

# **Choral Music**

## *Course Syllabus*

### *Judson High School 2021-2022*

#### **I. Course Information and Prerequisite**

The Judson Choral Department is composed of 7 ensembles within 3 class periods. Non-varsity choir classes have no prerequisite; Varsity choir classes require demonstration of sight-singing skills, aural skills, and vocal ability through audition.

#### **II. Instructor Information**

Tiffany Cristo and Grant Lyons share teaching duties for all choral classes. Mrs. Cristo is a proud graduate of Judson HS Choir, is entering her fourteenth year in education, and is happy to be teaching here for a sixth year. She attended the University of the Incarnate Word and holds her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education. Grant Lyons is starting his second year at Judson and sixteenth as a choral educator. He attended the University of North Texas for his Bachelor of Art degree in Music Education and the University of Iowa for a Master of Art in Choral Conducting and Pedagogy.

#### **III. Course Description**

Choral classes at Judson are performance-based courses that emphasize vocal development, artistry, music literacy, and exploring a variety of music genres. Daily coursework is structured in performance units. Instruction is aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for music. Students participate in five required concerts per year. Eligible students will compete in the UIL contest in the spring.

There are additional opportunities for elective competitions through the Texas Music Educators Association and UIL.

#### **IV. Course Objectives**

Students completing a choral class will demonstrate the following:

- Improvement in sight-singing skills
- Vocal development
- Basic music literacy (identifying music symbols and score navigation)
- Understanding of performance etiquette
- Understanding of historical and cultural influences on choral music
- Improvement in self-confidence and stage presence
- Development of critical listening skills

#### **V. Course Expectations and Requirements**

The Judson Choral Department has a distinguished reputation throughout the state. Members of the Judson choirs are joining a decades-long legacy of excellence. In order to preserve that legacy, expectations are as follows:

- Daily active participation in class activities
- Abiding by all classroom expectations and guidelines
- Accountability with forms, fundraisers, and deadlines
- Completion of assignments on time
- Attendance at required outside rehearsals
- Attendance at required concerts

## VI. **Course Policies**

- Classroom management: Students and parents will sign and return a discipline agreement included in the First Day Packet. This agreement addresses concert etiquette, rehearsal and concert attendance, and classroom behavior.
- Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and may result in a zero for the assigned work.
- Late work: Students will follow the JISD policy on turning in late assignments.
- Electronic Devices: Cell phones must remain silent and put away during instructional time. Students will receive advance notification if the use of a cell phone is necessary for a lesson.
- Food and Drink: Open food/drink containers will not be allowed into the choir room. Water is the only beverage allowed on the choir risers.

## VII. **Grading**

Assessments vary according to the nine weeks. Students will be evaluated in the following areas: sight-singing, knowledge of individual vocal part, memorization, music history and literacy concepts, musical notation, vocal skills, and necessary music theory concepts. Students also will receive grades for classroom participation, written work, and attendance at concerts and outside rehearsals.

**Tests (concerts included) 40%**

**Daily Grades 60%**

## VIII. **Course Calendar**

Students and parents will receive a course calendar along with their First Day Packet. This calendar lists all required and elective events for the school year.

## IX. **Learning Resources**

Tutoring: Students may be asked to attend tutoring after school. In addition, peer tutoring is frequently utilized during class time to reinforce learning.

Online resources: Students can find online recordings of music they are working on in class through YouTube, iTunes Sight Reading Factory, and other music databases. Students are encouraged to research their music using various online search engines.

There are numerous websites that can assist students in developing aural skills and strengthening their understanding of music notation and music theory. Some popular websites include:

[MusicTheory.net](http://MusicTheory.net) -- Helpful website with lessons and quizzes over basic music reading to advanced chord analysis

[GMajorMusicTheory.org](http://GMajorMusicTheory.org) -- Similar to MusicTheory.net, lessons and quizzes for basic music reading.

There are also numerous helpful mobile applications available for Android and iOS

## X. **Contact Information**

Mrs. Cristo and Mr. Lyons may be reached by phone or email. The choir room phone number is 210.566.7563. Mrs. Cristo's email address is [tcristo@judsonisd.org](mailto:tcristo@judsonisd.org); Mr. Lyons' email address is [glyons@judsonisd.org](mailto:glyons@judsonisd.org).