

## CHORUS

### Course Outline

Planning Time: A-day 8:50-10:10  
B-day 8:50-10:10

Ms. Jester

410-437-6400

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### I. COURSE GOALS:

1. The student will develop an understanding of basic vocal techniques.
2. The student will develop an understanding of the fundamentals of music reading and theory as it applies to the voice.
3. The student will be exposed to and perform a wide variety of musical styles leading to the development of musical taste, discernment, and discrimination.
4. The student will develop a sense of responsibility to themselves and to the group, devotion to task and the ability to work toward and achieve goals as a disciplined team.

### II. SKILLS FOR SUCCESS:

1. Development of the student's mastery of vocal technique. Concert Choir is a performance group, specifically designed to study and perform music in a variety of musical styles. Music reading fundamentals and theory will be stressed. The basic text is Hal Leonard's "Experiencing Choral Music." These will be supplemented with exercises based on vocal problems that occur in the music that is scheduled for performance.

### III. MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Provided by the teacher
  - a) Choir Folder containing music
  - b) Sight singing exercises and theory drills provided by various texts.
2. Provided by the student
  - a) pencil and paper
  - b) appropriate uniform for performance - The ladies will be wearing a black formal long empire bodice with a square neckline, while the men will wear tuxedo pants, shirts, black vest, and a bow tie. **Students have the option to buy their uniform for the price of \$60.00 or rent a uniform for the fee of \$20.00, to cover cleaning and maintenance fees.** Students will be measured for their individual uniform at school.

### IV. GRADING POLICY:

1. Due to the emphasis on performance, individual singing skills are evaluated daily. Stress is placed on the individual's ability to function as a member of the section, show self discipline during rehearsal and devote him/herself to the task at hand. Class participation earns a student up to five points a day by participating with their best efforts during warm-ups, music rehearsal, sight singing and all classroom activities. Any time a student is asked to sing a passage by themselves or with their section, it may be regarded as a test and students may assume they will receive a grade for this activity.
2. Since choir is a performing group, all members are expected to participate in **ALL** concerts, adjudications and rehearsals, either during or after school. Excuses of illness or family emergency, of course will be accepted, but a parent note **MUST** be submitted and a written make-up or alternative assignment **MUST** be completed. A schedule of upcoming concerts is attached and you will be notified of any additional performances as soon as possible. Students participating in events such as the national competition and choral festival can expect to attend some evening rehearsals. These rehearsals will be required for students who wish to participate in special events.
3. Written drills and quizzes are given through the semester based on musical skills and knowledge learned in the class. There will be a final exam given at the end of the semester.

4. Marking Period grades will be determined as follows:

Homework= 15%    Participation = 50%    Class Work = 15%    Performances and Tests = 20%

Homework will be given periodically throughout each marking period, including theory, journals, projects, etc. Students will receive five participation points daily based on attendance, preparedness, work ethic, and behavior. All ensembles are required perform outside of the classroom. Students will be expected to attend all performances.

5. A point system is used to determine the grade:

A = 90 to 100	D = 60 to 69
B = 80 to 89	E = 59 or less
C = 70 to 79	

## **V. HOMEWORK**

1. Homework will be assigned weekly. It is assumed that the student will spend time outside of class studying for tests and practicing parts if necessary. Rehearsals outside of regular school hours will be counted as a homework grade.

## **VI. CLASSROOM RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

1. Be prompt. Enter the room quietly, get your assigned folder and take your assigned place on the risers. Students are assigned numbered folders that will contain music. You are financially responsible for any damage and or loss that would occur.
2. **NO EATING IN CLASS!! NO FOOD, NO CANDY, NO GUM!!!**
3. The piano, stereo, computer and teacher's desk are **OFF LIMITS!!!!!!!**
4. The first few minutes of classroom time will be devoted to warm-up exercises and the last few minutes for housekeeping chores. The remaining time is for intensive rehearsal. It is up to the students to discipline themselves so that we can make the performing group the best it can possibly be. Be an asset to it, not a hindrance! If a student cannot conform to our expectations, he or she will be separated from the group!

## **VII. PERFORMANCE COMMITMENTS**

1. Students are expected to attend and participate in ALL performances. Below is a list of performances already scheduled on the calendar. When performances are added, you will be notified as soon as possible.

**Performances:** Winter Concert – Tuesday, December 15, 2009 7pm  
Call 6:15

## **ATTENTION: PARENTS**

1. Our Music Booster's Organization is a vital part of having a successful vocal music program here at Northeast. All interested parents are invited and encouraged to attend our meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 in Room C-64. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1st. Hope to see you there!

**Chorus Outline-**

I have read the Chorus Course description, which includes the Winter Concert date, and understand the requirements for my child to have a successful semester in chorus.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian signature and date**

My child has permission to be photographed or videotaped in school related projects during the school year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/ Guardian Signature and date**

I would like to be notified, via e-mail, by the Northeast Choral Boosters of performances, fundraising, important events, and opportunities available for my child throughout the year. Unless indicated, we will use the parent e-mail address listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_ please use parent email below

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature and date**

\_\_\_\_\_ please use this email address \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Chorus Choir Course description, which includes the Winter Concert date, and understand the requirements to have a successful semester in Chorus Choir.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student signature and date**

Student's name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parents names (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parents' E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Students' E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Chorus Uniforms: Please make checks payable to the Northeast High School Music Boosters**

Please check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to purchase a uniform.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to rent a uniform.

\_\_\_\_\_ I already own a uniform.