

Willowcreek Choir Course Disclosure

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Class Objectives

1. Students will learn and apply healthy vocal technique and good musicianship to their performances.
2. Students will learn how to sight sing vocal music using solfege.
3. Students will learn how to assess their own and others' musical performances to develop a better musical ear.

Materials Required

1. A pencil NOT a pen
2. Lined paper (notebook or loose-leaf is fine)
3. A water bottle

Classroom Rules

Students are expected to maintain appropriate behavior at all times. Our class has three main rules:

1. I will respect myself, my peers, and my teacher.
2. I am responsible for my own actions.
3. I will do my best at all times.

With these rules follow several specific policies. Choir students are expected to be on task when in class. To facilitate this, cell phones are NOT allowed out in class (unless I am given legitimate reason beforehand BY THE PARENT). Any cell phone that is out in class will be confiscated and taken to the front office at the end of the day without warning, regardless of if they are actually being used or not. **In other words, if I see it, I will take it: No excuses.**

Food and/or drink are NOT allowed in the classroom, including gum. It is impossible to stay focused and sing with a healthy sound when food or drink is in the mouth. With the exception of water, students should not eat or drink during class. Students are encouraged to stay hydrated and keep a bottle of water with them during class and to come already having eaten breakfast or lunch (depending on the time of day).

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to sing a lot. In order to sing with a good and healthy sound, students must come to class healthy, nourished (having eaten breakfast or lunch), well hydrated, and well rested. If you are sick, email me the morning of and PLEASE STAY HOME and get better. You can make up the absence later.

Students are also expected to remain in the class for the entire period. Please use the bathroom before coming to class. Each term, students will be given ONE hall pass that is to be used solely for the bathroom. This pass cannot be replaced if it is lost or destroyed. Any unused passes at the end of the term will be collected and students who have not used their pass can be awarded 1 extra point to their attendance grade (see grading policies below for more details) OR trade it in for a piece of candy.

Grading

Your grade will be based on a standards grading system. Please pay close attention to this section, as it is completely different from years previous. You will be graded on a scale of 0-4 on 5 standards. Each standard will have a single assignment for it listed in Skyward that will be updated daily based on how the student is doing in class. The scale is as follows:

- 4 = Advanced Mastery
- 3 = Mastery
- 2 = Emerging Mastery
- 1 = No Mastery
- 0 = No Attempt

This means that students who meet the minimum requirements in a particular standard will receive a 3, which translates to a B in our current grading system. To receive a 4 (equivalent to an A), students must demonstrate exceptional mastery in that particular standard. Any student who receives a 0 on any of the 5 standards will be given an "I" grade until the work is made up.

In Skyward, these scores will be represented as follows:

- 4 (A) = 85-100%
- 3 (B) = 70-85%
- 2 (C) = 50-70%
- 1 (D) = 25-50%
- 0 (F) = 0-25%
- 0 (I) = Any of the 5 standards scores 0

Below is a chart explaining what each standard is and how to earn each score. If you truly want to receive an advanced mastery score, you must meet ALL of the criteria.

Rehearsal Skills (15%)

4	<p>Student completes ALL criteria from 1-3 AND</p> <p>Student comes PREPARED to class with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Student ate breakfast (morning classes) or lunch (afternoon classes) before class.○ Student has water bottle.○ Student got 6-10 hours of sleep (no more, no less) <p>Student is PROACTIVE in rehearsal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Student marks scores without being asked.○ Student admits own mistakes and works to fix them.○ Student asks questions to further understanding. <p>Student is ON TASK at all times by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Student's pencil is out and ready.○ Student's paper is out and ready.○ Student is seated BEFORE the bell rings.
3	<p>Student completes ALL criteria from 1-2 AND</p> <p>Student comes PREPARED to class with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Student's voice is healthy enough to sing.○ Student completes homework assignment if given. <p>Student is PROACTIVE in rehearsal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Student sings with full voice.○ Student puts forth best effort.○ Student cleans up after themselves.

	Student is ON TASK at all times by doing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student follows class rules and procedures. Student's music is out and ready. Student's phone is out of sight and turned off. Student follows ALL directions without complaint. Student is not eating, drinking (except water), or chewing gum.
2	Student completes ALL criteria from 1 AND Student is ON TASK at all times by doing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student talks only when appropriate. Student is singing when they are supposed to. Student stops singing when asked.
1	Student is in attendance OR Student absence was excused (rehearsal skills will not be docked if the absence is excused). If you must be absent for any reason, please email Mr. Johanson that morning.
0	Student follows none of the rules above.

Rehearsal Attendance (15%)

4	Student is in attendance for the ENTIRE period (not including authorized bathroom breaks).
3	Student is absent once OR is late twice.
2	Student is absent twice OR is late three times.
1	Student is absent three times OR is late four times OR sluffs once.
0	Student is absent four or more times OR is late five or more times OR sluffs more than once.

NOTE: A student can make up an absence by checking out their music and completing a practice log form. For each makeup assignment complete, their rehearsal attendance grade will be raised by one point. Students in an advanced choir must practice for 1 hour. Students in an intermediate choir must practice for 45 minutes. Students in a beginning choir must practice for 30 minutes.

