



H-B WOODLAWN CHORAL DEPARTMENT 2018-2019 SYLLABUS

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Welcome to the HBW Choral Program

Singing in a chorus is one of the most powerful things you can do. Together in class you will learn songs from the choral tradition representing different time periods, styles and cultures. You will learn how to use your singing voice, and how to apply vocal technique to improve your skill. You will learn the fundamentals of music theory, and how to read music notation. Through the collective singing of music, we will explore emotions, social issues and hopefully create lasting memories!

Attendance – In Class & Performances

In a class that is based on a performing art, daily attendance is crucial for the ensemble and the individual to succeed. If you miss a rehearsal, there is no way to make it up. Rehearsals are interactive and require participation and effort from every member of the group. Attendance at every rehearsal is expected in order to reach the level for which our choirs are striving.

Every element of the rehearsal is imperative towards our overall success. Students are expected to be on time. Unexcused absences and excessive tardiness will impact your grade.

Performances, Concerts and Dress Rehearsals are absolutely mandatory. They are equivalent to exams. Since chorus rarely has written work or homework, performances serve as a large part of your grade. Work commitments extracurricular or other school activities are NOT excused absences from these performances. In the case of an emergency, please contact Bill.

A calendar of events is provided at the beginning of the year, and available on our website.

Music, Folder & Pencil

The various pieces of music you will sing is our course textbook. Everyone in choir is assigned a number that has a corresponding folder and music to go in the folder. Each student is responsible for his or her folder and music, and it is expected to be in class every day. If you do not bring your music to class, your class participation grade will be affected. You are expected to keep your music in good shape and return it at the end of the semester or year. If you lose or destroy your music or your folder, you are financially responsible for it. Replacement fees vary depending on the cost of the music. All students are expected to have a pencil in their folder for rehearsals. Music must only be marked in pencil, please never use pen.

Uniforms

It is customary in professional music performances for musicians to wear a formal uniform. Following that tradition, all music students are expected to wear a uniform for our performances. This is important so that the music is our primary focus, not our fashion statements. Also, HBW music students often perform outside of our school, at which it is also expected musicians appear uniform. More information about uniforms, and how to order will be provided to each student in class. For those that prefer or need, we also have a collection of gently used uniforms, which may be purchased for a reduced price, or provided. Please speak to a music teacher should this be of interest to you.

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Music Activities – Fees, Fundraising & Scholarships

An additional benefit to being in the chorus program is that we do a lot of fun activities and programs, but these do not come without a cost. Each family is asked to make a donation of \$35.00 per student in order to support the music department each year. This donation helps to offset the many costs of running the music department including music, awards and scholarships, as well as affords the opportunity for all students to participate in music activities despite financial need. The Music Activity Fee can be paid at the beginning or if the student elects to attend the Spring Trip, the Activity Fee will be added to the students trip account.

The music department offers two fundraisers for students to raise funds for their student account: a citrus fruit sale in September/October and an additional fundraiser in January/February. The profits earned from these sales are credited to the individual student account towards the cost of their Uniform, Music Activity Fee and Spring Trip. The music department does not receive any profit earnings from these sales. Involvement in these fundraisers is purely voluntary, but strongly encouraged. In addition to these two, the music department will host a variety of fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. Your participation and generosity with these is most appreciated.

With the cost of the Uniform, Activity Fee and Spring Trip, participation in a music organization can be expensive. But it is our highest priority that ALL students are able to enjoy our music program without any financial burden or limitation. We facilitate fundraising opportunities for families to lessen the burden of these expenses and encourage all students to take advantage of them. For those that require additional assistance, we are happy to provide Scholarship support. Students who wish to receive a scholarship are asked to complete a simple application, maintain good academic standing, and participate in our fundraising activities. Scholarship applications are available by speaking to a music teacher or on our website.

Music Department Spring Trip

Each year the middle school and high school music students depart on a spring trip. During the trip our ensembles perform for judges, who assess and offer instructional feedback. This serves as an educational activity and offers a rare opportunity for the students to learn from a different perspective. While we can't mandate that all students attend, it is strongly encouraged so that our ensembles are complete for performance. Every musician is essential and we hope that we can all be together for this great experience. Additional information about these trips will be provided in class, and can be found in our Handbook and on the website. Whenever we travel it is expected that students abide by the rules they would at HBW. Should a student fail to adhere to the rules, they will be sent home at the expense of their parents.

Communication

The music department intends to maintain good communication about our programs and activities throughout the year. At the beginning of the year, a Handbook is provided which outlines the many aspects of the department. We encourage you to visit our website at www.hbmusic.org for up to date information. We maintain an email group, hbwmusic@yahoogroups.com, which students and parents are encouraged to sign-up on our website. Please 'Like' our Facebook page, HBMusic. Facebook and Twitter are used to communicate with student groups. During Spring Trips, students will have access to teacher cell phone numbers, which enable calls or text messages in case of an emergency. We will also use the "Remind App" to maintain text communication amongst our classes and trip groups. All communication and uses of social media will abide by the APS Social Media Use Guidelines.

Auditions

Participation in the Middle School Choirs and the High School Concert Choirs do not require an audition, and all are welcomed to enroll. Auditions are required for Camerata and Chamber Singers, which are held each year in April or May for the following academic year. All students are required to re-audition for these groups each year. The audition will consist of tonal memory, a sight-reading example, a range check, and a prepared piece. Auditions for solo opportunities may be available in any choir throughout the year. During auditions, students are assessed in a variety of categories, and are selected at the choral director's discretion.

Grading Policy

Each quarter's grade will be determined by the following criteria:

Class Participation = 40%

Every class rehearsal is worth 10 points, and will reflect if a student is present, on-time, prepared and participating. The total number of points earned will determine the student's grade for Class Participation

Performance = 30%

Concert performance is so essential to the music experience. Our daily class work culminates with a public performance and reception of our work. As stated above, attendance at all dress rehearsals and concerts is mandatory and is reflected thusly. Each dress rehearsal and concert is worth 100 points.

Assessments/Assignments = 30%

As important as our performances are, so too are the lessons learned in class, such as music literacy, vocal development and general music knowledge. These elements will be assessed each quarter in a variety of means. Each assessment will be given a point value and will determine this portion of the quarter grade. In addition, there will be quarterly assignments to provide students a greater appreciation for the choral art including a listening assignment, writing program notes, and attending another choral performance.