

MUSIC FORM 1 2025-2026 SYLLABUS

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PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE:

According to the Westminster Catechism, “man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.” A key way of fulfilling this teleological calling is through the mode of worship. Indeed, it is through communal worship that we are able to give God the praise he is due and to mediate upon his everlasting goodness, faithfulness, and beauty. Through worship, we use our bodies as instruments of praise for our Creator, ascribing to him glory and honor via an embodied faith. Further, by singing together as a group, we proclaim our identity as the united Body of Christ. For this reason, the end of music at SBH is to provide a space and time for students to learn, practice, and perform singing as a structured, unified, and effective whole. Put simply, we sing because God commands it, because it is a common artistic birthright as humans, and because we can serve our brothers and sisters in Christ through our combined voices. Thus, the greatest purpose of this class is to glorify and enjoy God through learning to sing individually and corporately with greater beauty, clarity, and musicality.

OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the role and function of singing in our societies in the light of the Gospel.
- To gain confidence and skill in our individual voices, so that no student’s voice is missing from the chorus.
- To gain a sense of unity as a choir, a body of people come together to sing as one.
- To serve the SBH family through various performances and gatherings and to perform in these contexts with humbleness and a high degree of excellence.
- To start the process of reading music, including:
 - identifying quarter notes, eighth note pairs, half notes, whole notes and parallel rests
 - Visually identify the notes of the C major scale
 - Aurally identify and properly sing the notes of the C major scale in solfège, utilizing Curwen hand signals

PARTICIPATION:

Student participation is required in daily classroom activities. Classroom expectations are as follows:

- Students must always respect their instructor, just as the instructor will always endeavor to treat the students with fairness. Students should always strive to sing beautifully.
- Students are expected to attend and participate in all performances. Performances this year will include the Christmas Program and a Spring Performance at May Day.
- Students should treat the classroom with respect, which includes any sheet music.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

In conjunction with parents/guardians, Saint Benedict Hall has the goal of developing not only habits of good scholarship and critical inquiry, but the virtues of courtesy, promptness, forgiveness, self-control, responsibility, diligence, courage, generosity, and magnanimity. Good behavior is expected of all students and will not be specially rewarded at school. Rather, it should be its own reward in the esteem earned from teachers and fellow students. Our voices should only be used to make beautiful sounds.

The classroom is a communal meeting place founded on mutual respect where the joy of learning is cultivated and the love of Christ is reflected. Student behavior should align with this philosophy. When behavior fails to do so, the instructor will first invest in a conversation with the student using love and logic and proceed from there using the disciplinary guidelines set forth in the SBH Program Handbook.