

Middle School Choir
Jackson Heights Middle School
Holton, Kansas
2018-19 School Year

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Course Description

Middle School Choir is a choral methods course designed to help students build upon their understanding of musical skills, learn how to use their voice to produce good tone, music theory, music history and historical context, compositional styles, and the aesthetic importance of music as an expressive art form. Students will learn these skills through multiple forms of performance and practice, and studying various styles of literature.

Course Goals

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Demonstrate improved technique and musicianship on their chosen instrument as compared to their progress at the start of the school year.
- Verbally or musically communicate the artistic expression inherent in several pieces of music.
- Communicate basic to intermediate concepts in music theory and musical vocabulary

Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment

- Music folders and music to be distributed at school
- Students will need to use their school computer to submit assignments via Google Classroom
- Concert attire: students will need to purchase a school music shirt (directions and order form coming soon) to wear to all performances. Students will need to provide their own black pants, socks and shoes.

Daily Work/Homework

Middle School Choir will not have regular homework assignments. Recordings of current literature will be posted on Google Classroom so that students can practice their parts outside of class. We will have periodic performance tests which will need to be practiced ahead of time, recorded, and submitted to Google Classroom as directed in class. Other tests/quizzes on general musical knowledge may be incorporated as needed.

Performances

Performances are a significant part of the student's grade for this class, as it is a performing organization and a performance-based class. Performances that are required include school concerts for your grade level and ensemble. Additional optional performances are available for students who wish to participate in honors programs.

Class Participation

Class participation is a huge portion of student achievement, and therefore their grade. Students are expected to focus and work hard during class time, putting every effort forth at all times. Students are expected to support one another during class, and outside of class, regarding each other's achievement and progress. Singing, although using your body as your instrument, still requires significant practice and learning technique because muscles need to be developed and utilized in ways to produce the best possible sound. Additionally, students progress at varying rates for many different reasons. In order to make the most significant progress, we need a supportive atmosphere where students feel comfortable singing by themselves, sharing their knowledge,

and willing to take a risk with something they may not yet be comfortable doing.

Course Grading

All grades are based on a point system as follows. You are welcome to make up a quiz or test if you would like to work for a higher grade. Assignments cannot be made up after grades are closed. Performances cannot be made up. Classwork will be excused if a student has an excused absence from school during that class. If a student skips class, that classwork grade cannot be made up. Extra credit assignments can be provided if the student requests extra credit at least two weeks prior to the close of the grading period. Late extra credit assignments will not be accepted.

- Classwork: 10 points per class
- Quizzes/Tests: 100 points (see Google Classroom for assignments and due dates)
- Concert Performances: 200 points

Classroom Procedures and Logistics

Be Careful: The music room has a lot of expensive equipment in the space. Please be very careful moving around the room. Do not touch instruments that don't belong to you, especially percussion. Please do not walk in between the percussion instruments to get to your seat. Instruments can easily be knocked down and damaged and those repairs can be expensive.

Distractions: In order to save time and foster the highest level of focus, bathroom breaks will only be allowed during the first 5 minutes of class unless there is an emergency. Per school rules, cell phones and smart watches must be placed in the clear pouches at the beginning of class, and picked up only at the end of class.

Organization: Backpacks, cases, and other belongings need to be placed in cubbies or out of the walkways around the perimeter of the classroom. This practice will help students and the teacher move freely around the room during class time.

Food and Drinks: Water is allowed in the band room. No other drinks, gum or foods are allowed. Again, we have expensive equipment in the room, as well as carpet that needs to stay clean. If you have anything besides water, please put it in the garbage can as you enter the room.

Extra Help and Practice Time

Students are encouraged to practice their music before and after school, and during seminar as permitted by your seminar teacher. Please see Mrs. Seddon to set up a time for extra help as needed.

TECHNOLOGY: Students will be turning in assignments on Google Classroom. If we use computers during class time, students are expected to use their computers only as directed. Any noncompliance will be reported to the principal.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.