**6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Vocal Groups**

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**Periods 2, 3, & 4**

**2017-2018 Eisenhower Middle School**

*Eisenhower Middle School Choral Music & General Music*

 Teacher: Mrs. Plunkett

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https://www.everettsd.org/Domain/3215

**KEEP THIS AS PAGE #1 IN YOUR CHORUS FOLDER**

I have read and understand the following expectations, responsibilities, and grading policy for this performing group. I understand it is a year-long course. We will record the performance dates on the family calendar and attend all performance. I will keep this SYLLABUS in my music folder at school.

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*Parent or Guardian Signature/Date Student Signature/Date*

*Parent E-MAIL Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

* CHORUS is basically a large, organized group of singers.
* Chorus for both young men and ladies is a performance-based class.
* **All performances plus daily rehearsal/performance technique will be included as part of your grade.**
* Most performances will occur outside the regular school day.
* Students will develop their singing voice through vocal exercises focusing on best practices for choral singing.
* Students will be introduced to music theory, the study of music elements, and will experience how they are used in music practice.
* Students will be introduced to composers, most often the composer of the music that we will perform, and the context of their lyrics and musical styles.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED and WHAT IS PROVIDED:

* *PENCIL*!!
* Lined Paper
* Water Bottle (recommended). All other personal items must remain under your chair.
* I will provide a music folder compliments of Kennelly Keys.

GRADING:

40% **Daily Work**: Rehearsal technique, reading, writing.

40% Performances: concerts and in-class demonstrations of learning.

20% Quizzes, Assignments, & Tests

* Use of the Washington State Arts Standards in Music will be used as a guide when designing lessons and assessments. These standards follow the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) using the sequence of “Create-Perform-Respond-Connect”, as a way for students to learn and apply their understandings to familiar and unfamiliar situations. The state standards can be accessed at <http://www.k12.wa.us/Arts/Standards/2017/MusicStandards.pdf>
* The pace of the class may vary considerably according to several factors including students’ musical readiness as well as their readiness to work as a team.
* Any late assignments will be accepted if the work was originally returned either unfinished or returned showing little understanding by due date, however, the student must show a process of refining their work and improving over time. Not all late assignments will be accepted during the last weeks of the semester. (as in a “cram session”)

**Rehearsal and Performance Technique: 40% of total grade**

Each student will begin the semester with 200 points. Points may be deducted if a student has not met the described expectations in this table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5-point deduction if not met | Prepared | Student understands importance of **entering and exiting** class respectfully**. NO FOOD & NO CELL PHONE** please. A water bottle is good. Bring your pencil, folder, and any written warm-up to your seat daily. Begin any warm-up quietly and immediately.  |
| 5 point deduction if not met | Stays focused | Student stays on task, limiting any side conversations, raising hand when offering questions or comments related to instruction.  |
| 5-point deduction if not met | Working as a team | Rehearses ACTIVELY for duration of class time, demonstrating respect for the choral arts, respect for your classmates, and respect for the director through singing and positive social interaction. Always have your music open and ready through rehearsals.  |
|  |  | Student may stay on task and keep all his/her points. If the above is not met while in class or at a performance, a student may have up to 15 points deducted from their Daily Expectation grade each day. Cell Phone out results in all 15 points immediately deducted plus must submit phone to the office that day. |

**CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES: 40% of your grade.**

Chorus for both young men and ladies is a performance-based class. All performances plus daily rehearsal/performance technique will be included as part of your grade. Our performances are the highlights of the year, the “final exam”. They are a lot of fun and they are required. Each performance in or out of the classroom will have a point value. Points and student expectation rubric will be posted so students will know what is expected for each performance.

Except for emergencies, I will need **written notice of absence of at least TWO WEEKS** prior to a performing event for the absence to be excused. Students who are excused from concert are required to complete an “Excused Concert Make-Up Assignment”. UNEXCUSED absences from performances may not be made-up and result in ‘0’ points for that event.

Concerts held at the Everett Civic are worth 150 points.

Students can earn full credit (150 points) for the concert with the following:

1. **50 points**

**Attendance**

1. **50 points**

**Appropriate dress/ uniform**

1. **50 points**

**Good behavior**

ATTENDANCE Grade: 50 points (Did you get to the place on time?)

* 1. Show up on time and be seated in the area in **"riser order"**. Stay until the last music piece of the concert has finished performing.

APPROPRIATE DRESS/UNIFORM Grade: 50 points (Are you wearing the uniform?)

Please wear black closed-toe shoes with any of the following choices:

* + 1. Boys:
			1. Black pants
			2. black button-down shirt
			3. Tie, shade of blue
			4. No hats
		2. Girls:
			1. Black outfit, which can include black pants or skirt, or black dress.
			2. Leggings cannot be worn as pants alone.
			3. Pants must be ankle length or longer without dragging under your heel.
			4. All dresses or skirts must have black tights or leggings underneath for modesty.
			5. Dress/skirt lengths must meet school dress code.
			6. Black shirt worn with pants or skirt
			7. No hats

GOOD BEHAVIOR Grade: 50 points (Are you doing the right thing?)

* 1. All Choirs will sit together in "riser order" during the full performance unless it is their turn to perform on stage.
	2. Choirs will leave their seats directly for the stage, in "riser order", or return directly back to their seats in same order from the stage quietly.
	3. Choir members will listen intentionally to other performing groups (band or choir), showing respect with clapping after each performance. NO CELL PHONES WILL BE USED AT THIS TIME
	4. Please eat a meal BEFORE you arrive. Eating/drinking is not allowed in the auditorium. (water bottles are allowed)
	5. Use the restroom before or after the concert, not during.
	6. Remember: performances are part of your class grade.

