

Performance Choir Syllabus

Congratulations on making the Mingus auditioned choir! I truly believe this will be an excellent year! What this choir will become is up to us. We have this year to collectively shape and create the path to grow the choir program to the vision we see together. I am positive we will be beaming with pride and tears on our final cut off of the year. This class will take place in the Music Room every day unless otherwise directed. All main concerts will take place in the Auditorium. Occasionally we have some other concerts and obligations, but I will be sure to announce those as far in advance as I know about them. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail with any questions that you have at jball@muhs.com. I am also available during lunch and after school as well, but be sure to let me know ahead of times so I can make sure to be there. My phone number is 928-634-7531 x1142.

What do we do?

In Choir class...WE SING! We will also spend a considerable amount of time learning how to read music. Additionally, it is my goal to spend more time teaching music theory lessons so you can not only learn how to sing, but how to read and appreciate music. It might seem tedious at times, but the better you can understand theory, the faster it is for you to learn a piece and perfect it. By the end of the course a student should be able to do the following:

- Name key signatures
- Name notes in treble and bass clefs
- Sing Grade 5 music in 4 part harmony
- Understand the basics of breathing
- Learning correct vowel sounds and when to modify those sounds
- Support their sound
- Self Confidence
- Sight Read in 4-part harmony
- Sight Read some more
- Keep sight-reading!
- Know the basic terms found within a piece of music.
- Sing a varied repertoire in multiple languages

Participation/Attendance

You will start of the year with 10 points in every week and a 100% in participation. Each day you receive two points. If you are participating or doing your work on a particular day, you will lose your points. If you are absent you will obviously not be participating, so you will lose your point as well. If you are tardy then I am just annoyed and you will still lose your points. A couple of times will not matter, but over time it can easily affect your grade. You will only retain your full points if you turn in a participation log at the end of each week. Failure to turn in a log will result in a 0 for the week. You may turn it in on Monday afterwards for **full credit**, but **half credit** will be received if returned on Tuesday. After that, logs will not be accepted for that week. You will be reminded, but YOU must stay on top of it!

Grades

Credit for this class will be earned through performances, both within the class and outside as well. You will also be graded on your writing assignments, tests, and participation. There will be 4 categories of grades for the semester:

- Performances – 30% of your grade
- Theory Assignments – 30% of your grade
- Participation Logs – 20% of your grade
- Tests – 20% of your grade

Performances

Being in the Honors Choir means that there will be a variety of performances throughout the school year. All performances are mandatory and with over a month notice, work is not a reason to miss a performance. Should you miss a performance you may automatically FAIL my class. This is the easiest and quickest way to fail and many students have failed in previous semesters. If you are not in the musical, or helping backstage, you will be required to attend at least one performance. The dates for the performances are included, so ask for work now. If you need a ride, let me know – I can always arrange transportation. If there is a death in the family, that is excused, but short of that – no other exceptions or excuses will be allowed.

Rules

1. No GUM! I don't like it and it inhibits your speech and singing.
2. No Food or Drink but Water.
3. Be on time. A tardy means the loss of your daily points!
4. Don't make excuses and if you do, make it an adventurous one.
5. Respect each other, the Auditorium, myself, and the classroom
6. Bring Pencil and music EVERY DAY to choir

Concert Dress

MUHS will be providing matching choir dresses for the girls and tuxes for the Men. You must pay a \$20 costume deposit fee for the year (payable to the book store by SEPTEMBER 1st). If you need help, scholarship funds are available. Please see Mr. Ball personally to apply. Additionally, men must have black socks and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). Girls must have black hoes and black close toed character shoes.

Passport to Broadway

One of the highlights this year in choir is the show "PASSPORT TO BROADWAY". We will be performing selections from *Mamma Mia*, *Hamilton*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Once*, *My Fair Lady*, *Evita*, and *South Pacific*. It requires a lot of outside work in January, but the feeling of doing a full show is amazing and you'll remember it for the rest of your life. Below are the mandatory (graded) dates for this show. There are no make-up assignments for a performance or rehearsal. Please talk to your employer now, as work is not an excuse. I will be more than happy to talk to any boss and inform them of this conflict. The fact that we are putting a full musical together with only 3 rehearsals is not a lot of time, and we need everyone on board to make this a success!

Rehearsals

Monday, January 15th 1:00 – 6:00 Tech Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 16th 5:30 – 9:15 Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 17th – 5:30 – 9:15 Dress Rehearsal

Thursday, January 18th – 5:30 Call, 6:30 Parent Night Performance

Performances of PASSPORT TO BROADWAY

Saturday, January 20th 7pm

Sunday, January 21st at 3pm

Friday, January 26th at 7pm

Saturday, January 27th at 7pm

Sunday, January 28th at 3pm

Dress for Passport to Broadway

While the dancers will have to change for each number, the choir wears the same thing for each performance.

- \$10 Show Shirt (available in the bookstore starting in December)
- Black Pants, socks, and dress shoes.

Concerts

There will be many performing opportunities for this group. Below is a short list of the concerts and activities already planned, but there will be more that pop up throughout the year. I'll be sure to let everyone know of these as far in advance as possible. All concerts and performance activities will be for a grade.

~ Fall Choral Festival – Wednesday or Thursday October 25th or 26th (During school)

~ Saturday, November 25th – Tree lighting in Jerome, 3:00-7:00

~ Sunday, December 17th, Circle of Friends at 5pm

~ Tuesday, December 19th at 7pm – Winter Concert

~ Thursday, May 17th at 7pm – Final Concert

Musical Performances

One of the best ways to learn about singing is to watch and critique other singers. There will be a musical this year at Mingus in April. Each student is required to see ONE performance and provide a verbal critique afterwards. Please sign out on the rosters located at the Attendance office at the END of each performance. If you leave early, you may not receive full credit.

Crazy for You (Must attend ONE performance)

Saturday, April 21st 7pm

Sunday, April 22nd 3pm

Friday, April 27th 7pm

Saturday, April 28th 7pm

Sunday, April 29th 3pm

Tests

There will be a couple of tests throughout the semester. These will vary between theory tests and singing tests. There will be times where you will have to record yourself singing your part and send it to me. If you do not have a phone to record you may borrow a friend's phone or if you prefer, you may come in and do it in person during lunch.

Extra-Credit

Extra-credit will be awarded throughout the semester and announced well in advance. The theatre department puts on a number of shows that if you may attend and write a review, you may receive extra-credit. Additionally, there are band concerts and orchestra concerts both here and around the Verde Valley that if you attend and write a critique, you may receive extra credit. In general, if you are seeing a show or a concert that is classical in nature and has choir-like singing involved, ONLY if you get pre-approval, you may write a review and receive some extra-credit as well. As stated before, one of the best ways to improve your singing is to hear and learn from other performers.

Web Sites

www.mingusperformingarts.weebly.com

I have created a website for the theatre and choir program to help both students and parents. Here you will find rehearsal schedules and performance dates. Additionally, students will be able to find rehearsal tracks and other resources to help them practice. Please visit it for answers to a lot of your questions.

Also, I maintain a teacher website at http://James_Ball.MyTeacherSite.com that has daily updates of what we did in class. If you ever want to check what we did in class or if you lose this syllabus, check there for daily updates!

Grade Book

I strive to maintain an update gradebook. If ever you go on-line and have a question, don't hesitate to e-mail me or ask me during lunch or after school.