused absence as per JPS policies.**

The music skills average will be calculated based on the designated percentages of the JPS grading policy. For elementary and middle school students, the music skills average is factored in with the averages of other music classes and impacts the overall nine weeks average. For high school students, the music skills average is averaged with the other two rotation grades. The average of these three classes is reported as a separate grade on the report card. For secondary students, exam grades constitute 10% of the semester average.

Attention to detail is very important. Daily study and application is essential to success.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:** Please note that a failing average for the year in the applied area or the rotation area (written theory/keyboard skills, music skills, music literature) will result in the loss of receiving a Carnegie Unit credit for the course.

Rotation materials needed:

3-ring binder with one section designated as Music Skills

Notebook paper in Skills section of binder

Handouts given

Manuscript paper

**Pencils with erasers - two sharpened or mechanical with extra lead** (Pen is never acceptable.)

**APAC MUSIC SKILLS**  
**(RHYTHM, EAR TRAINING, SIGHT SINGING, DICTATION)**  
**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

**RUBRIC FOR ELEMENTARY**

**Daily – 40%**

(1) Daily grade

Possession of necessary materials 30%

Notebook paper

2 sharpened pencils with erasers

Handouts

Manuscript paper

Participation 70%

Guided practice

Guided listening

Oral/written response

(2) Written work

(3) Quizzes

Possible forms: written, oral, clapping, group project

**Homework – 10%**

Written assignments or other specified assignments

(If assignments are accepted late, points will be deducted for late submission.)

**Unit Test – 50%**

The music skills average is one-third of the rotation average. The rotation average is 20% of the nine weeks grade for music.

**APAC MUSIC SKILLS**  
**(RHYTHM, EAR TRAINING, SIGHT SINGING, DICTATION)**  
**Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

**RUBRIC FOR SECONDARY**

**Daily – 40%**

(1) Daily grade

Possession of necessary materials 30%

Notebook paper

2 sharpened pencils with erasers

Handouts

Manuscript paper

Participation 70%

Guided practice

Guided listening

Oral/written response

(2) Daily tests

Possible forms: written, oral, clapping, group project

(3) Written work

(4) Small group work

**Homework – 10%**

Written assignments or other specified assignments

(If assignments are accepted late, points will be deducted for late submission.)

**Unit Tests – 50%**

The music skills average is one-third of the rotation average. For middle school, the rotation average is 50% of the nine weeks grade for music. For high school students, the rotation average is recorded as a separate grade on the report card.

**APAC Vocal Music/Music Skills  
Classroom Policies And Procedures  
Mrs. Shawn Morgan, Instructor**

Vocal Music/Music Skills will abide by JPS policies and Power APAC policies and rules of conduct. In addition to district and building policies, the following classroom policies and procedures are to be observed.

- Follow directions the first time given.
- Line up silently in a single file line in the hall before, during, and after class changes.
- Remain silent upon entering the classroom.
- Any items not needed for class are to be placed neatly in a specified area of the classroom.
- Maintain a learning atmosphere at all times.
- Treat all equipment and materials with great care and respect.
- Be attentive and respectful to all.
- No food, candy, or gum is allowed.
- No grooming is allowed. Therefore, no hair styling or application of lotion is permitted.
- Water is permissible in a container that can be sealed.
- Refrain from wearing scented fragrances to maintain a breathable atmosphere.

All policies and procedures are designed to create a safe and secure atmosphere to facilitate student learning.