

Chorus at West Point Middle School

Course Content

Chorus is a year-long course at WPMS. The course is designed to provide students the opportunity for learning beginning and basic fundamentals of sight-reading vocal music, distinguishing and singing two-, three-, and in some cases, 4-part music, singing with ensembles and individually, gaining proficiency in intonation, diction, breathing techniques, and choral balance. Students will experience a variety of repertoire including singing in foreign languages and sacred and secular choral literature.

Enrichment experiences for students in grades five and six include the opportunity to audition for the Orange All-County Music Festival, usually held in April. For students in grades seven and eight, students may audition for the All-County Music Festival, usually held in March. Additionally, a field trip to NYC is offered (when funds are available) to perform in an Honors Chorus with the Young People's Chorus of New York City, an internationally-acclaimed vocal ensemble.

Grading

35% Performance Testing. Students will be assessed periodically on their ability to perform music which has been rehearsed in class. This testing will mainly be by appointment and privately, although some "pop vocal quizzes" may occur. The areas being evaluated include pitch and rhythm accuracy, intonation, independence, and ability to project in a developmentally appropriate way.

25% Written Tests

20% Quizzes, both written and performance

20% Notebook and Materials. Student must come to class every day with a pencil and a 1" binder in which will be kept all music, notes and worksheets from class on theory and other essential musicianship elements. Students start with a 100% bank for this notebook. Points will be deducted when the notebook is forgotten, or if, during periodic notebook checks, music and notes are discovered to be missing. Music must be returned after concert in good condition.

Concert Attendance. Student must be present for all scheduled concerts, both during and outside regular school hours; or if student cannot be present, must present a written excuse or phone call **prior** to the performance. Failure to attend the concert or present an excuse will result in a 5% penalty to the student's average for that quarter. Both on the risers and in the audience, student displays appropriate attention and respect as discussed in class. Student remains for entirety of concert performance unless early dismissal is arranged with teacher at least 24 hrs. prior to concert.

Extra Credit. May be earned in two ways: 1.) attendance of any concert outside school with a one-page written summary/review 2.) a minimum of two private voice coaching sessions of 20-30 minutes arranged by student at a mutually convenient time

Discipline

Unless a serious infraction has been committed, these steps will be taken: 1.) warning by teacher 2.) teacher-student conference 3.) detention / parent notified 4.) counselor asked to meet with student 5.) student referred to principal.

I am aware of the course content, grading and discipline policies for Chorus M-1 and Show Choir at WPMS.

(Student name)

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)