

West Linn–Wilsonville School District

The Arts – Course Statement

Course Title: Symphonic Choir

Length of Course: Year
Number of Credits: 2
Grade Level: 10, 11, 12
Prerequisites: Director's approval (audition) and 1 year of high school choir experience
CIM Work Samples Offered in Course: None

Date of Description/Revision: 2004

Course Overview

This vocal performance course is open to students who audition at the end of the school year for the following year. Students may repeat this course, but must re-audition each year. Instruction focuses on advanced music theory, music history, sight singing, and fundamental vocal techniques through various styles of repertoire. Performances are equivalent to tests/exams; therefore, attendance at concerts is mandatory. Daily citizenship/participation grade is earned at all regular and special rehearsals. Attendance is also required at special events, such as fundraising, field trips, tours, retreats, clinician workshops, guest performances, etc. Students will follow specific concert attire guidelines. This choir will participate in several large choral festivals each school year.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What does a superior choral performance look and sound like?
- How does the study of music theory (notation, structure, etc.) help us become better choral performers?
- How can the singer create and communicate the style and musical feeling the composer intended?
- How does competition with other choirs enhance our own vocal performance?

Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will:

- Sing with good fundamental singing technique (including breathing, posture, intonation, resonance, articulation), producing their best individual sound, in helping to create their best ensemble sound.
- Demonstrate improved sight reading and aural skills.
- Understand the different historical periods of choral music and how to differentiate them by listening and singing.
- Work together in a large ensemble following a conductor for a common end product.
- Demonstrate professional mannerism, discipline, and etiquette as performers and audience members.
- Gain self-confidence through their performance experiences.

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General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
	<p>A. Vocal Technique: Posture, Breath Support, Tone, Vowels, Articulation/Diction, Intonation, Resonance</p> <p>B. Music Theory & Reading: Notation, Structure, Basic Elements, Sight Reading</p> <p>C. Aural Skills: Solfege, Intervals, Harmony, Dictation, Music Analysis</p> <p>D. Ensemble Technique: Blend, Balance, Dynamics, Musicality, Technicality, Tone</p> <p>E. Music History: Periods, Composers, Instruments, Sound, Form, Harmony, Rhythm</p> <p>F. Value Judgment: Listening, Discussions, Research, Reports</p> <p>G. Professionalism/Discipline: Concert Mannerisms, Etiquette, Stage, Evaluations</p> <p>H. Performances: Stage Presence, Practices, Choral Festivals/Competitions (Three Rivers and Tri-Valley Leagues, OSAA State Choir Performance, non-adjudicated choir exchanges).</p>
Resources	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choral Literature: 16-20 different titles, from choral library/ordered from Pepper Music (Tacoma, WA) and Sheet Music Service (Portland, OR).• Texts: Various music theory, vocal technique, and sight reading texts.• Other: Recordings – various sources representing different musical periods and styles.• Other: Workshops – other high schools, colleges, clinicians, guest performers, and conductors.