

Course Syllabus
Vocal Music (Chorus)
Mr. Williamson

A. Course Description

Vocal Music (Chorus) Chorus is an elective course for singers. It meets 2 days per cycle with an additional period as a required pull-out sectional lesson (Grade 8 only). Grade 7 Chorus is available to any student. Grade 8 Chorus is limited to students who have successfully demonstrated the ability to pass a vocal test on matching pitches. The vocal groups have several performances throughout the school year. Students are taught to appreciate good choral literature, proper vocal techniques, and music reading skills to achieve superior performance levels.

B. Instructional Objectives

During the course of the year, students will develop the following skills...

Demonstrate proper singing posture. Demonstrate breath support. Sustain vocal phrases. Demonstrate correct tone production. Perform with relatively accurate intonation, music of diatonic and occasionally chromatic nature. Develop a sense of audiation (hearing in your head), without accompaniment. Demonstrate vertical vowel formation. Sing diphthongs correctly. Demonstrate correct diction and articulation of consonants. Identify rhythmic durations and values, and sight-sing musical excerpts of intermediate difficulty. Dictate musical excerpts of beginning difficulty. Sing degrees of the scale using solfege syllables. Execute blend and balance within the ensemble. Perform music of monophonic, homophonic, and polyphonic nature, introducing definite harmony and harmonic sense. Develop interpretational skills of dynamics, articulations, and phrasing through performance. Demonstrate knowledge of musical terms and symbols. Listen analytically to yourself and critique your performance. Identify understanding and meaning of the text with musical performance. Investigate and apply cultural and historical perspective with musical performance. Develop social responsibility (moral and ethical) to the members of the ensemble, the composer and director, and the audience during rehearsal and performance. Extend tolerance through positive personal attitudes and values toward each other, through performance of a wide spectrum of musical styles and cultures. Perform music of varying difficulty and genre, including but not limited to language, meter, tempo, key, tonality, and accompaniment.

C. Activities and Weighting:

Graded activities are assigned throughout the learning process, and will include a combination of the following types of activities each marking period.

Participation _____ 85 points per quarter

Participation, engagement, and execution of in class activities. May include active engagement in singing, participation in warm-up activities, active listening, rehearsal procedures, etc.

Sectionals (8th Grade Only) _____ 10 points per quarter

Participation of small group pull-out rehearsal sessions. Based on a rotating schedule, students rehearse in like voice parts, typically meeting only one period to two periods per month per voice part. Students who are unable to attend due to absence or issues with the pullout subject can submit a green card to be excused without penalty for that sectional.

Reflection Sheets _____ 15 points per quarter

Successful completion of a quarterly reflection sheet. Students reflect on their own participation in chorus, development of vocal skills, and thoughts regarding choral repertoire and experiences.

Concerts 25 points per event

Participation in each the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert. Students who are unable to attend a concert are required to complete a concert critique report for this portion of their grade.

Quarter 1

Q1 Participation
Q1 Sectionals (8th Grade Only)
Q1 Reflection Sheet

Quarter 2

Q2 Participation
Q2 Sectionals (8th Grade Only)
Q2 Reflection Sheet
Winter Concert (date: 12.11.13)

Quarter 3

Q3 Participation
Q3 Sectionals (8th Grade Only)
Q3 Reflection Sheet

Quarter 4

Q4 Participation
Q4 Sectionals (8th Grade Only)
Q4 Reflection Sheet
Spring Concert (date: 05.14.14)

D. Concert Attendance and Grade

School performances for both the 7th and 8th grade chorus are limited to the Winter and Spring Concerts. These concerts allow students to experience performance of choral music to a live audience, which is a vital part of the process. Concerts are an educational element of the choral program, where students have the opportunity to participate as both performers and audience members. The school board endorses these educational experiences, and Policy #230 governs excusable absences for concert attendance. Please add the concert dates to your family calendar to ensure your attendance...

Mr. Williamson looks forward to seeing you there!!

E. Classroom Expectations

- 1) **Be Prepared.** Prepared to start. Prepared to learn. Prepared to have fun.
- 2) **Participate.** Participate in everything. Participate positively. Participate fully.
- 3) **Respect.** Respect everyone. Respect the stuff. Respect the space.

F. Behavior Consequences (Process may change depending on infraction)

- 1) Warning
- 2) Warning – Student/Teacher Conference – Telephone Parents
- 3) After School Detention – Notification Letter to Parents – Telephone Parents
- 4) Office Referral – Removal from Elective Course

G. Suggestions for Success

For most students, chorus will not be a “difficult” course. Activities like listening to choral music, singing, speaking in rhythm, and reflecting about music are not difficult, but you must be able to pay attention to directions, take advice, and ask for help when you need it. Also, time management is important, specifically in regards to the quarterly reflection sheet and memorization of music for our concerts. Chorus is not only an fun class, but an important part of middle school for many students. Just do not be afraid to try in this class (even if you sing a wrong note occasionally!), and most importantly, have fun – this class may prove to be one of your favorite classes this year.

G. Resource

<http://www.MrWlive.com> - handouts, practice music, schedule, announcements, reflection sheets.