2018-2019 Junior High Choir Syllabus

Mrs. Jenna Mkhwanazi (mmm-kwa-nah-zee)

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Choir Office: (507) 836-6184 ext. 4144

1. Description

Junior High Choir is a mixed choral ensemble with voices of various ranges. The ensemble performs several concerts throughout the year as well as at certain community functions. Students are encouraged to participate in choir year long as the goals and objectives are ongoing throughout both semesters.

1. What Choir Stands for in this Room.

**C**ollaboration: Work as a Team

**H**umanity: Care for Others. Respect rights and property of others.

**O**penness: Be open to new ideas and cultures.

**I**deas: Communicate your ideas and accept other ideas.

**R**esponsibility: Take responsibility for your part in choir.

1. Choir Rehearsal Procedures

Entering and Exiting -

1. Attendance is taken at every class. If the bell rings, you are already tardy. You must have a pass if you are late to class or you will be marked tardy.
2. Mrs. Mkhwanazi is responsible for dismissing the choir. The bell does not dismiss class.
3. No running.
4. Line up by rows.

Asking for help -

1. Raise Hand.
2. If others are working on project or assignment, wait for teacher to come to you before stating question.

Using Bathroom -

1. Sign your name and in/out times.
2. Take Bathroom Pass with you.

Transitions -

1. No talking during transitions.
2. Look for Signals from teacher.

Basic Student Responsibilities:

1. Every choir member is expected to participate to their fullest ability and be an actively engaged singer during rehearsal. If you are sick, or cannot sing for some reason, please let Mrs. Mkhwanazi know before class begins. Hard work is expected, it is not an option.
2. Every choir member is expected to keep their folder current with the music being rehearsed. Folders and pencils will be checked periodically to see if all the music is there. Missing music in your folder or lost folder may result in a lower grade and/or fee penalties.
	1. **Missing Folder**: $20
	2. **Missing Music**: Varies but generally between $2-$5 per score.
3. If you are absent for any reason from class, it is your responsibility to find out if assignments were distributed.
4. Except for a water bottle, absolutely NO FOOD OR DRINK is permitted in the choir room.
5. NO GUM allowed in the choir room at any time! Students will receive a lowered participation grade for the day if caught with gum in class.
6. You are responsible for learning your part in the music. There may be periodic singing tests to see if you know your part.
7. Keep your area neat and clean.
8. Daily attendance is expected.

Phone Policy: No Phones Allowed EXCEPT when teacher asks for you to bring them to class. (Which may happen!)

1. Performances

 **Absences**

* Absences are excused **ONLY** for illness or a family emergency.
* All members are expected to attend all concerts during the school year.
* All members are expected to be in the auditorium at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the concert unless otherwise announced.
* Unexcused absences will be a zero and significantly drop your grade.
* All other excused absences need to be verified by me **at least 2 weeks** before the concert, and will need to be made up.

 **Performance Dress**

* Men: Black Dress Pants with White dress shirt.
* Women: Black dress or same as men.
* Black Shoes with no more than a two inch heel are your responsibility to get before the first concert.
	+ Please speak with director if you need help obtaining black shoes.

1. Grading
* 40% Classroom Participation: Every student will receive a daily participation grade that is worth 2 points and a listening grade worth 2 points. These points are based on their involvement during rehearsal and how prepared they are for class.
* 25% Performances: All performances are **REQUIRED** (look under required events on your calendar). Unexcused absences will result in a “0”. Excused absences will result in a make-up assignment to earn the points back.
* 15% Assessments: Singing and written tests will be given periodically to evaluate students' progress. Singing tests will be done in small groups or individually on music or concepts studied in class. Written tests will be based on concepts discussed and taught in class (rhythm, music theory, music history, songfacts).
* 10% Projects: Students will be required to participate in 1 project as part of their grade each semester. Topics include (but are not limited to): Composers, Music from other Cultures, and Particular Songs. Students will also assess themselves in a self reflection/concert reflection at the end of each concert.
* 10% Lessons/Sectionals: One sectional and one private lesson will be provided by Mrs. Mkhwanazi to work on concert music, solo and ensemble scores, All State solos, and/or honor choir repertoire.

\*\*If someone is found **cheating**, the assignment is marked as a zero.

Grading Scale:

 A = 93-100% B- = 80-82% D+ = 67-69%

 A- = 90-92% C+ = 77-79% D = 63-66%

 B+ = 87-89% C = 73-76% D- = 60-62%

 B = 83-86% C- = 70-72% F = 0-59%

IMPORTANT: Behavioral Policy

Disrespectful or inappropriate behavior during rehearsals will NOT be tolerated. Everyone should enjoy Choir and have a positive experience. In order for this to happen, everyone must follow the rules. When this happens, we can use the time we have to make music, relax, and have fun. Here is my behavioral policy:

1st Offence - Guidance from teacher.

2nd Offence - Lost Participation and Listening Points.

3rd Offence - Parent Contact

4th Offence - Administration Contact and/or Parent Conference

Depending on Severity of Behavior, the order of this list may change.

*Additional topics to discuss in upcoming weeks:*

* Assignment procedures. Makeup Work.
* A.P. Academy
* “Fun Friday”
* Classroom Rental Center
* Classroom Jobs
* Hypothetical Discipline Examples

2018-2019 Schedule and Opportunities

MCC JH Choir

**Required Events:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tuesday | October 16 | Fall 7-12 Choir Concert | 6:00 PM |
| Monday | November 12 | Veterans Day Program | TBD |
| Monday | December 17 | Winter 7-12 Choir Concert | 8:00 PM |
| Monday | March 11 | Spring 7-12 Choir Concert | 8:00 PM |
| TBD | TBD | Choir Festival (JH Only) | During School Day |
| Friday | May 17 | May 7-12 Choir Concert | 8:00 PM |

**Strongly Encouraged Singing Opportunities:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Thursday-Saturday | November 8-10 | Fall Musical | 7:00 PM |
| TBD | TBD | ACDA Junior High Honor Choirs (7th and 8th Grade Only) | All Day |

MCC Choir Contract

**Student:** By signing this, I certify that I have read the syllabus and understand all obligations and information for participation in the MCC vocal music program. I will do my best at all times and will meet all performance requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Student Signature

**Parent:** As a parent of MCC Choir member, I understand that the director is asking for my help in seeing that my son/daughter attends all rehearsals and performances and that he/she is prepared for their beneficial participation in choir.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name Parent Signature

**Parent Email:** Please provide an email address to be added to the MCC Music Boosters mailing list. All parents of 7-12 choir members are automatically members of the Music Boosters. This will help keep you informed of any Music Boosters news, announcements, and fundraising. I will also send out emails about our classroom and upcoming events.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email

**DUE BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**