Cleveland Heights High School
Vocal Music Department

Jesse Lange, Director
J_Lange@chuh.org

2025-26

HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

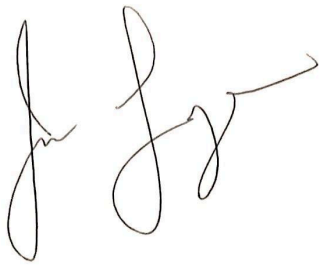
Cleveland Heights High School
13263 Cedar Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
Phone: 216-371-7101 ext. 3106
j_lange@chuh.org
Mr. Jesse Lange, Director

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I ask that each student and his or her parents or guardians read this handbook and review the calendar of concert dates thoroughly. This handbook is intended to create a clear understanding of the expectations and responsibilities of the choir member and his or her parents or guardians. It is my hope that the information included will make participation more enjoyable and rewarding. It takes many things to make a successful music program: a positive attitude, open lines of communication, discipline and a willingness to work together are all key factors. We can be proud of the Heights High School Vocal Music Department. We will continue to strive to make the singing experience in this program a rewarding one for both the students and the audience. I am proud to serve as your choral music director and I am looking forward to an exciting year!

After reading through the handbook completely, please sign and return the attached commitment form, medical form and bond form (w/$15 check/ensemble (a cappella and singers only) payable to CHHS).

Sincerely,



Jesse Lange
Vocal Music Director

This entire handbook can also be found online at www.clevelandheightschoirs.com.

Purpose of the Heights High School Vocal Music Department

- To promote the highest possible standard of excellence in performance, professionalism, and pride in oneself, the choir, the Vocal Music Department, the school and the community.
- To support student learning and development as musicians and choristers.
- To provide a constructive and beneficial activity for student participation and expression.
- To encourage school spirit and pride.

Student Objectives

- Practice and demonstrate proper classroom procedures and choral rehearsal techniques.
- Practice and demonstrate proper vocal technique (posture, breath management, resonance, vowel production, tone quality, etc.).
- Practice and demonstrate proper choral techniques (vowel unification, balance, precision of onset and release, clear diction, dynamic control, flexibility, articulation, timbre and blend).
- Demonstrate evidence of developing musicianship (interval recognition/production, tonal memory, rhythmic accuracy, phrasing, solfege, music reading ability).
- Rehearse and perform songs in several styles, genres and languages.
- Actively engage in public performances.

Behavior and Conduct

- Members of the choir must remember that they are in a visible position, and as representatives of the school they shall behave in a dignified manner at all times.
- Attitude is important to the effectiveness of choir rehearsals and performances. The audience can see and often hear a lack of enthusiasm. The choir is a place where the problems of the outside world do not apply and the student can simply enjoy singing.
- Since the tongue is a major component of proper vowel/tonal formation, as well as proper diction, students are instructed to avoid piercing their tongues. Students may not wear any facial piercings for the performances. All piercings must be removed for performances. Failure to do so will result in sitting out the performance and losing all participation points with the corresponding impact upon grades.

Course Requirements

- Participation in all rehearsals and concerts.
- Effort to improve vocal technique, choral technique and individual musicianship.
- Positive attitude towards and commitment to the choir as demonstrated by effort and achievement in rehearsal and performance.
- Minimum 2.0 GPA maintained to participate in field trips.
- Subscription to the Remind.com text messaging and email system

Materials

- Pencil – *Pens are not acceptable.*
- Folders will be provided and are to be stored in the choir room.
- Proper attitude. Have it on the first day and make sure to hang on to it!
- Proper concert attire.

Performance

- ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY.
- Dress rehearsals are MANDATORY in order to participate in the concert.
    - Please refer to the attached Choral Events page for dates, times, and performing groups.
- All conflicts must be submitted in writing and signed by a parent or guardian well in advance of any concert event or no points will be awarded.
- Changes and additions to the scheduled events listed on the CHHS Choral Events sheet will be made known as soon as possible.

Grading

- Students are graded on a point system
- Points are awarded for participation during class, dress rehearsals and performances.
- Assessments will be both written and performance based.
- Student work on projects will be assessed using a rubric. Student performance on written work and homework will be determined using a percentage.

Concert Attire

- Students who arrive inappropriately dressed for a concert will either be penalized academically or not be permitted to perform. This includes natural hair color.
- Singers and A Cappella Choir uniform bond fee due by September 19th, 2025.
- Uniforms will not be issued until your fees have been paid.

Ensemble	Item	Provided or Purchased
Bass and Treble Chorus	Robes	Provided by the VMD
	Women's black dress shoes, white dress shirt, black pants/skirt, stockings Men's long-sleeved button down white shirt, black dress pant, black dress shoe, black socks	Purchased by the Student
A Cappella & Singers	Uniform	Provided by the VMD
	Women's character shoes and stockings Men's dress black shoes and black socks, white short sleeve undershirt	Purchased by the Student

Uniform Cleaning

- Choir Women – Black Dresses
  - Dresses must be washed immediately after each concert, No Dry-Cleaning
  - Dresses are hand washable/gentle cycle in cold water. Hang on a plastic hanger to dry.
  - Do Not Put In The Dryer. Do Not Iron.

- Singer Women – Dresses
  - Dresses are not to be washed or dry-cleaned.
  - After each performance gently wipe the inside of the neck and underarms with a baby wipe.
  - Dresses are to be stored inside out in the garment bag.