Rubric for Performances at School functions such as Assemblies during the school day:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Description  | 9-10 Points  | 8 Points | 7 Points | 6 Points and below  |
| Attendance  | Show up on time and be seated in the area in **"riser order"**. Stay until the last music piece of the concert has finished performing.  | Student left early with permission  | Student left early or was asked to move seats due to behavior  | Student did not show (0)  |
| Uniform  | Wears Choir T Shirt with dark color on the bottom  | Color did not match required uniform  | Did not wear Choir shirt  | Student did not show (0) |
| Behavior  | Sat in orderly fashion in the gym Student transitioned easily from performing to listening Student listened intentionally to other performing groups (band or choir), or to other speakers, showing respect with clapping after each performance or when appropriate. Students did not distract other performances/speakers with gestures or inappropriate attention-grabbing motion.  | Most of the time followed the guidelines  | Although student followed the guidelines, they were not consistent with positive behavior and did not represent the choir consistently well.  | Student willfully created distracting behavior during the performance  (0)Student did not represent the choir in a positive light. |
| 30 points possible  |   |   |   |   |

|  |
| --- |
| “Rehearsal & Performance Technique”  |
|  **180-200 Points** (90-100%) |
| **160-179 Points**80-89% |
| **140-159 Points**70-79% |
| **Less than 140**69% and below |

**QUIZZES, ASSIGNMENTS, AND TESTS: 20%**

This includes both singing and written quizzes/tests. Please prepare.

CHOIR grading scale total

A 93-100%

A- 90-92%

B+ 87-89%

B 83-86%

B- 80-82%

C+ 77-79%

C 73-76%

C- 70-72%

D+ 67-69%

D 63-66%

D- 60-62%

F below 60

EXPECTATIONS in CHOIR:

* Create a caring, safe space for everyone.
* Students are expected to participate and work hard daily.
* Students are expected to follow school and classroom rules respectfully.
* Keep the contents of your folder in order: Keep your written work in your folder in order by DATE on the left, and music in the right pocket.
* **Bring your pencil and folder DAILY** to your seat BEFORE you sit down.
* Once you enter the classroom, you must stay inside my room and begin your warm up. You may not linger in the doorway or in the hall outside my room, and you may not put your books down and THEN go the bathroom or walk out of the class to visit or get food.
* When you walk in the door, immediately complete your written warm up, silently. You are not allowed to talk during this time. (about 5 mins) The warm up will usually be on the front board or screen.
* Sharpen your pencil BEFORE class begins.
* Use the bathroom between classes, NOT DURING class.
* If you have a bathroom emergency or become ill during class, let me know. Bring your school planner for me to sign you out of class.
* If you forget your planner, you will not be allowed to go and retrieve it.
* If you are late, bring a hall pass (back of your planner). The tardy will be excused.
* If you do not have a hall pass/signature in your planner, the tardy is Unexcused

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* **NO GUM OR FOOD** in class. Choking on food or gum is a real vocal music hazard.
* Throwing objects is not allowed unless part of the lesson.
* **NO CELL PHONE IN CLASS.**
* Please do not play instruments unless they are assigned.
* PLEASE take care of our piano.
* Chorus field trips are a privilege. You begin earning the right to go on field trips today.
* Performance music must be memorized

CONSEQUENCES of MISBEHAVIOR:

1. Gentle verbal warning
2. One-on one discussion
3. I will contact your parent or guardian
4. I will contact the office for further discussion

PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS:

* FORMAL-All Black attire. Black pants or skirt, black leggings or tights to be worn under skirts, black shoes, black shirt/blouse/dress.
* CASUAL-Students will need to purchase a group T-shirt designed especially for our classes, and to be worn at our “Casual” performances. COST: Approximately $10 for a Chorus T-Shirt. Details will be available as soon as approved by the building.

PERFORMANCE UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:

* Hair/Make-up- Hair should be pulled away from the face and off the forehead to ensure visual communication during performances. Make-up is not required, but if worn, should be natural looking and not done as if for a theatre performance. No hats will be worn unless for religious purposes.
* Jewelry- Consider not wearing any jewelry for performances to keep us looking sharp. Earrings may be worn if smaller than a nickel in size.
* Black shoes and black socks/tights- choose all black closed-toe footwear. If wearing heals, choose no higher than 1.5”. Please no flip-flops or sandals.
* Clothing- If it is a formal concert, you are required to wear the designated attire stated above. Casual performances will require the Chorus T-shirt, long jeans or black pants or solid black color skirt. Pant length will be no higher than the top of your ankle bone, no lower than your heel. NO RIPS OR HOLES in the pants/jeans, even if it was purchased that way. We’ll have a more solid look this way.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

* FIELD TRIPS: Cost for field trips vary depending upon the destination
* ASB: It is highly encouraged but not required to purchase an ASB card. The ASB supports the music department

**2017-2018 Chorus Activity And Performance Calendar** (this calendar will be updated over time.)

(Not included in this calendar is the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, Booster Meetings & Fundraisers, Possible Corridor Concert with Cascade. I will be sure to give a much notice as possible beforehand when performance dates or activity dates are added).

**FEBRUARY**

**MARCH**

**15th: ALL CHOIRS FIELD TRIP. 150 performance points**

**Thursday all day**

Jr. Division MPMEA Large Group Choral Festival

Bus/Field Trip during the school day BRING A LUNCH

**26th: SPRING CONCERT with ALL choral groups. 150 performance points**

At the Everett Civic Auditorium

In the evening

**JUNE**

**1st: FINAL SUMMER CONCERT with ALL choral groups 150 performance points**

At the Everett Civic Auditorium In the Evening