

Concert Choir Grading Policy

Rehearsal Participation (30%)

Students can receive up to 5 points per rehearsal. The “Participation” grade is divided into three different categories.

Effort (3pts.)- Students are actively engaged throughout the entire rehearsal. This means that all choir rules are adhered to and appropriate behavior and participation remains constant throughout the entire class. Everyone begins with a 5 and **a 5-Point scale will generally follow but is not limited to the following:**

5=Satisfactory Rehearsal Conduct, Positive Participation

4=Low Energy and Interest Level

3=Poor Posture with Low Energy and Interest Level

2=Distracting Conduct as in Gum Chewing, Eating Food in Class, and/or Talking

1=Lack of energy, Poor Posture and Excessive talking, Gum Chewing, Cell Phone Usage

***The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class time. Any use of unsolicited cell phone usage will result in an automatic zero for participation for the day and can not be earned back during class. In addition a referral will be sent to Mr. Flagg for breaking the district Bell to Bell device policy.**

Preparedness (1pts.)- Students are responsible for bringing their materials at the start and duration of every rehearsal. Students may receive a materials deduction if they come to class without any of the following materials. The following are examples of day to day things and are not limited to:

1. Music folder & sheet music
2. Pencils
3. Rhythm sheets and sight singing exercises
4. Concert dress (for concerts only)

Punctuality (1pt.) - Students are expected to be in their seats ready to sing at the bell. “Ready to sing” is defined as having all required materials, sitting in your assigned seat and fully assembled by the designated time. Due to first period attendance, all unexcused tardies will also result in discipline action outlined in the district attendance policy.

Lessons (30%):

All HS choral singers will be required to attend voice lessons as required by the state curriculum guidelines. Due to my limited availability, all lessons will be scheduled during 2nd and 3rd period. Each student should receive approximately 2 lessons per 5 weeks depending on the school calendar with some cushion in there for makeup lessons if needed. Each student should receive 1 lesson during 3rd period and 1 lesson during 4th period throughout each 5 week period. This number will change for some students depending on a variety of scheduling factors. The format of the lessons will be a little different than choir in that we will be covering many topics that we have been lacking for the better part of a decade now within our allotted rehearsal time. Each lesson will cover things such as, technique, theory, literacy, breathing and support, analysis, phonics, and

more of the cultural aspects of the music we perform. I will be as flexible as I can while still meeting the requirements that we have set. Lesson schedules will be sent out via google classroom and to each teacher via email and I will build in make up time should conflicts arise.

Concerts/Tests (30%): Attendance is **mandatory** at all school concert events and is graded based on a performance rubric out of 100 points. Due to the importance of performances in our curriculum, concerts are weighted as test grades. There will be two major tests during the year (midterm and final) and there may be smaller assessments depending on in class learning.

Homework: (10%)

Homework will be assigned throughout the year. Each assignment is worth 10 points and generally focuses on music literacy components we are studying in class. In addition to written assignments, students may also complete any of the following assignments for extra-credit up to 10% of a student's quarterly grade.

1. Individual singing assessment administered by Mr. Decker or through performing in the NYSSMA solo festival (Students may perform a sight-reading exercise, their choral music, NYSSMA solo, or other teacher approved assessment)
2. Participation in an after school vocal ensemble (extra-curricular or other community group). If you participate in a choir at church for example, your director must email me to confirm the frequency of the rehearsals.
3. Attend a concert or performance outside of the school day (school related or other) and submit a brief review and description of what occurred. A review guideline will be provided by Mr. Decker to assist your critique of the performance.
4. Other teacher-approved extra credit. If you have an idea, discuss it with Mr. Decker

Mid-Term/Final Exam:

A student's overall choir grade including midterm and final exams grades. So that I don't lock the class into a specific format this year, these grades may be administered through a traditional written test, performance, assignment, or other method determined by myself. Dates are yet to be determined and will occur towards the end of the first and second semesters.