

Concert Choir Syllabus

Teacher: Mrs. Bestreski

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Course Overview:

This class is designed to build upon skills learned in 6th Grade Music. Students will continue to study music theory and terminology, and will delve further into vocal technique, diction and sight-singing. Skills learned will be applied to appropriate performance repertoire. The mid-term and final projects will be concert performances.

Course Goal and Objectives:

The goal of this course is for students to continue their musical learning and study further elements important to mature musical understanding and performance. At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Sight sing simple melodies and harmony
- Identify and perform a wide range of musical terms and markings
- Perform appropriate repertoire with proper technique, diction and expressiveness.
- Understand the importance of lyric study and communicate the meaning of their music to the audience

Grade Distribution:

Students will be graded in the following areas:

- Tests/Concerts 35%
(Concerts are **mandatory**. Detailed information for each will be provided.)
- Quizzes 30%
- Classwork/Homework 30%
- Bellwork 5%

Late Work:

Written work will always have a due date, and students are required to write these dates in their agendas. Consequences for late work are as follows:

- Up to 3 days late - 10 points deducted per day
- More than 3 days late - maximum grade of 50%
- Work not turned in by the end of the quarter will receive a 0%.

Absences:

- If a student is absent when an assignment is due, the number of days absent is the number of extra days allowed to complete makeup work. For example, a student absent for two days will have two extra days after returning to school to get their work turned in before it is considered late. Missed work is the student's responsibility.
- If a student is absent for a test/quiz, it will be given in class the day they return.

Daily Class Procedure:

Each day in our class we will follow a simple daily procedure.

1. Enter the room quietly and sit in your assigned seat.
2. By the bell, have your materials placed on your desk.
3. Copy down any required assignments or homework.
4. Complete any bellwork listed on the board, then wait quietly for further instructions.
5. At the end of class, do not pack up until instructed to do so. The teacher will dismiss you, not the bell.

Class materials:

- **Pencils:** Musicians always work in pencil, so students will be required to have a pencil (wood or mechanical) in class every single day. ***Use of pen for class work will result in a grade deduction of 10 points on the given assignment.**
- **Music:** Students will receive printed music for use in class. All music is to be treated as text books and should remain in good condition with no markings except the student's name on the first page in pencil. Certain other markings will be allowed as discussed in class, and must be in pencil. Music must remain free of drawings, tears, etc. All music must be in class every day and will be collected following each concert. Lost or damaged music is subject to a \$1 per song replacement fee.
- **Folder:** A folder is a must for storing music neatly and for organizing other paper work and materials. Folders are required daily as well.
- **Missing materials:** If a student forgets their pencil or music, they must let the teacher know right away in order to borrow what they need for the class period. This is meant to help the student *once in a while*. Being unprepared for class on a regular basis will result in written rules and a phone call home.

Keeping Connected from Home

Our school uses several online resources in order to better connect with students and parents at home. Here's what you should be checking...

- **Crosspointe:** This is where grades and attendance are posted. Checking this regularly can help you stay on top of your work and be successful!
- **Studio 645 (<http://studio645.com>):** Since the Arts are unique and often have different requirements, events, etc., compared to most academic courses, we have an additional website. To avoid confusion among sites, everything that gets posted online for music courses (aside from grades and attendance) will be posted here.
- **Blackboard:** This online learning website is being used school-wide. To avoid confusion however, all music info will be posted on Studio 645. If something is posted on Blackboard, the information and a link to the Blackboard page will still be posted on Studio 645, making that your convenient one-stop site.

These online resources make it easier to get info home to you, but you should still feel free to email/call any time with questions or concerns, and you may still receive an email or call with teacher concerns such as:

- A behavior issue requiring an essay or detention
- One major assignment or several smaller assignments that are late/missing
- An overall grade dropping to a D or below
- A sudden change in behavior or classwork – either negative or *positive!*

Concert Choir Syllabus Return Sheet

This syllabus/information sheet serves as each student's first homework grade! Besides collecting contact information, it is very important to know that all class information reaches home. Please complete this sheet and turn it in to the class bin as soon as possible. If you have any questions or need to contact me, please feel free at any time! Just use the email and/or phone number listed at the top of the first page. (Email is far more effective and will get a quicker response.)

Class Period: _____ Due Date: _____

Student Name (Print Neatly!): _____

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

Parent Preferred Email: _____

Parent Preferred Phone: _____

We have read the chorus syllabus and are looking forward to a successful and fun year! We will do our best to be prepared for class and will contact Mrs. Bestreski with any questions or concerns.

Parent Signature

Student Signature