Welcome to the VanTech Concert Choir! We are a large choir made of students from ALL musical backgrounds; some students will have had many years of musical or singing experience and for some students this may be their first musical ensemble experience ever. In this course you will learn how to read basic music and how to sing in a large vocal ensemble.

**General Expectations:**

1. Regular attendance to rehearsals and performances is required to receive course credit. All students must sign in for every rehearsal they attend, signing in for friends who are not in attendance is considered cheating and will be dealt with as per the School Code of Conduct.
2. In keeping with general school policy, absence requires a note from parents. Students must inform the Director *in advance* when rehearsals conflict with other school sponsored activities.
3. Students will practice at home in order to maintain continuous technical growth and to be able to competently perform their assigned part in the music under study.
4. Students will come to rehearsals on time and prepared and will support the development of other individuals and the ensemble as a whole.

**Objectives:**

* to develop vocal technique
* to develop ensemble singing skills
* to develop musicianship skills over time which will enable the student to rehearse and improve independently of the instructor
* to develop sight reading skills
* to develop ear training skills

* to develop an appreciation of many styles of music through listening and performing
* to expand knowledge of music history as it pertains to music in the classroom repertoire
* to expand knowledge of music terminology and theory as it pertains to the classroom repertoire to serve the school and community through performance

**Materials needed for every class:**

* Pencil with Eraser
* ALL Choral Sheet Music
* Black Folder

**Rehearsal Format:**

Students will warmup together for every class. It is important that all students are on time for rehearsal so they can properly warm up their voice (as not to damage it) but also so that they may begin to develop their ear training and sight singing skills as well as their vocal range. Time will be given at the beginning of lunch for students to eat their food!

**Performances/Important Dates:**

The Van Tech Senior Choirs will be involved in a number of school and community performances throughout the year. Concerts are an integral part of the program and students are required to attend every concert to receive course credit. **Missing a concert is like missing a school examination.**

Please ensure you are available for *all dates* listed below as multiple groups will be performing each evening and the listed groups are subject to change, with some advance notice.
September 17th, 2021 – *Headstart* *(beginner band, strings and all senior section leaders)*
January 13th, 2022 – *Semester 1 Senior, Intermediate and Beginner Bands; Concert Choir*
January 18th, 2022 – *Senior Strings A; VTAD; VTOne; Beginner Strings; Combined JSO A*
January 20th, 2022 – *Senior Strings B; Intermediate Strings; Combined JSO B; Chamber Choir*February 11th, 2022 – *Headstart* (*Semester 2* *beginner band and all sectional leaders)*
June 14th, 2022 – *Semester 2 Senior, Intermediate and Beginner Bands; Concert Choir*
June 16th, 2022 – *Senior Strings A; VTOne; Combined JSO A*
June 21st, 2022 – *Senior Strings B; Chamber Choir; Combined JSO B*June 24th, 2022 – *Graduation Ceremony*Other Dates TBC – *Remembrance Day Assemblies (Nov.), Jazz Cabaret Fundraiser (Nov.), Elementary Feeder Tours (Dec., Feb.), Fine Arts Week Performances (April), Semester 1 & 2 Retreats (TBD)*

**Evaluation:**
Grades are assigned through instructor evaluation and student peer and self-evaluation on the following components:

***Singing Technique and Improvement (40%):***

Students will show regular growth and advancement in their singing technique through regular group assessment in rehearsal. Students are expected to sign in every rehearsal to save time from taking roll call attendance in such a large class with only a short period of time.

***Theory, History, and General Content Knowledge (20%):***

Students must attend one sectional rehearsal (during regular class time) a term - in this rehearsal they will be given a chance to work on their parts with only the students in their section. This time will also be used for historical and theoretical knowledge about the various songs we will perform.

***Rehearsal/Performance Participation and Etiquette (40%)***

***Rehearsal Expectations***
It is important to honour the commitment to yourself, and your fellow musicians, by being prepared for each rehearsal and by making every effort to contribute to the pursuit of musical excellence. Attendance at all rehearsals is required in accordance with the Vancouver Technical School attendance policy. If you must be away, please let your teacher know in advance. Be sure to get all markings and notes from someone in your section as soon as you return to school. In keeping with general school policy and to encourage focused learning, PEDs should be turned off and kept out of sight during rehearsals, unless being used as a music tool (e.g. recording device, tuner, metronome).

***Musicianship***Participating in an ensemble requires students to be sensitive to the attitudes needed to enhance the performance of the ensemble, including support of other individuals in the group, and the contributions the student makes to the success of the ensemble. Musicianship is also the ability to set reasonable goals and to reflect on progress toward these goals.

***Performance Expectations***
Students are required to be in attendance for concerts in which they are performing. Out of respect for your fellow musicians, students are expected to *attend the entire concert*. This demonstrates a respect and value for the effort of others. **Absence from school concerts is considered equivalent to missing a school examination.**

**Concert dress** is ‘concert blacks’ which consist of a black dress shirt (3/4 length sleeve or longer, no tank tops or crop tops), and EITHER black dress pants (no jeans, athletic pants or leggings) with black socks OR black skirt (knee length or longer) with black tights OR a black dress (3/4 length sleeves and knee length or longer skirt), plus black dress shoes (no sneakers). Black cardigans or blazers may be worn to cover shorter sleeve tops if desired/needed. This attire is necessary for all performances, and it is recommended that you purchase these items well in advance of your first performance of the year

**Contact Information:**

If there are suggestions you have as to music, activities, performances, etc., please let me know. This is YOUR choir program. You can always email me with questions or suggestions at eariegert@vsb.bc.ca or email Ms. Riegert at eariegert@vsb.bc.ca!

*MOST OF ALL...*

*HAVE FUN AND ENJOY MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER!*

**Other Music Programs offered:**

Beginner Strings – M/W @ 3:20-4:50pm

Senior Strings – T/Th @ 3:20-4:50pm

Chamber Choir – W/F @ 7:30-8:30am

Vocal Jazz – F @ lunch (11:30-12:10) \*only available to Chamber Choir students