



Choir/2025-26/6-12th Instructional Plan

Created on 8/11/2025

Contact Information

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Choir is a year-long performance-based course designed to help students grow as musicians, vocalists, and ensemble members. Students will learn proper vocal techniques, music literacy (including sight-reading and music theory), rehearsal etiquette, and performance skills. Choir members will explore diverse musical styles, cultures, and historical contexts while participating in concerts, contests, and community events.

The course promotes confidence, collaboration, critical thinking, and artistic expression. No prior experience is required for beginning choir; advanced placements may require an audition and/or teacher approval.

COURSE ACTIVITIES (What we will be doing)

Below you will find descriptions of the most common activities that students will participate in during the course of each semester.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Learn and apply proper vocal technique including breath control, tone production, diction, posture, and projection
- Rehearse and perform choral music in multiple languages and from various genres, cultures, and time periods
- Develop music literacy through sight-reading, rhythm exercises, solfège, and notation reading
- Prepare for public performances such as fall and spring concerts, holiday events, and school ceremonies
- Participate in University Interscholastic League (UIL) Concert & Sight-Reading Evaluation, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and other festivals (as applicable)
- Engage in individual and group assessments, listening activities, music analysis, and reflection
- Collaborate in a team-based environment to achieve ensemble goals and showcase musical excellence

GRADES - Click here for → [YWLA Grading Policy](#)

Major (Tests, Performances, Projects)	60%
Minor (Daily Participation, Music Theory Practice, Written Reflections)	40%

Classroom Resources

- Sheet Music (Provided by the teacher or school)
- Google Classroom (assignments, recordings, announcements, digital/PDF sheet music)
- Sight-Reading Factory (Online sight-reading practice)
- Practice Tracks (shared via Google Drive in their Google Classroom)

Exam Date

Performance-based assessments (concerts and contests) will serve as summative evaluations.

Dates will be announced well in advance. Examples include:

- Fall Concert
- Winter/ Holiday Concert
- UIL Contest
- Spring Concert

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS (CED Breakdown and Description)

Unit 1: Vocal Foundations & Ensemble Skills

- Breathing, posture, tone production, diction
- Team building, rehearsal etiquette, unison & part-singing

Unit 2: Music Literacy & Sight-Reading

- Solfège, rhythmic dictation, note reading
- Applying theory to repertoire

Unit 3: Choral Repertoire & Interpretation

- Musical expression, dynamics, phrasing
- Historical and cultural context of pieces

Unit 4: Performance Preparation

- Rehearsal planning, memorization, stage presence
- Audience etiquette and concert reflection

Unit 5: Evaluation & Feedback

- Self and peer assessments
- Goal setting and improvement plans



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Optional Materials/Resources

Students may benefit from having:

- A personal folder for sheet music is recommended to help complete assignments outside of class
- 2 Pencils with erasers (*required daily*)
- Highlighter
- Water bottle (for vocal health) -Must be fully sealed in order to be kept with the student during class
- Access to digital recordings and practice tools outside of school

Anything else you want to include for your course:

- Attendance at scheduled performances is mandatory and serves as major grades.
- Students will be given plenty of notice and a detailed performance calendar.
- Rehearsal and concert behavior is graded and reflects overall commitment.
- Voice placement or section changes may occur based on vocal development.
- Leadership opportunities may be available for section leaders or student conductors.

UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Participation Policy - Assessment for All Students

Participation in UIL Concert & Sight-Reading (C&SR) is not open to all choir students by default and **is an auditioned ensemble**, similar to All-Region Choir. Students must **successfully pass an audition** to be selected for this event.

Auditions are required and will be recorded individually.

The audition will include:

- A performance of the UIL concert repertoire
- A short sight-reading excerpt

Both components are evaluated, using a grading rubric, to determine readiness, vocal accuracy, musical preparation, and sight-reading ability.

If a student is *not* selected to perform at the UIL event, they are **still required** to complete all UIL-related assignments in Google Classroom and complete an alternate written assignment *outside* of class to meet the equivalent to the end-of-year assessment requirement.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!
