Exploratory Chorus Syllabus

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## ODD DAYS

### 1:08-2:33 PM

# Course Description

*Welcome to chorus class!* Music is a wonderful outlet for building confidence and self-discipline, expressing creativity and personality, reinforcing skills learned in academic classes like math, history, and science, learning team and group dynamics, gaining a lifelong appreciation for art, and especially having fun! In this class, we will explore all of these opportunities through the art of singing along with listening, discussing, and creating together and independently. We will learn basics of music notation, ear training, and the vocal skills necessary to sing in a choral ensemble (being a team)! Most importantly, we will work together to learn what is like to be a musician and to appreciate musical genres and artists of all kinds.

# Course Objectives/Virginia Middle School Beginning Choral Standards

* MCB.1 Echo, read and notate music.
* MCB.2 Develop aural skills.
* MCB.3 Apply vocal techniques and choral skills.
* MCB.4 Sing expressively.
* MCB.5 Respond to music with movement by applying various styles of choreography to different musical compositions.
* MCB.6 Demonstrate collaboration and concert etiquette as a performer.
* MCB.7 Explore historical and cultural aspects of music.
* MCB.8 Analyze and evaluate music
* MCB.9 Investigate aesthetic concepts related to music.

# Rules and Expectations

## Be Respectful

This includes respecting yourself, the teacher, other students, instruments, and all music experienced in the class. It is important to recognize the musical value of each person in the ensemble and to take care of all materials and property used in and out of the classroom. We will study multiple genres and cultures throughout history to the present, and although we might not enjoy all types of music, we must evaluate them objectively, developing reasoning and a vocabulary for why we do or do not like it.

## Be Prepared

This goes for daily classes and performances. Your teacher and classmates will be counting on you to be ready for class each day, with all necessary materials and assignments. You will need your music and a pencil every day. The more you are prepared, the more you will get out of the class! Daily practice and preparedness will be essential to successful performances.

## Be Engaged

Again, the more involved you are in the class, the more you will get out of it! Besides, it’s fun! We can learn all of the notes and sing all of the right words, but without commitment, we cannot provide and experience the expression and musicality that a song or piece, your teacher, your classmates, or *you* deserve.

## Be Responsible

Follow all school rules in the music classroom. Please no gum, hats, or cell phones during class or performances (unless specified by the teacher). Go to the bathroom between classes so that you can be present for as much of rehearsal as possible. Follow directions and ask questions as you have them. Your teacher is here to help!

*Each student gets a clean slate for success as you enter the classroom each day. We will work on a 3-strike system:*

* ***Strike 1:*** *Warning*
* ***Strike 2:*** *Broken Pillar*
* ***Strike 3:*** *Lunch Detention*

*Students have the opportunity to receive a free day for exceptionally respectful, prepared, engaged, and responsible behaviors.*

# Grading

Grades will be weighted as follows: Grading will be scaled as follows:

Participation 40% A 90-100%

Performances 30% B 80-89%

Assessments 20% C 70-79%

Homework/Assignments 10% D 60-69%

F 0-59%

## Participation

Daily participation is essential in the development of an individual and collaborative musician. Students will receive a daily participation grade based on respect, preparedness, engagement, and responsibility.

## Performances

Performances are essential opportunities to showcase all that we have learned in class and are valuable experiences for a musician. Students will be graded on their preparation, professionalism, and reflection of each performance. **All performances are mandatory.** Of course, extraneous circumstances arise (i.e. family emergency, illness, etc.), which should be consulted with the teacher as soon as possible. In these cases, students will receive an opportunity to make up the work. An unexcused absence from a concert will result in a failing grade for that performance.

## Assessments

Throughout the year, students will receive tests and quizzes on music theory, content, history, and performance. This will help to measure progress and areas that need improvement.

## Assignments

Students will occasionally receive written work reflecting on a lesson or a skill. Work that is completed thoroughly in class becomes homework. If students do not have their homework, they will lose 10 percent for each day that it is late. This section also includes bellwork that will be worked on at the beginning of the class at the pace of the student.

## Attendance

If a student is absent, he/she will receive the opportunity to make up the work. Students will not be penalized for absences as long as they make up their work and can keep up with their music.

# Materials

* Music and folder (provided and can be stored in the classroom)
* Pencil
* Homework and assignments
* Water (advised)

# Teacher Qualifications

## Bachelor of Arts in Music Education May 2010

Bridgewater College

## Collegiate Professional License Renewed July 2015

Music: Instrumental PreK-12

Music: Vocal/Choral PreK-12

Save the date! (Keep this for your calendar)

## Exploratory Choir Concert Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30 PM in the auditorium

*This will showcase what the students have learned in the 9 weeks of exploratory chorus. Students will stay after school and must be picked up by a parent. Please come and support your student!*

# *Looking forward to a great year of making music!* ☺

Please sign, detach, and return to Mrs. Strawderman.

*I*, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, *have read the preceding syllabus and understand what is expected of me for exploratory chorus.*

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_