

Madison-Grant Jr./Sr. High School

Show Choir Syllabus

2014-2015



Mr. Hicks

Choral & Drama Director

Phone: (765) 948-4141

Email: thicks@mgusc.k12.in.us

Website: www.mgvocalmusic.weebly.com

ArGuys & Gals / Starfire

-----Objectives-----

To teach the Music Educators National Standards for High School Music classes through **music theory** and **performance**. To teach **proper performance techniques** and **fundamentals** to beginning and intermediate level students. To provide a **safe and comfortable classroom setting**, allowing for proper learning conditions. To provide school and community performances, and to participate in developmental events that will provide great examples of **musicianship** as well as **lessons for life skills**.

-----Curriculum Goals-----

1. Use **Aural** and **Theory Skills** through classroom exercises and learning of concert repertoire.
2. Properly sing in unison and harmony using **correct choral techniques**, which include using correct **diction, intonation, and formation** skills.
3. Learn **cultural** and **historical** importance of each concert piece.
4. Working as part of a **team** and having each student participate.
5. Embracing **self-motivation** and a **positive attitude**.

-----Responsibilities of Choir Members-----

1. **Give Your Best Effort.** I do not expect perfect performances, but I do expect the best effort from each student. **The more you GIVE, the more you GET.** With difficult music, have patience and perseverance. Be positive, and always try!
2. **Be Respectful and Mature.** People have different voices, ideas, and approaches. Choir is a safe place to learn and grow without cruel remarks or poking fun at one another. **Maturity is the ability to see how your behavior affects others.**
3. **Be Ready to Learn.** Even though it seems our primary goals are our performances, there is plenty of work to be done in class beyond the shows. You will learn music theory, history, notation, and even improvisation in order to build your musicianship within the choir. The stronger the individual musician, the stronger the ensemble.

-----Classroom Procedures-----

- 1.) **Be On Time, not In Time! (In your seat, ready to begin!)**
- 2.) **Be Prepared for Class with your Materials!**
Have your **pencil, folder (with music)**, and **sight-singing materials** for every class! **NO PENS ALLOWED.** If you lose your pencil or folder, you will be required to replace it. If you lose your music, you will be required to replace it. When appropriate, proper dress (for choreo rehearsals) are considered materials.
- 3.) **My Office and My Computer are *off limits*. No exceptions!**
- 4.) **Keep Your Focus**
- 5.) **NO GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS! (Unless I bring it in!)**
Water is allowed at after school rehearsals.

6.) **Respect**

- *Each Other* – Be nice! Choir should be a safe place to learn.
- *The Classroom* – Keep it clean! No personal belongings or trash left behind.
- *The Teacher* – **Don't talk** or be disruptive **while I am teaching**.

7.) **Passes**

I expect you to take care of restroom breaks and locker stops before or after class. True emergencies will be excused, you must take a hall pass when leaving the room.

8.) **Homework**

Do not do homework from other classes during rehearsals.

9.) **Have a Positive Attitude! HAVE FUN!!!**

Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same.”

- Francesca Reigler

---Performance and After School Rehearsal Expectations---

Students are required to attend all scheduled after school rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals will be immediately after school, no more than once a week. The afterschool schedule is included in the calendar. **Each Rehearsal is worth 100 points.**

These are music and choreography rehearsals. *Dress comfortably*. School Dress Code is always enforced. Bring appropriate shoes/costumes. You will always be informed about what you need to bring. Be prepared to work. You can bring water in a container that will not spill.

Dress Rehearsals are Mandatory. If you do not show up to a dress rehearsal you will not be allowed to perform at the concert and will receive a **zero** for that performance. If you come to a dress rehearsal without all costume pieces you will lose points for that rehearsal.

If there is a conflict, you **MUST** contact me **before-hand**; otherwise it will count as an unexcused absence. ***If you have more than 1 unexcused rehearsal you will not be allowed to perform at the next performance and will receive a zero for that performance.*** Examples of excused absences include: doctors note, missing school that day, emergency room visit, funeral, family emergency. Excused absences **DO NOT** include: parties, forgetting, homework, presentations prep, etc. **If you do not give me the appropriate paperwork one week (no matter how legitimate) after your first day back, you will be unable to excuse the absence.**

If you are a member of a sport team: YOU MUST GIVE ME A SPORTS CALENDAR AND WORK OUT PRACTICE TIMES WITH ME. If you miss a rehearsal because of a sports practice and do not tell me about it in advance, it will count as unexcused.

*We will **START** rehearsal at the time listed. If you are late you will lose 20 rehearsal points. **Being in the auditorium, but not on stage is considered late.**

-----Grading-----

Students will be graded on in-class assignments, homework, quizzes, and tests all pertaining to music theory, history, and performance. Students will also be heavily graded on participation. Know that all choir students are required to be at each performance. This is a performing arts class, so participating in public performances is mandatory. The grade breakdown is below:

50% - Performances, Attendance, and Rehearsal Participation

25% - Classroom Participation

25% - Classroom Assignments and Finals

-----Costumes and Accessories-----

The costume closet and props closet is OFF LIMITS without permission from the director! The costumes and uniforms are property of the school, the fee covers rental costs. Students will not leave personal belongings in dressing room. After each rehearsal and performance, it is your responsibility to gather ALL personal belongings. **Items left in dressing room will be thrown away.**

Students will be responsible for **hanging up** costumes and accessories in the dressing room after each use. Costumes will be taken care of in a professional manner, not ever misused or abused. Keep your shoes and accessories together, and keep everything clean and non-wrinkled. When and if the situation comes when we need to travel with the costumes, a garment bag will be provided to you. ***The intent is that all costumes should stay in the dressing room unless we are performing with them.***

If a student is missing or wearing inappropriate costume pieces, non-participation will be in order. This will count as a deduction in the grade book.

