

Freshman Choir Syllabus

2017-2018 School Year

Mrs. Matson

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www.nhschorus.com

Course Outline

The purpose of this class is the study and performance of choral music. Through the study of choral music students will gain skills in sight-reading and musicianship, music history and choral traditions, world music and proper vocal development. Through performance students will gain poise and confidence and the ability to work in groups. Only through teamwork and active listening can a group become a choir and achieve the choral sound. Finally, it is the goal of this course to create life-long lovers of music and advocates of the arts in their communities.

Required Course Materials

The following items will be required for each and every class:

- Music Folder (provided)
- Choral Music (provided)
- Pencil

General Rules / Policies

- Arrive on time to class
- No food or drink allowed in the choral room (water is allowed)
- Please do not take out phones in class unless instructed to by the teacher.
- Please do not chew gum.
- Please do not wear hats
- Please adhere to all rules outlined in the Student Handbook.

Attendance/Tardy

Strong choral performances are dependent on regular participation of all those in the group. The attendance policy will follow the one outlined in the Newtown High School Student Handbook. Furthermore, class cuts will result in a 10-point drop in the participation grade given every other Friday. Unexcused lateness to class will result in a 5-point drop in the participation grade given every other Friday. Three or more instances of cutting class or tardiness will result in a referral to AP.

Folders

In the Choirs at Newtown High School, your folder and any music distributed are owned by Newtown High School. All music that will be handed to you is your responsibility. If your music is damaged, lost or stolen, you will be responsible for any replacement costs. The costs will be as follows:

\$5.00 per missing octavo or single choral piece.

\$15.00 per missing folder.

(Payment must be made by check.)

Expectations / Grading Policy

Classroom Participation (60%) Students will be expected to participate fully in class. They will receive a participation grade every other week in line with the following rubric:

- 20** *The student is attentive and inquisitive, freely asking and answering questions. The student is mostly ready when it is time to sing and is open to suggestions and*

recommendations on their section's singing. The student positively effects the learning environment through example and leadership.

- 14** *The student is mostly attentive but does not ask or answer any questions. The student is sometimes ready when it is time to sing. The student takes some time to refocus in the middle of class and at times has brief conversations with his or her peers. The student positively effects the learning environment through example and leadership.*
- 7** *The student is rarely attentive and does not ask or answer questions. The student is sometimes ready when it is time to sing. The student often talks in class but does not create general classroom disturbances. At times the student can negatively effect the learning environment.*
- 0** *The student is not attentive and does not ask or answer any questions. The student is rarely ready when it is time to sing. The student negatively effects the learning environment through outbursts and other disruptive behavior.*

Tests / Quizzes / Homework (20%)

Students will be expected to display their progress periodically through written, oral and performance tests and quizzes. Students will also be assigned periodic homework assignments.

Written – Students will be expected to identify, for example, key signatures, time signatures, rhythms and solfege. Students will also be asked questions regarding the literature used in class.

Oral – Students will be asked to sight-sing using solfege periodically.

Performance Tests – Students will be placed in quartets and asked to perform sections of the literature used in class.

Concerts (20%)

Students will be expected to perform in all choir performances (see calendar). Performances are a culmination of a unit of work and cannot be made up. Students who miss any required performances will receive a zero for their performance grade. In the event of a family emergency or illness, a valid doctor's note and confirmation in writing from a parent will allow the student to write a report to make up the grade.

Choral Dresses / Tuxedos

A Choral Uniform is required for participation in the Choirs at Newtown High School, as stated in the Program of Studies. Students cannot perform without a uniform and will receive a zero for their performance grade if they are not properly attired.

The Choral Parents Organization generously donates their time to see to fittings and payments. The fee for Freshman is \$120, which includes the \$40 fitting and alteration fee and \$80 for the cost of a four-year rental. Forms will be sent out at the beginning of the year. If there is a financial issue or you have any questions please contact the Choral Parents Organization at nhschoral@gmail.com. All parents are members of the Choral Parents Organization and welcome to attend the general meetings. We welcome your ideas and your input. Information regarding meeting dates will be forthcoming.

Parents/Guardians please sign this form; students are expected to return it on or before Friday September 8, 2017.

Parent/Guardian Print Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____