

# Madison-Grant Concert Choir and Junior High Choir

## -----Objectives-----

To teach the Music Educators National Standards for High School Music classes through 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. 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. Performing to the best of one's ability

## -----Grading-----

Students will be graded on in class assignments, homework, quizzes and tests all pertaining to music. Students will also be graded on participation. This includes attendance at all rehearsals and performances. The grade breakdown is below:

*50% = Performances*

*25% = Classroom Participation*

*25% = Classroom assignments and Finals*

Performances are **MANDATORY**. They are 50% of your quarterly grade.

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

A responsible choir member will work their best to give 100% at all times in order to put on the best performance that the choir can do. Below are my expectations for the year.

**Try your best!** Everyone is at a different place along their musical growth. I do not expect perfect performances, but I do expect the best effort from each student. With difficult music, have patience and perseverance. We may tackle some music that will take quite a bit of practice, but the harder the song, the more rewarding it can be. Be positive, and always try!

**Respect Everyone in Every Choir.** People have different voices, ideas, and approaches than you. Different does not equal wrong! Choir is a safe place to learn and grow without cruel remarks or poking fun at one another. I expect you to have a professional level of maturity. Maturity is the ability to see how your behavior affects others... Keep that important virtue in mind.

**Performing is a Perk!** 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-----

Our program can only be as good as our rehearsals, and the key to a successful rehearsal is hard work and appropriate classroom behavior. The following rules are used in all great musical organizations and will be the foundation of our rehearsal and class procedures. Read these rules carefully and be prepared to live by them every time you enter the classroom. (*Failure to comply with classroom procedures will result in loss of participation points*)

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**

Assume an attitude of attentiveness. When the director is ready to begin warm-ups, your attention remains on him for the rest of the class period. While one section is rehearsing, everyone else should be following in their music and studying their part to see how it fits together.

5.) **NO GUM, FOOD, OR DRINKS!**

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 talking** during instruction.

7.) **Passes**

I really don't like giving them out. Take care of restroom breaks and locker stops before or after class.

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*

**Mr. Hicks**

Choral Director

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**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 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.*

Please return this form to Mr. Hicks by **Friday, August 17, 2012.** (For a Grade!)