

Welcome Students and Parents to Vocal Music!

It is a pleasure to have your student in class this school year. There are many exciting happenings involving the choirs and I am looking forward to helping students discover and strengthen their musicianship.

Miss Melissa Bloomfield

Classroom Expectations

The following classroom expectations are set as a way to structure and ensure a safe environment for student learning. These expectations conform to school policy and will promote student success in the classroom.

1. Be Respectful
 - a. To others and all teachers and staff. Use positive language.
 - b. Respect yourself as a musician and take responsibility for your actions.
 - c. Of all property therefore no gum, food, or drink in the classroom.
 - d. Respect the class by being on time with pencil and music folder.
2. Observe all school rules and procedures in student handbook.

Music

You will be assigned a folder. You and your folder partner are responsible for the folder and its contents. **A pencil is needed for every rehearsal.** You may take the folder home to practice the music, but be sure to bring it back for the next day's rehearsal. Folders are to be returned to their correct slot at the end of every rehearsal. Failure to return your folder can result in the loss of 1 daily point for both you and your folder partner.

Attendance Policy

Choir is a performance based class. Each class period is a lab class. Due to the participatory nature of the class, it is very difficult to make up missed work. Class attendance is vital to the teamwork and unity of the choir. Absences from class will affect your grade. Students should work to make up any missed assignments. **Attendance at concerts is mandatory!** Students are given concert dates and times well in advance.

ALL UNEXCUSED CONCERT ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THAT PERFORMANCE GRADE.

Any conflicts between choir activities and other school activities must be brought to the director's attention as soon as possible – no later than two weeks prior to the event. A fair solution will be worked out by the director. *****To be granted an excused absence, a written notice from parents with a brief explanation of conflict must be given to director 2 weeks prior to rehearsal or performance.**



Excused Absences

1. Death or serious illness in the family.
2. Personal illness rendering you incapable of performing.
3. Extenuating circumstances – must be approved by the director. The student may be required to do make up work as approved by the director.

Grades

Choir grades are based on the development of music fundamentals and concert attendance. These skills can only be developed through practice, repetition and rehearsal. Participation in class is critical to developing and improving these skills for each individual.

Development of music fundamentals: This grade will be determined by observing fundamental skills of singing during rehearsals and performances. These skills include:

1. Participation – Talking is the biggest disruption in a rehearsal. When the choir is singing or instruction is being given by the director, choral members are expected to be respectful and quiet.
2. Following classroom procedures and rules, listening to directions
3. Having materials at rehearsals
4. Correct singing posture, pronunciation, tone quality, breathing
5. Note accuracy, vowel alignment

Points

Points will be awarded based on the following:

Weekly Grading Scale (5 points per class)

1. Arrives on time in seat with folder and pencil.
2. Appropriate behavior. Talks only when appropriate.
3. Good Posture/Breath Support/Intonation
4. Musical asset to the Group/Knows Part
5. Takes care of supplies/Puts away folder after class

Bell Work (daily music exercises) and WOW (Words of the Week) Quizzes will also be graded.

Concert Grading Scale (30 points total)

1. Attendance
 - a. On Time and In Designated Warm-up Place
2. Attire
 - a. Dressed Appropriately
3. Performance
 - a. Watching the Director
 - b. Behavior
 - c. Musicality
4. Student Responsibility

a. Setting Good Example

Concert Attire

All outfits must be within dress code. If you are dressed in violation of dress code, you will be asked to fix it, or you will not be allowed to perform. This will result in the reduction of your concert grade.

Ladies: Dresses, skirts, or dress pants outfits. No tennis shoes or jeans. Choose shoes that will allow you to enter and exit the risers safely.

Gentlemen: Dress pants, a button-down shirt with a tie, and dress shoes. No jeans or tennis shoes.

If at any time you are having trouble securing the proper attire for a concert, contact Miss Bloomfield to work out the problem.

Technology

Technology is not a regular part of the choral music rehearsal. Therefore, unless requested by the teacher, all technology is not to be used in class. If a student is using a cell phone without permission, the student will be asked to put it away. If not done so, the phone will be turned into the office according to school policy.

Discipline Policy

Anytime the choir is together for rehearsals or performances, all school rules are in effect. Actions that are in violation of the school rules or classroom procedure will have the following consequences:

1. Warning (This could come in the form of having the student sing a part to check for knowledge of the part.)
2. Loss of Daily Points
3. Referral to Administrator/Call to Parents
4. Immediate removal from the classroom