

Choral Class Syllabus: 2007-2008
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Prerequisites: Students are expected to have achieved some level of proficiency with their singing voices. The choral director determines that level by audition in the previous spring, for advanced courses, and in the fall for entry-level courses. All choral classes continue with the development of basic, through advanced, musicianship skills.

Course objectives:

1. Demonstrate proper singing posture.
 - a.) Breath control and breathing techniques
 - b.) Tone production in varying styles of music (i.e. classical, jazz, etc.)
 - c.) Proper body posture (sitting or standing)
2. Recognize & produce good tone and intonation.
3. Know your own singing range as well as the range of the other sections in the choir.
4. Recognize and be able to match changes in pitch, tempo, blend, dynamics, and balance.
5. Be able to sing music in a multiple part ensemble. (SATB, SSA, SAB, etc.)
 - a.) Maintain their voice part in the ensemble in simple through advanced musical styles and parts
 - b.) Sing with and without accompaniment (a capella) during rehearsals and performances
6. Demonstrate ensemble skills:
 - a.) Blending – continually creating/maintaining the ensemble sound.
 - b.) Matching dynamics, tempo, and intonation
 - c.) Responding to the conductor regardless of tempo and dynamics
7. Continue to develop sight-reading skills.
8. Become familiar with choral music and singers terminology in more than one genre, as determined by the director.
9. Be tested in sectional and individual situations.

Grades:

Grades are determined by:

- Participation in class-20%
- Written tests-20%
- Singing tests-10%
- Concert performances-50%

**these percentages are a rough estimate, as grades will be calculated using a total point grading system.

Honor Code: I will not lie, cheat, steal, or assist others who do. Integrity and honesty will be rewarded.

Policies:

Cell phones:

As per school-wide policy, electronic devices are not allowed on campus, let alone in class. The rules are simple: If I see it/hear it, I **will** take it. Period! And, you will not get it until the end of the week.

Absence and tardiness in classes, rehearsals, and concerts:

Skipping: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class and will be checked with the school list of absences each day. A student-teacher meeting will follow a first offense. Disciplinary Referrals will be written for the second infraction of the rules. If you cut my class you will get a

referral. If you do it more than once, regardless of your ability/talent/status in the class, you will be transferred to a different class on campus. Students are to be in class, not sitting in the library, roaming the halls, etc.

Rehearsals/Performances: Attendance for tech/dress rehearsals and concerts are NON-NEGOTIABLE. Failure to perform in any scheduled concert results in failure of the class. If a student is absent or tardy to the final dress rehearsal, they will be unable to participate in the coinciding performance.

Tardiness: You will be given three minutes after the bell rings to get music and situate to assigned seating. BEING IN THE ROOM DOES NOT COUNT: you must be in your seat and ready by the designated time to be considered present and on time. Tardiness will be handled as skipping.

Late work:

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Handing it in at the middle or end of class constitutes as being late. Late work will be deducted one letter grade per day late. (e.g.: a paper due on Monday but received on Tuesday can receive no higher than a B in its most perfect state.) This is for the required research projects (research papers and/or projects)

Misc.

Please, no food or drinks during class. The only thing in your mouth should be your tongue and hopefully several teeth.

Music department materials

Each student is responsible for his or her music throughout the year. If the music is lost/stolen/dog ate it/etc., its owner must pay to replace it according to the price marked on the music's cover. We issue folders and music to each person. You are responsible for those materials.

The office is off limits. Students will not be allowed to enter the office unless permission is given. Trespassing will not be taken lightly.

Disrespect:

Disrespect will absolutely not be tolerated. This is a safe learning environment where wrong answers and wrong notes are tools in the learning process. Laughing at others, putting others down, or hurting oneself, other students, or the teacher will result in immediate disciplinary action.