



Tri-City Schools Concert Choir

Junior High and High School Choir Syllabus 2018-2019

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Course Description:

Concert Choir is a curricular class for junior high and high school students that meets during the school day. Concert Choir will take place every other day during 7th period. This class will have required concert performances during and after school. Practicing outside of the school day is crucial for student growth, and **I recommend students practice three to five days a week for 10 minutes a time.** Students will be graded on class participation, performance attendance, and listening logs.

This course is designed to enhance fundamentals of healthy vocal performance, develop students' perspective on musicality and aesthetics, and provide opportunities to discuss history, culture, and composers as it relates to the music. The emphasis of this course will be focused on the students achieving success with their music, developing a positive self-image as a singer, and encourage lifelong music making. There will be discussions on the background of pieces; during this time, students will be encouraged to make cross-curricular connections with their other academic classes.

Course Objectives:

Over the course of one school year, students will be able to...

1. Describe the aspects of voice change and maintaining vocal health.
2. Perform alone and in small and large ensembles with appropriate posture and healthy singing.
3. Sing music written by a diverse background of composers.
4. Analyze music for phrases, musicality, meaning, and proper vowel shape.

5. Create connections between the music studied with other classes such as history and language arts.
6. Articulate and recognize the differences between melody and harmony, duple and triple time signature, and major and minor tonalities.
7. Discuss positives and areas for improvement about own performance of the music.
8. Set and achieve goals for self and group improvement.
9. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward music, group, and self.
10. Discuss characteristics of music genres and styles from around the world.

Illinois Music Standards:

This course will follow the Illinois Arts Learning Standard Initiative Music Standards. These are the most recent standards, and they were approved by the Illinois State Board of Education in February 2016.

Important Dates:

October 8th: ILMEA Music Festival Auditions at PORTA High School

November 3rd: ILMEA District 4 Music Festival at Western Illinois University

November 12th: Veterans Day Assembly 9:30 AM- 10:30 AM

December 5th: Winter Choir and Choir Concert 7:00 PM Old Gym

April 17th: Fine Arts Night 5:30- 7:30 APR

May 8th: Band and Choir Concert 7:00 PM Old Gym

Classroom Procedures:

1. Arrive to class with a pencil, folder, music, your instrument, and a positive attitude.
2. Be standing and ready for rehearsal by one minute after the second bell.
3. Participate with a positive attitude and contribute in class discussions.
4. Wait for teacher to dismiss class.

Community Standards:

1. No food, drink, candy or gum in the Choir Room.
2. The room will be kept neat.
3. Only choir students are allowed in the room before, during, and after class.
4. Bullying will not be tolerated! All students deserve an accepting environment.

Rehearsal Conduct:

1. Be on time and be ready to start. **Three tardies that are acquired in a semester will result in a lunch detention.**
2. Raise your hand and wait to be called on to ask a question.
3. Do not put anything away at the end of class until you are told to do so.

Grading Procedure: Letter grades are issued based upon the percentages found in the student handbook. Assessment opportunities include but are not limited to:

1. Daily Participation, Conduct and Preparedness (50%)
 - a. Participation Points will be awarded to students who are on time with all materials present and exhibit a positive attitude in rehearsal.
2. Listening Logs (20%)
 - a. Classwork turned in late will result in a reduction of 10% each day it is late. For example, if a student turns in an assignment four days late there will be an automatic 40% deduction and the highest grade they will be able to receive on the assignment is a 60%.
3. Performances (30%)
 - a. Performances such as concerts will be considered our summative assessments and unit tests. Attendance is mandatory.

There will be no extra credit available.

Attendance Policy:

1. Students and parents will be notified well in advance (more than a month) of any concerts/performances. Once you are informed you are required to attend.

2. Excused student absence for a required choir function would be: extreme student illness, death in the family, family emergencies or other emergency situations, all at the discretion of the choir director. Every attempt should be made to inform the director prior to your absence. An assignment will be given to make-up for the excused absence.
3. Performances will be counted as a test grade of 100 points. **An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a grade of a 0%.** The student will have one week to approach the director and ask for a make-up assignment that will bring the grade of a 0% up to a 60%.
4. **Concert attire will be dress clothes at the discretion of the student.** The attire that students chose should be conservative and professional. Shoulders and mid-drifts should be covered.

Cell Phone/Fidget Toys Policy:

Concert Choir meets every other day, so it is imperative that all students be focused and all distractions minimized to promote a studious learning environment.

There will be absolutely no cell phones that will be allowed in class, and they are to be turned off or on silent and placed in a backpack. Fidget toys are not permitted in class unless otherwise specified by an IEP/504 plan, a written note from the guidance counselor, and deemed vital for student achievement.

1. **First Offense:** Teacher will take the cell phone/fidget toy until the end of class and notify parents. The student will receive a zero for the Daily Attendance and Participation Points.
2. **Second Offense:** Teacher will take the cell phone/fidget toy to the principal's office and a parent will have to come pick it up. The student will receive a zero for the Daily Attendance and Participation Points for the week.
3. **Third Offense:** Student will leave their cell phone/fidget toy on the teacher's office desk during class period for the rest of the year. Failure to do so will deduct points from Daily Attendance and Participation in the gradebook.

Fundraising:

The choir program will need to fundraise (usually once per semester) to cover the cost of field trips, new music, or any other expenditures. In the event that we sell items that the students are responsible for (i.e. candy) the student and/or the parent(s) are responsible for returning all money collected (and/or items) to equal what was given to the student at the start of the fundraiser.