

West Linn–Wilsonville School District

The Arts – Course Statement

Course Title: Concert Choir

Length of Course: Year
Number of Credits: 2
Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisites: None
CIM Work Samples Offered in Course:

Date of Description/Revision: 2005

Course Overview

This full year choir elective is a non-auditioned class and is open to any student; graduating 8th grade students can freely sign up for Concert Choir in the spring (during forecasting time). Instruction is focused on the beginning high school level chorus and emphasizes breathing, diction, vowel placement, music reading, ear training, and rehearsal discipline. All performances are equivalent to tests/exams; therefore, attendance at all concerts is mandatory (minimum of one evening performance per semester). Students will follow specific concert attire guidelines. Students may repeat this course or choose to audition (in June) for one of the advanced choirs for the following school year.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What are the basic techniques used in good singing?
- How do performers approach choral performances in a concert setting?
- How can learning note names, note durations and key signatures, help us become better musicians?
- What are the differences in style between composers of different periods in musical history?
- How can the singer create and communicate the style and musical feeling the composer intended?
- What does a superior choral performance look and sound like?

Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

- Learn to breathe correctly for producing a focused and supported sound.
- Demonstrate good posture for singing.
- Develop a good sense of intonation.
- Produce improved tone quality through work on vocal technique.
- Develop a focused sound through an effective approach to resonance.
- Be able to sing different types of articulations: staccato, legato, marcato, etc.

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- Understand the different historical periods of choral music and how to differentiate them by listening and singing.
- Learn to work together in a large ensemble for a common end product.
- Learn to work in a larger ensemble following a conductor.
- Learn to perform with good stage presence and communication of text.

General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
A. Posture, breathing and vocal production	week one – ongoing
B. Resonance in the vocal sound	week two – ongoing
C. Music Theory and Sight reading skills (solfege)	week three – ongoing
D. Articulation of consonants/diction	week four – ongoing
E. Stage presence	week six and seven
F. Performance Practices	week eight and nine
G. Choral literature and music history	daily
H. Performance	daily & scheduled concerts
Resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choral Literature: from choral library and/or ordered from Pepper Music (Tacoma, WA) • Text: <i>Practical Theory Complete: A Self-Instruction Music Theory Course</i>; Sandy Feldstein; Alfred Publishing Company, Inc., 1998 • Text: <i>Singing at Sight</i> • Other: Recordings – various sources representing different musical period and styles 	