

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mr. Gregory Jacot

Class Period: 1

Room #: 26

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Course Description: In this class, students will learn the basic techniques of choral singing through traditional choral literature and pop music. Students will perform a concert each marking period. This class will also cover music theory, history, aural skills, and composition concepts.

Required Materials*: Pencils, Folder for Music

*All materials will be provided at the beginning of the year to any student who needs them.

Weekly Participation & Attendance Grades: Weekly participation will be graded with a maximum of 4 points per day (=20 points for a 5-day week). Active participation in these classes is expected and required; failure to participate fully may result in a lowered participation grade for the day. Failure to bring the proper materials to class (e.g., music), skipping class, being on your phone during class, and disruption of classroom learning will result in point deductions.

Since attendance is graded separately, not attending a class will not hurt your participation grade (except in cases of skipping). The grade will simply be adjusted proportionally to account for any missed days. Weeks in which 50% or more of the days are missed will be exempted from the grade. (*Attendance will be graded following the FAS MS/HS Handbook policy.*)

Late Work Policy: Late work will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date with a 20% penalty (e.g., a 22/25 would be adjusted to a 17/25). After the 1 week deadline, late work will not earn points, but can be turned in for comments if desired. The end of the marking period is the last day late work can be submitted.

Singing Quizzes: Students will be frequently assessed in class on their progress. Formal singing quizzes generally happen 3-4 times per marking period, and will be announced in advance. These singing quizzes will be evaluated out of 30 points, considering these three factors:

1. Pitch: Are the notes accurate and in tune? (10 points)
2. Rhythm: Are the rhythms being interpreted correctly? Is the tempo steady? (10 points)
3. Musicality: Does the performer consider dynamics, technique, style, phrasing, etc. in their performance? Does it sound “musical?” (10 points)

Academic Eligibility: Students are encouraged to stay on top of their class work and remain in good standing at all times with their grades. However, since performances are considered class assignments (not extra-curricular activities), academic ineligibility will not prevent a student from being able to attend a performance. Academic ineligibility may, however, prevent students from being able to attend purely extra-curricular opportunities with their ensemble (like class trips to performances by other groups).

Performance Attendance Policy and Grading: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all performances are **mandatory** and will be worth large amounts of points. All students are expected to be at every performance unless arrangements are made with Mr. Jacot in advance. An unexcused absence from a performance will always result in a 0% with no way to make it up.

To be excused from a performance, students must either provide Mr. Jacot with a written note, signed by a parent/guardian, detailing the performance that is going to be missed and why, or have their parent/guardian send an email to Mr. Jacot directly with the same information. This note must be provided **at least 2 weeks prior to the performance**.

Conflicts of any sort (besides those listed in the “unacceptable reasons” below) will be considered, though students should keep in mind that performances are graded and should be prioritized whenever possible. The performance calendar has been designed to avoid athletic event conflicts as they have initially been planned.

Students may be excused from a performance after the 2-week deadline for the following:

- Absence from school due to illness
- School-authorized absence (suspension)
- Emergencies beyond the student’s control

For any of the above, a phone call or email from the parent prior to the performance, if at all possible, will be sufficient.

Since all performance dates are known well in advance, these are NOT acceptable reasons for missing a performance:

- Work conflict
- Oversleeping
- Athletic practices
- Babysitting
- Not having a ride (Note: per school policy, Mr. Jacot cannot give you rides to or from school events.)

Even if the absence is excused, students may still be required to complete a make-up assignment or playing quiz, determined on a case-by-case basis.

Performance Attire: Students may be provided with uniforms that they will wear at performances. The students will have two options:

1. A floor-length black dress.
2. A black tuxedo jacket and black slacks and a white dress shirt.

All students should wear black socks and black closed-toe dress shoes (flats or small heels). Jewelry (except for small stud earrings) must be removed. Hair should be out of the face and secured with dark-colored, non-distracting hair accessories. Do not wear perfume, lotions, or nail polish. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of their uniform and keep it clean and in

good condition. Failure to follow the concert dress code may result in the student not being able to perform or losing credit on the performance.

Some performances may have a different dress code and/or some classes may not be assigned uniforms. In these cases, students are simply expected to look “dressed up” and will not have specific required articles of clothing. If you have any questions about uniform requirements, please ask Mr. Jacot for clarification.

If you need any help obtaining the non-school provided parts of the uniform (like black socks/shoes), please let Mr. Jacot know as soon as possible. Students are expected to have their uniforms ready to go at least one week prior to the performance – Mr. Jacot will likely not be able to obtain any other uniform pieces past that deadline, especially the night of a performance! As a reminder, not following the dress code *will* result in lost points and could prevent the student from being allowed to perform, so make sure you have all parts of the uniform and keep them in good shape.

Calendar: A calendar of music events will be provided with this syllabus. Please hold on to it and make note of important items on your personal calendar.

Practicing: If you would like to schedule a practice with Mr. Jacot after school (on solos, small groups, etc.), you must let him know in advance. I cannot guarantee I will be available after school if you tell me the day of!

Passes: Students will receive 2 passes per marking period to use as they choose. They can be used for any of the following purposes:

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| - Go to locker/hall/water fountain | - Go to the bathroom | - Excuse a tardy arrival (shortly after the bell) |
| - Go to the office for non-emergency purposes | - Turn in late homework (still within a week) with no penalty | - Get a confiscated phone back at the end of class |

Other uses may be specified as well, and students may suggest other uses, subject to approval by Mr. Jacot. They cannot be used, however, to avoid disciplinary action (e.g., lunch detention), except in the case of cell phones.

Music Boosters: Parents/guardians: This year, we are hoping to start a Music Boosters program. This is not exclusively a fundraising group - it simply aims to help the music department in a number of different capacities. If you are good with sewing/hemming, for example, we always need help with uniforms. There's something for everyone. If you are interested in helping out with the music program in any capacity, please let Mr. Jacot know!