



September 12, 2011

Dear Parents/Students:

Welcome to a new year of music & singing! We have many exciting things planned for this year, and I am looking forward to seeing the progress our musicians will make this year. Some of the Choral events and activities are required, others are optional. See below for details.

Concert Attire: The Concert Choir students will be sized for Concert attire this week & next if they have not already done so. A letter will go home detailing the care of the garments, as well as a rental agreement. Keep the sheet on garment care, and sign the Concert Attire agreement, along with your student, and return it to class asap. Some garments need to be ordered, and will be given to your student as soon as they are in.

MS Chorus students will need to order the Concert Blouse/Polo if they do not have one, or if they need a new size. Gentlemen wear the polo with black pants, socks, and shoes, and the ladies should wear the blouse, a black skirt (at least knee length), black hose, and black shoes.

Weekly Supplies: Your student needs to bring their choir folder, theory notebook, and a pencil to class every week. Music folders are the student's responsibility. They are to only write in their music in pencil, and no doodling on the music – only notations of a musical nature. Any lost music will be charged to your account. Music will be collected at the end of every concert.

Grading – you may request a grade and/or HS credit for this class. What your student will be graded on: practice records & assignments turned in (20 %), vocal assessments – done in class & at the concert (20%), participation in class/class behavior/attendance (30%), festival and concerts (30%). Notice I do not grade on musical ability, as each student has varying amounts of experience. If a student attends Solo & Ensemble festival or Honors Choir, they will receive extra credit towards their grade because that involves a significant time investment outside of class. Assignments are expected to be completed neatly, as assigned, and handed in on the due date. If requirements are met with a satisfactory grade given (“C” level, or higher) high school students will be given 1.0 credit in Vocal Music if they complete the year.

Concert Choir students are expected to practice 30 minutes/day, 4 days/week, especially if you want high school credit for the class. MS Chorus students should be practicing 20 minutes/day, 4 days/week, especially if they are receiving a grade. Practice records are due once/month at the first rehearsal of the month, and can be picked up at the registration table or downloaded from the website. Students need to fill them out, put their name and group on them, and have a parent initial them at the end of the week. During practice time they should review their theory for the week, practice good posture, do vocal warm-ups that they have learned, and go through all their songs. Their grade WILL suffer if completed practice records/assignments are not handed in.

Required events:

For Concert Choir Only: Wednesday, November 16th - Recording for the PBS Tim Janis’
“Celebrate America” Special

December Concert – Waterford – Monday, December 12, 2011 – Clarkston Community Church
Troy – Tuesday, December 13, 2011 – Rochester Church of Christ

Pre – Festival Concert – **Wednesday**, March 7, 2012– Waterford Kettering PAC

Note: This is a joint concert for both branches



MSVMA Choral Festival – Concert Choir/MS Chorus – March 28th OR 29th, 2012 – please keep the entire day (8am – 5 pm) open. I will not have the specific time until about 3 weeks before.

May Concert – Waterford – Monday, May 21, 2012 – Clarkston Community Church
Troy – Tuesday, May 22, 2012 – Rochester Church of Christ

Optional events – suggested, but not required:

Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble Festival (HS only) - November 12, 2011
U of M Vocal Arts Day for Concert Choir: field trip: Saturday, January 7, 2012
– last year's cost was \$15-20
MSVMA Solo & Ensemble Festival – HS or MS – see details below
Field trip to Michigan Opera Theatre to see Gilbert & Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*
OHMI 10th Birthday Picnic - the weekend of May 19th
OHMI Graduation - for Concert Choir only - Date TBA

Avoid planning vacations around concert/festival time. Choral Festival is March 28/29, 2012. We need all the choir members there for the concert/festival as this is a group effort and requires everyone! I give you the dates now so you can make your plans. Instrumental lessons or other activities are not reasons for missing Festival (It is during the day.) Please reschedule them for another time. I will send home information as soon as it is available.

Solo & Ensemble Festival – is for students wishing to prepare a solo, duet, trio, etc. and sing for adjudicators to be rated. This is OPTIONAL, and will require preparation time outside of class. I encourage all students wanting to go to do so for the experience. The dates for this year for HS S & E are January 27th & 28th, 2012. MS Solo & Ensemble is Saturday, February 11, 2012. Any student wishing to participate needs to inform me by the week of October 24th for HS S & E, or the week of November 14th for MS S & E, and submit musical choices by the week of November 22nd. Students will be heard by myself (and possibly another instructor) approximately 3 weeks before Festival for assessment and comments to finish polishing their pieces. If students need assistance in choosing pieces, they should meet with me. For soloists, there is a required list to choose from which students will be receiving in class. For duets, etc. pieces can be chosen from various sources. Pop, Broadway, and jazz music are NOT acceptable for festival. Classical pieces, arias, spirituals, and folk songs are the best choices. Please see me for questions on Festival.

I am excited about this year and am looking forward to working with your students. Please contact me with any questions.

Musically yours,

Mrs. Beard

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