Performances (15%)

4	Student completes ALL criteria from 1-3 AND Student writes an exceptional Self Evaluation (meets criteria from 3 AND): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific evidence from the performance is given. Comments are specific and meaningful. Choir and music appropriate vocabulary is used. Purpose is clearly presented
3	Student completes ALL criteria from 1-2 AND Student arrives on time (no more than 5 minutes late) Student demonstrates appropriate concert etiquette OFF STAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student remains in assigned room (except to use bathroom). Student remains calm and focused. Student picks up after themselves. Student maintains appropriate behavior in assigned room and hallways. Student writes an adequate Self Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self Evaluation explains what went well Self Evaluation explains what could have been improved Comments are general
2	Student completes ALL criteria from 1 AND Student arrives a little late without prior notice (5-10 minutes late) Student demonstrates appropriate concert etiquette ON STAGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student does not purposefully draw attention to themselves. Student maintains focus on the conductor while singing. Student maintains professional demeanor during applause. Student enters and exits in a professional manner.
1	Student arrives very late without prior notice (over 10 minutes late)
0	Student is not present for the ENTIRE concert (regardless of excuse). Leaving early is not acceptable.

Vocal Skills (25%)

Once every term, students will complete a singing test in person with Mr. Johanson. Some of these may be during class while others may be after school during Late Bus Tuesdays. In the event that they are after school, students will be given ample notice and allowed to sign up for specific time slots to plan their schedules accordingly. Each test will have it's own rubric based on a scale of 0-4.

Music Literacy Skills (25%)

Throughout the year, students will be given several quizzes and tests covering basic musical skills discussed in class. Unless otherwise denoted on the test, the test will be graded as follows:

4	Student scores 90% or higher on the test or quiz.
3	Student scores between 80% and 89% on the test or quiz.
2	Student scores between 60% and 79% on the test or quiz.
1	Student scores below 60% on the test or quiz.
0	Student does not attempt the test or quiz.

Choir Concerts and Performances

All performances are mandatory. Everything we do in class culminates in these performances. Please treat it as if it were a final exam in choir. If a student does not show up for the concert, they cannot receive credit for it without making it up. To make up a concert for full credit, the student must follow the following guidelines. If either of the criteria is not met, the student cannot receive higher than a 2 on their Performance standard.

1. **The excuse must be unavoidable.** Do NOT schedule family outings or any other event during the night of a concert! With proper planning, these issues can be avoided. Your child is expected to be present. The only acceptable excuses are extreme circumstances such as a death in the family, sudden illness that inhibits your ability to sing properly, life-threatening or serious injury, and/or a game (not practice) or performance (not rehearsal) you are otherwise involved in.
2. **Mr. Johanson must receive at least 2 weeks of notice.** To receive full credit, you (THE PARENT) must EMAIL me explaining why your child is missing the concert. Please do not call me or have your child tell me in person. It must be in writing via email to be valid. If further explanation is required, I will reach out to you via phone call. Telling me the day of or after the concert is not acceptable and will result in receiving a 1/4 for the make up assignment. This does not include emergency situations.

Important Performance Dates

Please put these dates in your calendar and plan accordingly so you do not overschedule yourself.

Date	Event	Choir's Involved	Time and Place
November 1	Advanced Choir Festival	Singers Only	During School at Frontier
November 14	Performing Arts Showcase	Singers and Willowtones	During School in Auditorium
November 15	Performing Arts Showcase	Singers and Willowtones	7:00 in Auditorium
November 16	Show Choir Concert	Show Choir Only	7:30 in Auditorium
December 12	Christmas Concert	All Choirs	6:00 and 7:30 in Auditorium 5:00 Call Time
January 25-26	Honor Choir	Auditioned Students Only	TBA at Lakeridge
February 28	Grand Concert	Singers and Willowtones	6:00 and 7:30 in Auditorium
March TBA	SWLL Invitational	Singers and Willowtones	TBA at Skyridge
March 19	Advanced Choir Festival	Singers and Willowtones	During School at Timberline
March 20	Intermediate Choir Festival	WCMC and Wolverette	During School at Willowcreek
May 10	Show Choir Concert	Show Choir Only	7:30 in Auditorium
May 17	Spring Choir Concert	All Choirs	6:00 and 7:30 in Auditorium 5:00 Call Time

Religious Music Disclaimer

All students who belong to a choir at Willowcreek Middle School must understand that we will be singing religious music from many different faiths. The choral tradition began historically in the monasteries all around Europe, hence, in order to have a complete choral experience, we will sing songs with religious undertones in several languages, especially during the winter holiday season. These songs will not be used as a way to preach any religious doctrine, practice, nor rite. Rather, they will be used solely for educational purposes. If any song offends either the student or the parent/guardian, I will happily allow them to opt out of any religious pieces that might make them feel uncomfortable without penalty to the student's grade. Should you wish to "opt-out" of such songs, you must immediately contact me so we can make suitable arrangements.

Class Fees and Fines

Students are required to pay the following fees to rent a uniform for any performances that happen this semester:

Beginning Choir - \$10.00

Intermediate Choir - \$20.00

Advanced Choir - \$40.00

This is a separate fee from registration. If a student does not pay this fee, they will not be given a uniform and will forfeit the privilege to sing in any concerts. This fee must be paid either online or in person to the finance office by September 1.

Uniforms must be turned in at the end of the semester (for semester long choirs) or at the end of the year (for year long choirs). If a student fails to return a uniform, they will be charged replacement fee (the amount depends on the uniform). This fee will be in place on their account until it is either paid in full or the uniform is returned. Students will also be assigned a folder with music in it. This music is property of Willowcreek Middle School and must be treated with respect. The student is responsible to keep track of it. If they lose or damage any music beyond repair, a \$2 restocking fee will be charged to their account for each piece of music that is lost or damaged.

Cut along this line

Name: _____

Period: _____

I have read and understand all the classroom rules and procedures. I have also marked all important dates in my calendar and promise to plan accordingly so that I can be in attendance for all important performance dates.

☐ Check this box if you wish to OPT OUT of religious music.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature