

Franklinton High School Choir

Mr. Cameron McDonald, Choir Teacher

(919) 494-2332 ext. 321111

cameronmcdonald@fcschools.net

bit.ly/fhschoral | [@fhs_choraldept](https://www.instagram.com/fhs_choraldept)

Syllabus 2025-2026

Welcome to the 2025 Fall Semester!

OBJECTIVES OF THE FHS CHORAL DEPARTMENT

Students will have the opportunity:

- To develop and demonstrate healthy vocal technique (posture, breathing, resonance, phonation) and choral technique (balance, blend, tone color, diction, musicality)
- To identify and describe elements of music theory (notation, key, and time signatures, music symbols, dynamic markings)
- To develop music literacy through a systematic approach to sight-reading
- To experience music from a variety of styles, genres, composers, and historical periods while attempting
- To achieve an artistic expression of the composers' intent
- To listen critically to live and recorded performances
- To perform individually, in small ensembles, and in large groups
- To explore personal creativity through composition, improvisation, and written reflection

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Rehearsal and Concert Attendance

Attendance at extra rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Work is never an excuse to miss a rehearsal or concert. Absences will only be excused if approved by the director upon notification of illness, family emergency, or a school-sponsored event. The director must be notified about a scheduling conflict by the student and parent at least 24 hours in advance of the rehearsal or concert. An unexcused absence will result in a grade of zero for the rehearsal or concert being missed and will greatly impact your overall grade.

Classroom Conduct

- Do not take your bags, textbooks, or purses to your seat.
- No food, drink, or gum is allowed in the room. The only exception is water in a sealable container.
- Arrive at class on time and be in your assigned place before the tardy bell rings. Tardiness and absences will be handled based on the guidelines in the school student handbook.
- Only one person may use the restroom at a time, and you must have permission from the teacher before leaving the classroom.
- The choir director's office, all classroom technology, the pianos, the music library, and other storage containers are off-limits to students unless they have permission from the director.

Concert attire

All students must have the appropriate concert attire for performances throughout the year. If you do not have the required attire, you will not perform in the concert. ([Visual Aid HERE](#))

- **All black.** Outfit options: Black dress pants and black dress shirt. Black dress pants or skirt/top or dress (must be at least knee length). Close-toed dress shoes. No t-shirts, no tears, no tennis shoes, no sandals, no midriiffs, no spaghetti straps, no sleeveless. Think dressy and professional!! - No bright makeup or large jewelry. Hair must be out of your face. Uniformity is key!

Supplies

Students **MUST** have a 1-inch, 3-ring binder for use in class to keep music and assignments together. The student's binder is a part of their grade in this class! Students are also expected to have a sharpened pencil or mechanical pencil **every day!!**

Technology in the Classroom

- **Chromebooks**
 - Chromebooks are not to be used within the classroom unless the teacher has given explicit instruction to do so. If a student has their Chromebook out without permission, the teacher will ask them to close it and put it away. If putting the Chromebook away becomes an issue, contact with administration and the parent/guardian will be issued.
- **Cell Phones**
 - Franklinton High School will follow FCS Board Policy 4318 regarding cell phones: **Devices are NOT powered on, used, displayed, or visible in the classroom setting unless it's for medical purposes.**
 - Cell phones and other electronic devices **may NOT, at any time, disrupt the learning environment for the teacher or other students.**
 - Cell Phone Policy Consequences:
 - **1st and 2nd Offense** - Phone confiscated. Students can pick up at Student Service at the end of the day.
 - **3rd and 4th Offense** - Phone confiscated, and must be picked up by the parent. Office closes at 4:00 pm.
 - **5th Offense** - In-School Suspension or Out-of-School Suspension
 - **Students will be suspended if they do not turn over their phones.**

GRADING POLICY

30%- Participation

being attentive • having a positive attitude • growing as a musician
having proper supplies • showing a good work ethic • demonstrating proper technique
giving the best effort • responding to instruction • self-monitoring

30%- Formative Assessment

quizzes • journal entries • worksheets • binder checks
performance critiques • reflections • self-assessments

40%- Summative Assessment

Performances! • written tests • singing tests

****For every day an assignment is late, 10 points will be deducted!****

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As a parent, please attend concerts, encourage your child, attend parent meetings (*TBD*), serve on a committee (*TBD*), be aware of upcoming events, and ask questions if you need clarification on anything. Please visit our website or Instagram to find more information about the FHS Choral Department at bit.ly/fhschoral or [@fhs_choraldept](https://www.instagram.com/fhs_choraldept).

