Johnson-Williams Middle School

8th Grade Choir

Period 7, 1:24-2:14

2022-2023



Director:

Ms. Kristi Snarsky

snarskyk@clarke.k12.va.us

(540) 955-6160 (Office)

Please keep in mind that Ms. Snarsky splits her time between CCHS & JWMS and is most easily reached by email.

- A digital copy of this document has been posted on Google Classroom -

Course Information

Course Description:

8th Grade Choir is a hands-on, performance-based class designed to develop individual voices and choral singing through the study of sight-singing, music theory, music history, and diverse choral repertoire.

Course Objectives:

- Become skillful and acute **listeners**
- Develop and use **critical thinking skills**
- Become more sensitive and positive **ensemble members**
- Strengthen individual **vocal technique**
- Become competent users of **music notation**
- Perform and explore **diverse selections of music**
- Recognize beauty in music and **perform with artistry** and expression
- **Analyze and evaluate** musical selections and performances
- Work as part of **community** to achieve excellence

Course Expectations (students will...)

1. Follow directions the first time they are given– ***We abide by the broader JWMS expectations and systems for consequences.***
2. Make the classroom space neater than it was found
3. Be as prepared to learn and sing as they can be– ***Your instrument is your voice, and we use our instruments every day.***
4. Treat each other with kindness and respect
5. Trust in their ability to do hard things

Materials + Policies

Materials Needed:

- Students should have a **pencil** at all times. **A music binder will be provided** and kept in the classroom.
- **Chromebooks** will be used sporadically and with notice (please refer to JWMS Chromebook Use Guidelines)
- **Concert Attire:** Students are expected to wear all-black for concerts. If acquiring the concert attire presents undue financial burden for your family, please contact Ms. Snarsky at least one week prior to the concert. Picture examples of appropriate attire will be shared on Google Classroom at least one month before the first concert.
  - **Option 1; Dress or Skirt**: Solid black (no pattern or sequins) dresses or skirts must fall **below the knee** and **black tights** must be worn underneath. The solid black top (either dress or shirt) must have sleeves that are **short-sleeve length or longer**. Any solid black shoes are fine except for sneakers. Heels should be no higher than 3 inches.
  - **Option 2; Pants:** Pants must be **opaque, comfortably fitted pants** (no leggings/yoga pants or jeans) and tops must be **solid black collared button-downs**. Any solid black shoes are fine except for sneakers.

Grading:

- **Formative Assessments** - **20**% of grade [weekly rehearsals, classwork, singing check-ups]
- **Summative assessments** - **80**% of grade [music theory quizzes, in-class small group or solo performances, concerts, concert evaluations]
  - **Concert attendance/participation is mandatory for all choir students.**
  - As of now, we have two evening choir concerts scheduled for the 2022-23 school year! All families and friends are encouraged to attend. Please mark your calendars for our
    - Winter Concert, **Tuesday, December 13th** and our
    - Spring Concert, **Tuesday, May 9th**
  - **Families will be notified of any and all additional mandatory performances, events, and/or field trips with at least 1 month notice.**
    - Tentatively, the Cake-Off fundraiser has been scheduled for **Saturday, March 18th**.

Retakes/Make-Up Work:

- Any **assignment** can be retaken within 1 week, as long as the student makes arrangements to meet one-on-one with Ms. Snarsky to revisit the material before the 2nd attempt.
- **There are no makeup/alternative assignment options for missed concerts.** If an emergency or exceptional circumstance prevents a student from attending a concert, please contact Ms. Snarsky ASAP.
- **Students who do not complete classwork will be assigned a zero (0)** to reflect their real-time grade the day of the assignment. **In case of class absence(s), please check in with Ms. Snarsky and/or Google Classroom to make a plan to complete any classwork you may have missed.** Ms. Snarsky will work with students to recoup and complete any **makeup classwork assignments within 5 school days.** Once an assignment is complete, a grade will be assessed. **For long-term absences, please refer to the J-WMS policy.**
- Students who have an excused absence have **one day per excused absence** to turn in work and complete summative assessments. It is the students' responsibility to obtain work that has been missed.

Course Content + Learning Targets

Course Content:

The content of our course is subject to change and adapt based on the interests and needs of our students. This list is thorough, but not comprehensive of the material we may cover in our classroom. Please reach out via email with any clarifying questions or concerns.

Music Theory/Literacy

- Draw, read and write basic music notation
- Time signatures--duple, triple, and quadruple meter
- Compose and perform basic rhythm patterns
- Music staff, treble clef, bass clef, music alphabet, pitch names, melodic contour, key signatures
- Sight read stepwise melodies on solfege syllables with hand signs
- Score reading - unison, two, three, and four parts
- Compose and sing stepwise melodic patterns

Performance: Vocal and Choral Techniques and Skills

- Posture, breathing, abdominal support, so palate, placement, head voice tone
- Diction - pure vowel sounds, diphthongs, beginning and ending consonants
- Solo singing and in small groups
- Perform assigned vocal parts from memory
- Respond to conducting gestures
- Stage presence, expression and concert etiquette

Aesthetics/Expressive Elements

- Interpret basic tempo and dynamic markings
- Discover expressive elements in music and demonstrate artistic phrasing

Music History/Culture

- Identify, compare/contrast cultures, styles, composers, and historical periods and styles of choral music

Analysis/Evaluation/Critique

- Listen critically and evaluate and reflect upon personal and group performances