- All Men
  - Shirts must be cleaned immediately after each concert. Machine wash/dry or dry-clean
  - Iron as necessary to eliminate all wrinkles.
  - All other men's piece must be kept clean and odor free. Dry-clean as necessary.

Uniform Maintenance

- No alterations are to be made on any uniform piece. Contact Ms. Ader if you have a fit problem.
- All uniform pieces are numbered and assigned to specific students. NO pieces are to be traded or switched.
- Uniforms are distributed on a hanger, clean and in good condition. They must be returned the same way.

2025-2026 Heights High Choral Events

Fall Semester:

August 28th - 7:30pm - 8:30pm **Mandatory VAPO Meeting**
Mini Auditorium

October 13th - TBD — Case Western Combined Concert (A Cappella Choir)

October 14th + 15th - 3pm - 6pm — Musical: Sitzprobe Rehearsal

October 16th - 3:30pm - 6:30pm — Musical: Technical Rehearsal

October 20st, 21th, 22th & 23th - 3:30- 6:30pm — Musical: Technical Rehearsal

October 24th - 2:00pm - 4:00pm — Les Mis Dance Day

October 27th, 28th, 29th, & 30th - 6pm-9pm — Musical: Dress Rehearsals

October 31st - TBD — Musical In School Preview Performance

November 1st - 7:00pm & 2nd - 2:00pm — Les Misérables Performances

November 8th - 7:00pm & 9th - 2:00pm — Les Misérables Performances

December 11th - 3:00pm - 4:30pm — Dress Rehearsal for Winter Concert

December 12th - 7:00pm - 9:00pm — Winter Concert

2025-2026 Heights High Choral Events

Spring Semester:

January 13th - 18th	Barbershop Tour to Pasadena, California (Barbershoppers)
February 26th - 3:00pm - 4:30pm	Dress Rehearsal for Mid-Winter Concert
February 27st - 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Mid-Winter Concert
March 13th & 14th - TBD	OMEA District Large Group Adjudicated Event
April 24th & 25th - TBD	OMEA State Large Group Adjudicated Event (TBD - potentially All Choirs)
May 14th - 3:00pm - 4:30pm	Dress Rehearsals for the Spring Concert
May 15th - 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Spring Concert
May 20st - 7:00pm - 8:00pm	VMD Awards Banquet
May 28th - 7:00pm - 9:00pm	Commencement (A Cappella)

LEFT BLANK

Uniform Bond Issue
-Only applies to A Cappella Choir and Singers-

Bond Fee

- The fee is **$15** per ensemble
- Fees are due no later than the end of September

The Board of Education of Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District has supplied the tuxedo/dress listed below to "student". The student as principal, and the "parent or guardian" as surety is held firmly bound to the Board of Education of Cleveland Heights School District for the sum specified below.

The condition of this obligation is such that if the student shall return the said tuxedo/dress on demand to Cleveland Heights High School in good condition as when received, less reasonable wear and tear, then the obligation shall become null and void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

ALL STUDENTS	- garment bag ($20)
SINGERS/BARBERSHOP WOMEN	- gold dress, black/gold dress, white/gold dress, inspire dress ($200 ea)
CHOIR WOMEN	- black dress ($100)
ALL MEN	- vests ($70 ea.), ties ($25 ea.), dress shirts ($25 ea.), tux pants ($75), tux jacket ($150)

Please fill out below and return this form to the vocal music department along the Bond Fee in cash or certified money order payable to CHHS.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

LEFT BLANK

VMD MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

Please print using black ink. This document must be photocopied.

Student Information

Student Name:_____ Age:_____ Date of Birth_____
Parent/Guardian Name:_____
Home Address:_____ City_____, OH (zip)_____
Known Allergies_____
My student is allowed to receive over-the-counter medications (ie, advil, tums, etc.) from adult representatives of the school. **Circle** yes/no; **Initial** here_____
Prescription Medication: _____
Currently Being Treated for:_____
Parent/Guardian Home Phone (___) ____-_____ Work Phone (____)-____-_____
Student Cell Phone (___) ____-_____

Emergency Notification Information

Primary Contact:

Name:_____Relationship_____
Home (____) - ____-_____ Work (___) - ____-_____Cell (___) ____-_____

Secondary Contact:

Name:_____Relationship_____
Home (____)-_____-_____ Work (___)-____-_____Cell (___) ____-_____

Health Plan Information

Health Plan Name:_____
Billing Address:_____
City_____
State_____
Phone Number to verify coverage: (____)-____-_____
Member Name:_____
Group Name & Number:_____

Student's Physician's Information

Physician's Name_____
Address:_____
City:_____, OH (zip)_____
Phone Number(____)-____-_____

In case of emergency, I understand that every effort will be made to contact me. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the physician selected by the group leader in charge, to secure appropriate treatment, which may include hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery or injections of medication for the above named student.

_____ _____
(parent/guardian signature and relationship) (date signed)

Recognition and Commitment Form

"We have read the Heights High School Choral Handbook and we understand the commitment we have made for the 2025-2026 school year. We will make every effort to lend our support to the Vocal Music Department."

_____ _____
(Student Signature) (Date)

(_____)_____ _____
Phone Number Email

_____ _____
(Parent Signature) (Date)

(_____)_____ _____
Phone Number Email