

Mellon Middle School Choir Guidelines

2020-2021

******Updated to reflect fully remote learning aspects******
******Please note the bold/italics print. These are changes from the “brick and mortar” document.******



Mrs. Marlo Rankin, Director

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Primary Objective:

Students will work together to express emotion and ideas through the performance of vocal music.

Prerequisite:

There is no prerequisite for Choir at Mellon Middle School. Qualifications include the desire to sing, participate, and perform in a musical ensemble.

Three-year (total program) Goals:

1. Understand the vocal mechanism (anatomy) as it relates to healthy singing technique.
2. Attain proficiency in aural skills (pitch and interval discrimination), sight-singing/reading (musical notation/theory), and use of solfege (tonal pitch assignments).
3. Experience a variety of high-quality choral literature and performance opportunities.

Content Requirements:

Participation in choral music has educational objectives consistent with other disciplines within the school with the added dimension of musical performance in the public setting. Chorus is a curricular class. Vocal music is designed to provide young musicians with critical thinking skills, enabling them to comprehensively speak the language of music through vocal music performance. Musical instruction focuses on the following concepts:

1. Following instructions (non-verbal from the conductor and verbal from the teacher)
2. Vocal technique as taught by the teacher
3. Music reading skills and applied theory
4. Large group (ensemble) performance
5. Active listening training (musical and verbal)
6. Balance (volume and dynamics)
7. Intonation (singing in tune)
8. Historical and cultural perspective of repertoire
9. Music theory and ear training using the Kodaly solfege system
10. Stylistic interpretation of vocal music

Students will:

1. Accurately follow the conductor's gestures
2. Demonstrate self-control and appropriate class participation in a large group setting
3. Be on-time and prepared for every class with a pencil
4. Complete written theory assignments and take rhythm reading quizzes
5. Perform a voice evaluation alone or with a partner at least 2 times a year
6. Participate in all required performances and rehearsals
7. Follow all classroom rules

Repertoire:

Students will be exposed to a wide variety of choral literature throughout the year drawn from any of all of the following traditions: Western art and classical music, music of folk origin, music

of non-Western origin, American pop culture, jazz, and musical theater. Music will be selected by the director on the following basis:

1. Appropriate voicing and difficulty level
2. Appropriateness for performance by Mellon Middle School Choirs
3. Value as a representative composition of a significant style
4. Innate qualities which make it appealing to perform

Class Materials:

*****ALL materials will be provided by Mrs. Rankin. Students will be required to have their own pencils.*****

Evaluation/Grading:

Chorus is graded like other classes. An automatic "A" should not be expected.

Throughout the course of the school year, students will be evaluated on any of all of the following:

- Preparedness for class with folder and music and pencil
- Classroom participation and attendance
- Rehearsal participation and attendance
- Performance participation and attendance (with appropriate attire)
- Score markings in music (kept in Chorus Folder)
- Sight Singing notes, exercises, and quizzes/tests (kept in Chorus Folder)
- Music Theory notes, exercises, and quizzes/tests (kept in Chorus Folder)

Behavior/Expectations:

It is my expectation that the Chorus Room (*****Synchronous Virtual Classroom*****) will be an environment of respect, safety, and enjoyment for EACH student who wishes to pursue an education in vocal music. An environment that is less than ideal for the rigorous making of excellent choral music will not be tolerated. Infractions, should they occur, will be addressed according to the discipline policies and procedures outlined in the Mellon Middle School Student Handbook. Infractions include, but are not limited to, bullying, cheating, plagiarism, a disrespectful attitude toward peers and/or teacher(s), and disruption of the learning environment.

*****Fully remote learning procedures*****

1. **All students will access Chorus via the Google Classroom link on the Clever homepage.**
2. **Chorus will be presented synchronously to replicate the "brick and mortar" learning experience. I understand that there will be challenges to this mode of learning, but full cooperation from students/parents will be essential in creating a successful learning environment.**

- 3. In order to provide synchronous learning, students will be required to attend class via google meet on their scheduled day and time. A google meet link will be shared with students. This link will be the students' point of access to class each day.**
- 4. Attendance will be taken in class daily.**
- 5. Proper singing technique can NOT be accomplished while lying down! Students will need to be seated in a chair with room to stand when necessary.**
- 6. While I understand that students may be reluctant to participate in class on camera, in order to provide an experience as close to the "brick and mortar" experience, I need to be able to see students' faces, posture, breath support, etc. Please make an effort to find a place in your home where you will feel most comfortable to participate in class.**
- 7. Occasionally, students will be asked to record a particular vocal passage and submit for a grade. Please know that you may record as many times as you feel necessary, and submit the one you feel is best. We will have several "fun" assignments to give students practice in recording and submitting assignments in google classroom.**
- 8. Occasionally, students will have written assignments/assessments, music theory assignments/assessments, and rhythm assignments/assessments. These assignments/assessments will be posted in the google classroom, and will be submitted through the google classroom.**
- 9. Currently, I am working on performance opportunities for each grade. More information will be shared when plans are finalized.**
- 10. If you have questions, please email me at mrankin@mtlsd.net.**

Every new school year brings many feelings of anxiety, fear, and excitement. This year is no different. I look forward to working together to make this school year the best it can be!

----Mrs. Rankin