

Bel Canto Choir Syllabus

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Course Description: Students will focus on singing as an ensemble as we prepare music for concerts. We will focus on learning to read music, singing expressively, and utilizing good vocal techniques. Students will have the chance to learn 4 part harmonies and pieces of various genres and styles. Homework will be practice time (preferably 20-30 minutes a day, 4 to 5 times a week) and practice tracks will be provided. Throughout the semester, I will also assign students to a song that we will be performing, have them write a short summary about the piece (history, description of the piece, etc.), and present it in class. I will then work with students to edit their summaries and will include them in the program for the concert. We will be working towards a concert at the end of each semester. Concert date is TBD. No prior choir experience is needed.

Course Goal: My goal is to assist in the development of each singer in their knowledge, skill, and comprehension of singing as art. High standards are the first building blocks for high achievement. I strive to set high, yet achievable, standards for my ensemble members and will do all I can to help them grow as musicians. That being said, musical growth requires significant effort from every individual, and in our rehearsals, I expect students to present themselves in a professional manner and give 100% of their effort.

Each of the objectives listed below will be addressed on a weekly basis in rehearsal.

Course Objectives: By the completion of the semester, all students will be expected to accomplish the following:

Vocal Skills

1. Demonstrate growth in music reading and aural skills in regular rehearsals and performance.
2. Demonstrate appropriate vocal technique (including proper breath control and good tone quality) in regular rehearsals and performances.
3. Demonstrate appropriate choral singing technique (including balance, blend, and intonation) in regular rehearsals and performances.
4. Demonstrate musical performance of all the focus literature (including note accuracy, memorization, and musicality) in regular rehearsals and performances.

Musical Knowledge

1. Demonstrate knowledge of musical terminology reflected in the focus literature.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical background of the focus literature as presented in rehearsals.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic form and structure of the focus literature as presented in rehearsals.
4. Demonstrate the ability to critically listen and evaluate the musical performance of the ensemble.

Grading Policy:

- Attendance (Rehearsal, Concerts) 70%

- Formative (Song Summaries, Memorization, Mastery of music) 30%

Late Policy: Students are allowed 2 free passes with no grade repercussion. I will count students tardy if they come to class 15 minutes late. 3 tardies will equal 1 free pass. I ask that students communicate with me to let me know if they will miss a class or have issues with attendance. I truly appreciate communication and am more lenient when I am a part of the conversation.

Materials & Supplies: You will be issued music for your class/choir. It is your responsibility to come to class with your music, water bottle and a pencil each day. If you lose your music, there will be a small fee for each piece of music lost.

You will also need to be able to access a Google Classroom portal (which you will need an email for) and have an account for BandLab (for practice tracks - you will also need an email for this) which you can access through the app or through an internet browser. We will discuss how to use these tools on the first day of class.

Calendar: The Bel Canto Choir Calendar is still in progress, but you will have a copy by the 3rd week of school. You will still have plenty of time to secure transportation and conflict issues. Remember that attendance at all concerts and events is mandatory.