

2008-2009 H.S. CHORAL PROGRAM SYLLABUS

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Mr. Nicholas Shelton

Room 142

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REQUIRED MATERIALS:

All Music (in assigned folder)

Pencil w/ eraser (no pens!)

Water bottle

PRE-REHEARSAL PROCEDURES:

- 1) Upon entering, all food, drinks (other than water bottles), and gum must be disposed of, or left outside the classroom.
- 2) Find your folder and begin to organize your music in the rehearsal order that will be posted on the whiteboard. This process will take a little time, so please plan to arrive at least five minutes before the beginning of class to ensure that you are prepared when the bell rings.
- 3) When the bell rings, please be in your assigned position and ready to begin with your music organized and on the ground in front of you.

CHOIR POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

1. Rehearsal Attendance

Faithful attendance is vital to the success of any cooperative activity, especially choir. Irregular attendance has a negative effect on individual student growth, as well as the overall group sound. Planned absences must be discussed with the director in advance.

Absence due to illness is often unavoidable, but should be kept to a minimum. A sore throat, or similar illness, may prevent a student from singing during a given rehearsal, but much can be gained by listening, observing, and making notes in their music. If a student is absent from choir but present at school for the rest of the day, their choir absence will be unexcused. Ultimately, a high number of unexcused absences will result in a lowered participation grade.

2. Tardy Policy

Singers are considered on-time if they are standing in their assigned place and prepared to begin when the bell rings. Tardiness often disrupts the flow of rehearsal, and is harmful to the development of the group, as well as the individual singing voice. Participation in warm-up activities is crucial to maintaining proper vocal health and continuation of musical skills.

Three tardies are allowed without penalty in each semester. These are to allow for mornings with unexpected traffic or other unavoidable delays. A fourth tardy will result in a thirty minute detention. Any further tardiness will result in additional detentions and possibly greater administrative action (see your student handbook for the specific policy).

3. Quizzes/Assignments

There will be occasional quizzes on score study and other materials covered in class. These quizzes will be brief and easily passed if students are attentive during rehearsals.

4. Vocal Testing

Periodic vocal testing in quartets or trios will be required. Testing occurs during class time, with the rest of the choir as your “audience”. Though students will be singing in small groups, each singer will be graded individually on note memorization, dynamics, and personal vocal improvement.

5. Sectionals

Lunchtime sectional rehearsal will be organized at the discretion of the director and individual section leaders. Missing a sectional without prior permission may result in a lowered participation grade.

6. Extra costs

A successful choral program has many expenses to cover: sheet music, festival entrance fees, transportation, tours, retreats, concerts, etc. Though every effort will be made to limit participant costs, some must be covered by the student (or his/her parent), as they cannot all be paid by the school. A written notice and email will be sent home for every trip, festival, tour, or retreat, detailing event costs.

7. Performances/tours/retreats/festivals

All scheduled performances, tours, retreats, festivals, or other choir activities are **REQUIRED**. If you cannot attend an event, please speak with the director as soon as the conflict is recognized to avoid having your grade

negatively impacted. Each conflict will be evaluated on an individual basis and students may not always have missed events excused.

When choir events involve absence from other classes, each student will be responsible for obtaining and completing all missed school work.

GRADING POLICY

Students are responsible for earning their grades by demonstrating effort and mastery of the music. Grading will be based upon in-class participation, effort, attitude, vocal testing, quizzes, written assignments, and event attendance.

- 40% In-class participation, effort, and attitude (“PEA”)
- 30% Event attendance and participation
- 15% Vocal testing (mastery and improvement)
- 15% Quizzes/assignments

Students will receive 100 “PEA” points at the beginning of the semester (full credit). The director may take points away, at his discretion, according to student violations of classroom policy.

The letter grading scale is as follows:

A+	100-97	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67
A	96-93	B	86-83	C	76-73	D	66-63
A-	92-90	B-	82-80	C-	72-70	D	62-60

59% or below will result in a failing grade.

It is very easy to be successful in choir. If you come to class on time, consistently participate with a good attitude, and show improvement throughout the year, you are guaranteed receive an A for the class.

I have read, understand, and will uphold the policies and expectations set forth in this syllabus.

Parent Signature_____

Date _____

Student Signature_____

Date _____