

## Chorus Syllabus

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### Description

In this class we will rehearse, perform, and learn about vocal music from a variety of cultural backgrounds and eras. We will participate in active reflection on our experience to improve our vocal technique and build healthy singing habits. Additionally we will practice music literacy and learn to sight-sing from sheet music. This class is built on the belief that **everyone is musical**.

Singing is the foundation of Chorus class. If you are not comfortable with your singing voice right now, we will work together to help you reach that point. Part of emotional/mental health is learning to recognize and respond to anxiety, so if singing is something that makes you anxious, you will have plenty of opportunity to practice managing that anxiety.

### Class Guidelines

- No food or drink (aside from water) is allowed in the classroom.
- Show respect for everyone in the classroom, including yourself.
- Be mindful and present
- Be open-minded (say “yes” to things you might normally say “no” to!)
- Take risks & use your singing voice
- Follow “can’t” statements with “yet”

### Student Choice

For both concerts, each grade chooses one of the songs that they will sing. I do this because I want you to be excited about the music that you perform, and it is easier to be excited about music that you are already familiar with. That being said, it is also important that we explore new and unfamiliar music from different cultures.

### Concert

There will be two chorus & band performances outside of school hours. **The winter concert will be on January 18th, 2024 and the spring concert will be on May 9th, 2024.** These concerts are **mandatory**, so please make sure you are available on those evenings.

### Grading

Citizenship -25%

Your citizenship grade will be based on how well you support your classmates and help create an environment that is safe and easy to work in. Our aim in this class is to act as a community. A lot of the work we do will be as one big group, and our success can be helped or hindered greatly by your individual choices in class.

#### Participation - 40%

Because so much of our work is group work, it is SUPER MEGA IMPORTANT that you participate. Do your best to sing when you are asked to sing, and do your fair share of work in group projects.

#### Projects (Recording, Written work, Ukulele, etc.) - 20%

We will do the occasional project, either in groups or individually. One of the big ones will be learning to play the ukulele to accompany our voices. For performance-based projects, your grade will not be based on how well you can sing or play your instrument. Instead those projects will be graded on effort and cooperation. I trust that if you put in time and effort, you will make musical progress.

#### Concert - 15%

Your concert grade is fully based on attendance. If you show up and perform in both concerts, you will receive full credit for this part of your grade.