Communication: The choral department has two main outlets for communicating information to parents and students. Please check for updates regularly and take responsibility for being informed!!

Canvas – Check This WEEKLY!!

- This is the easiest way to stay informed about the choral department. The Canvas page will be updated regularly with detailed information, assignments, schedules, and more.

FHS Choral Department Website

- The FHS choral department will post lots of information about important dates, rehearsals, and concerts as they appear throughout the semester. If you are having any trouble accessing the website, please email Mr. McDonald. Please check this site frequently to stay up to date! **Website Link (Case Sensitive):** bit.ly/fhschoral

BEGINNING CHOIR PARTICULARS

Vocal Ensemble Developing is a semester-long class, although students may choose to participate in both semesters. Students will be required to participate in one performance within the semester and will be expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. If a rehearsal is missed without previous parent notice, the student will earn a grade of zero for that rehearsal. If a concert is missed, the student must complete a make-up assignment within the time given, regardless of parent notification or reason for missing the concert. This assignment is often a written paper that involves research. If a student fails to complete the assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero for the concert. The final exam grade for Vocal Ensemble Developing is a written music theory final exam grade.

ADVANCED CHOIR PARTICULARS

Vocal Ensemble Intermediate, Accomplished, & Advanced is a semester-long class, although students may choose to participate in both semesters. Students will be required to participate in a few performances during the semester and be expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. If a rehearsal is missed without previous parent notice, the student will earn a grade of zero for that rehearsal. If a concert is missed, the student must complete a make-up assignment within the time given, regardless of parent notification or reason for missing the concert. This assignment is often a written paper that involves research. If a student fails to complete the assignment, the student will receive a grade of zero for the concert. The final exam grade for Vocal Ensemble Intermediate, Accomplished, & Advanced is a written music theory final exam grade.

Vocal Ensemble Accomplished & Advanced is listed as an honors course. If you are enrolled in Vocal Ensemble Accomplished & Advanced, you will be required to complete an honors project to pass the class. Details on the honors project will be provided directly to those students at a later date.

****Mr. McDonald has the right to change any part of the syllabus as long as a two-week notice is provided to all students or a mutual agreement between the director and the students is made****

Events Schedule for Fall 2025

(All events listed below are required events!)

Advanced Choir

Event Date	Event Name	Time	Location
10/03/2025	SSB - Homecoming Football Game	6:15 - 7:15 PM	FHS Football Stadium

All Choirs

Event Date	Event Name	Time	Location
12/16/2025	After-School Concert Rehearsal	3:15 - 5:00 PM	FHS Auditorium
12/16/2025	Final Concert!	7:00 - 8:00 PM	FHS Auditorium

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Parent and Student Response

Please fill out and return this page in person to Mr. McDonald by
Monday, September 8th, 2025.

This is your first assignment grade of the year!!!

Keep the rest of the handbook at home for later reference.

Student Name: _____ *** Choir:** _____ *

I have read the attached guidelines and expectations regarding participation in the choir at Franklinton High School and have shared the contents with my parent or guardian. I understand what is expected of me and commit to doing my best for the greater good of the ensemble. My signature and that of my parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge my agreement to comply with the guidelines outlined in this syllabus and my understanding of the consequences if I disregard said guidelines.

Student Signature: _____ *

Student Date: _____ *

Parent/Guardian Signautre: _____ *

Parent/Guardian Date: _____ *

