**HMS Choir Expectations and Grading Rationale**

Mr. Callaghan

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Mrs. Byykkonen

MS Phone:

**Course Descriptions**

**6th and 7th Grade Choir**

The 6th and 7th Grade Choirs strive to teach and nurture the foundational skills of choral music so each child is able to learn how to be a successful singer and musician. Students train in using their voices, as well as work towards learning how to read music and rehearse in a large ensemble.

**8th Grade Choir**

8th grade choir members will continue to develop their musicianship at a more advanced level in preparation for singing in High School. Performance opportunities are increased as 8th grade choir members perform in all school concerts, MSVMA festivals, and other opportunities as they arise.

**Our Goals**

The student will…

1. Develop a degree of musical independence, which will enable him/her to read and perform music. This skill is referred to as music literacy.
2. Study/perform music from the various stylistic periods and genres
3. Develop and understand a standard vocal technique
4. Participate in musical activities, which are designed to stimulate aesthetic responses
5. Learn and display appropriate concert etiquette
6. Develop performance skills that foster self confidence

**Course Grading Expectations**

**Citizenship/Rehearsal Techniques (5 pts. each day)**

Students are expected to behave in an appropriate manner at all times. Classroom rules include:

1. be in the classroom by the sounding of the bell - bringing all materials necessary for class which include, but are not limited to your music, handouts, and a sharpened pencil. ***(SHOW UP)***
2. Find your seat and be seated within immediately after the bell with great posture for singing. ***(SIT UP)***
3. please do not bring food, candy, drinks or gum into the choir room… leave it in your school locker or in the hall
4. once rehearsal has begun, please do not sing or talk out of turn
5. utilize your voice to the best of it’s ability, providing YOUR BEST EFFORT to the group ***(SING OUT)***
6. bring a positive attitude and be ready to work each day ☺

Choir is an AWESOME activity and should be very enjoyable for each student. Creating music is fun, and in order to make that happen, we must insist on having an environment that is conducive to learning and having musical experiences.

**Assignments (10 pts. each)**

All middle school students will complete assignments throughout the semester to help reinforce classroom instruction and build their literacy and oral skills. It is the responsibility of the student to turn in assignments on the correct due date. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work will be accepted until the end of each grading period.

**Performances/After School Rehearsals (200pts each)**

Students are required to be at all scheduled rehearsals and performances during and outside the school day. A calendar of required performances can be found in the course expectations and on the website. You will be responsible for keeping a copy of the schedule and, if necessary, obtaining a new one from the teacher.

**IMPORTANT- *Absences from performances should be avoided at all costs***. For absences related to illness or emergencies, parents must leave a message for Mr. Callaghan on his HHS voicemail or email prior to the concert time and supply a signed hand written note the next school day the child is present. All other absences (including religious observances) will only be excused with prior notification and Mr. Callaghan’s prior consent.

All students with an excused absence will complete an alternate assignment to receive a grade. Alternate assignments will not be issued for unexcused absences. Since students receive two portions of credit per concert, ***they must stay for the entire duration of the performance.***

**Vocal Music is a performing art and there are limited performing opportunities!**  Students must participate in the act of performing and listening/watching to fully realize and experience the musical and aesthetic values of the discipline.

**Written Quizzes/ Vocal Testing (20 pts. each)**

Occasionally, students will be given written evaluations. They will almost always be announced in advance; however it is possible that surprise tests may occur. Written quizzes may include topics such as note recognition, rhythmic patterns, music vocabulary, or other related items. Tests are designed to help us evaluate and develop the musical abilities of the students.

**Grading Rationale**

**Scale**

97-100%= A+ 77-79 = C+

93-96 = A 73-76 = C

90-92 = A- 70-72 = C-

87-89 = B+ 67-69 = D+

83-86 = B 63-66 = D

80-82 = B- 60-62 = D-

50-59 = E

All grades will be cumulatively added in a point system.

\*A note about Citizenship: Each day every middle school student is given citizenship points. These points are free and require nothing of the student. They will lose these points if they do not follow the classroom rules listed on page one. These points will be posted on the grade book.

***Attendance***

Class will promptly start when the bell rings and students are expected to be in their seats ready to begin class. Anyone entering the room after the bell will be marked tardy (points are removed from daily grade). Students who arrive 15 minutes after the bell rings will be marked absent.

**Students are responsible for finding out what was missed, and are expected to be prepared for each rehearsal.**

***Disciplinary Procedure***

Disruptive classroom behavior is not usually an issue in choir, but occasionally some students have difficulty meeting the behavior expectations outlined above. There will be a three strike discipline process in class. The teacher may choose to move to step four if the behavior has been repeated multiple times.

1. 1st offense, student receives a verbal correction.
2. 2nd offense, student is asked to stay after class for a teacher conference and phone call home.
3. 3rd offense, student is given detention. To be served by Mr. Callaghan.
4. 4th offense or if so disruptive, student is written up for further discipline and sent to the office.
5. Continued issues with behavior will result in removal from the choral department.

***Materials and Music***

**Every day, students are to bring 3 required items to class and keep them out at all times:**

1. Music folder
2. Assigned copies of semester music.
3. A pencil with eraser for marking music and writing assignments

All choir students will be assigned numbered music and all sheet music passed out will correspond to their number. All copies of sheet music supplied to the students must be returned after each concert in good condition with all markings erased. If sheet music is lost or damaged, students are responsible for the cost of new copies (publisher cost + shipping & handling).

***Concert Attire and Expense***

Both the HMS choir and band departments require the same uniforms for all performance occasions. The uniform is as follows:

 HMS Music shirt – to be ordered through music teacher ($15.00)

 Tan Khaki Pants – Parent responsibility

 Dark Socks - Parent responsibility

Dark Shoes - Parent responsibility

**Choir Concert Dates**

**Date What Where When**

Monday, Oct. 22nd Fall MS Choir Concert Location TBD 7:00pm Sunday, Dec. 9th MS Collage Concert HS Gym 2:00pm

Sunday, February 3rd Choral Music Gala HS Performing Arts 4:00pm

March 6/7/8 MS Choral Festival TBA TBA

Tuesday, May 21st Spring MS Choir Concert Central Auditorium 7:00pm

***Syllabus Agreement***

***Return only this page by Thursday, August 30th. This is a 10-point assignment!***

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***By signing this form, I have read the above information and understand all of the expectations within.***

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Saxon Choirs**

**Travel Permission Form**

During the year, your child will have the opportunity to take educational trips to various places both in and outside the community. A signed permission form is required for vocal faculty to allow your child to participate in all 2018-2019 educational trips. Examples include the 6/7/8th grade choir trips to choral festival and caroling at nursing homes.

Parent / Guardian Signature

Name of Student

Parent Contact Information

Typically, Mr. Callaghan and Mrs. Byykkonen will communicate most of the time through email, but would like to have your most up to date contact information as well so they can call or mail information throughout the year as needed.

Please list the best contact information for all fields listed below.

Parent Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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