You are in charge of your costume. If part of your costume is lost or stolen, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** to replace your costume.

Students are representing Madison Grant Show Choirs, and will wear hair and make-up according to director's rules for each show.

-----Monetary Expectations-----

Students must pay a non-refundable fee of **\$75.00** to participate in show choir. (*****Please note James Dean Pizza Booth*****) You may pay in full at the beginning of the year or you may pay installments. ***Due to the high volume of financial issues that arose last year, if your balance is not paid off by the end of the first semester, you will not be allowed to participate in choir the next semester.***

The cost helps to pay for expenses throughout the year. This includes dresses, skirts, jackets, shirts, ties, pocket squares, shoes, cleaning of costumes, extra materials for shows, etc. It will also include portions of costumes that students will get to keep such as spunks, pantyhose, and earrings. If you would like to keep your uniform, you will need to pay an additional \$125.00. Your beginning of the year fee does NOT include the following: character shoes, dinners at intensive rehearsals or festival of the trees, t-shirts, Kings Island, or choral banquet.

-----Fundraising and Financial Aid-----

This year, we will be exploring new ways to help alleviate the cost of the year. There are a few options that a student can participate in to help raise money for their fee (or another member's fee, if they so desire).

- **Concession Stand at Football Games:** The athletic director, Mr. Plovick, has allowed us to sign up to work the concession stand, and a portion of the money made goes back to your account/fee.
- **Caramel Apples/Baked Goods:** Joy Burmaster is helping to head up concession sales at other sporting events, possibly football games if the concession spots are taken. There will be signups for that as well.
- **Pizza Tent @ James Dean Festival:** Each student is required to work two shifts of the Pizza Tent at the James Dean Festival. Any student that does not work will receive a lowered grade, and will owe **\$100.00** instead of **\$75.00** for the beginning of the year fee.

When and if other opportunities arise, I will be sure to present them to the choir to continue to alleviate financial stress when I can.

***A note about Century Resources Fundraiser** – We will do another brochure fundraiser in November. This fundraiser covers the cost of accompanists, live musicians, sheet music, printing and advertising, and other miscellaneous costs. This fundraiser will not go towards beginning of the year costs.

-----Music with a Sacred Text-----

Choral Music Educators recognize that choral music may fulfill diverse objectives. At one end of the spectrum it is aesthetic education and artistic performance which can insure development of musicality and sensitivity. At the opposite end of the spectrum is pure entertainment. Between these two poles may be found opportunities to enhance knowledge and understanding through a growing awareness and perspective of history and art as reflected in great music. To achieve any selected education objective, **the quality of repertoire is of paramount importance.**

An assessment of the quality of repertoire which can fulfill the highest objectives of aesthetic education necessitates careful examination of the relationship of text and musical setting. The wealth of choral literature which represents and reflects peoples, cultures, and traditions of all lands and compositional styles of all eras **includes much music in which the composer has utilized a sacred text. The term "sacred" refers to all manner of religious belief and not only to the practices of Judeo-Christian teachings. It is important to recognize the fact that almost all of the significant choral music composed before the 17th Century was associated with a sacred text.**

To study and perform music in which the musical setting of a text is artistically accomplished is a highly commendable objective. **While public school teaching objectives and criteria for repertoire selection should not include religious indoctrination, the selection of quality repertoire will invariably include music with a sacred text.**

To exclude from a public school curriculum all choral music which has religious meaning associated with the text is to severely limit the possibilities of teaching for artistic understanding and responsiveness. Such an exclusion has as its parallel the **study of art** without any paintings related to the various religions of the world, the **study of literature** without mention of the Bible, or the **study of architecture** without reference to the great temples and cathedrals of the world.

Since choral music with a sacred text comprises such a substantial portion of the artistic repertoire representatives of the choral medium and the history of music, it should have an important place in music education. Its study and artistic performance have nothing to do with the First Amendment to the Constitution and the doctrine which advocates separation of Church and State.

This statement has been endorsed by the National Board of Directors of The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). It represents the concern of over 12,000 American Choral Directors.

**Madison-Grant Jr./Sr. High School
Vocal Music Student and Parent Contract**

To insure that all policies and procedures in this syllabus are understood, students and parents are asked to review the syllabus before signing this form. The act of signing will indicate a willingness to cooperate and plan schedules that are necessary for success.

Student Section

“I have read the following policies and expectations for the Madison-Grant Show Choirs. I understand and respect the rules made by Mr. Hicks and will, to the best of my ability, abide by these rules. I understand that I am a member of a team, and I will do my best not to let the other members down. I will attend all rehearsals and performances as well as participate in fundraisers.”

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Section

“I have read the following policies and expectations for the Madison-Grant Show Choirs. I understand and respect the rules set for my child by Mr. Hicks, and I will try my best to stand by the expectations to make sure my child makes their membership a priority in their schedules.”

Parent or Guardian’s
Signature _____ Date _____

**Please list on the back of this page any medical conditions or difficulties that you feel should be known by the director (anything that would hinder participation in our activities – it will be kept strictly confidential). Please include special directions for these problems.*

Parent Information

Name _____ Number (_____) _____

Email _____

I am willing to help with:

Fundraising _____ **Costume repair** _____ **James Dean Pizza Booth** _____

Ticket Sales _____ **Baked Goods** _____ **Afterglow Help** _____

Chaperoning _____ **Madison County Choral Festival** _____

Other _____

Please return this form to Mr. Hicks by **Friday, August 8, 2014.** (For a Grade!)