

Middle School Mixed Choir Syllabus

Mrs. Kristen Donaldson, Instructor

Course Description:

Middle School Mixed Chorus is the advanced choral ensemble at the middle school level. Students in this choir will sing music consisting of and 2-Part and 3-part mixed settings. Students in this choir will be in 7th and 8th grade.

Course Objectives:

The content of this syllabus is based on the most current Georgia Performance and National Standards for Middle School Chorus. This course will include, but not be limited to: fundamentals in music theory, beginning sight singing, and the learning and performance of repertoire appropriate for a middle school mixed choir. Repertoire will include music from the Renaissance through Modern Day and will include music from America and other countries around the world. Students will learn and practice Sight Singing techniques on a daily basis. They will also prepare with Aural Training that will correspond with each week's theory lesson. Students will rehearse within the ensemble and have opportunities for solo and group performance. This course will be taught first and second semester for an hour per day.

Grading:

1. Chorus Concerts (50%) - MANDATORY
2. Daily Attendance and 1 Concert Questionnaire per year (30%)
3. After School Dress Rehearsals (10%)
4. Music Quizzes (10%)

Supply List:

1. 3 Ring Binder (1 inch) for sight reading and music theory materials
2. One package of Mechanical Pencils
3. Water bottle
4. Red Polo and Khaki Pants or Skirt for Concerts and Competitions

Prerequisite:

Middle School Treble Chorus (6th and 7th grade)

Primary Texts:

Shaw-Slabbinck, Holly and Slabbinck, Ronald. 2005. *One Minute Theory: Book 1*. San Diego, CA: Kjos Music Press.

Beck, Andy, Lewis, Brian and Surmani, Karen. *Sing at First Sight: Foundations in Choral Sight-Singing*, Level 1. Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing Co.

Repertoire will vary each year will be appropriate for 7th and 8th Grade Level Mixed Choir.

Technology Aids:

Ear Training Exercises: www.teoria.com and www.good-ear.com
 Music Theory Examples with Music Files: www.musictheoryexamples.com
 Theory Definitions: www.oxfordmusiconline.com and www.quizlet.com
 Theory Drills: www.emusictheory.com/practice
 Tutorials: www.musictheory.net and www.musictheoryminute.com
 Sight Singing Examples: www.gmea.org
 Worksheets: www.gmajormusictheory.org

Course Planner:

Class periods in Middle School Mixed Choir will consist of:

- A. Sight singing and rhythmic exercises from *Music for Sight Singing*
- B. Music theory exercises from *One Minute Theory*
- C. Sectionals/Group Rehearsal on assigned repertoire
- D. Choreography/Blocking
- E. Teambuilding Activities
- F. Individual rehearsal time with the director for voice testing and solo work

Course Outline:

Fall Semester:

1. Singing correct pitches in sections
2. Major and Minor Scale
3. Vocal Pedagogy Basics – Diaphragm, Larynx, Etc.
4. Proper Performance Etiquette and Presentation
5. Intermediate Sight Reading Skills including skips of ascending and descending unisons, octaves, thirds and fifths and ascending seconds, fourths, and sixths.
6. Intermediate Music Theory Terms and Concepts
7. Subdivisions in Simple Meter and Introduction of Compound Meter
8. Solo and Group Performance Skills
9. Dessert Theatre Performance
10. Christmas Concert

Spring Semester:

1. Balance and Blend with SAB sections
2. Major, Minor, and Chromatic Scale with Curwen Hand Signs
3. Connecting Vocal Pedagogy basics in performance
4. Stage Presence
5. Sight Reading Examples including all intervals ascending and octaves, thirds, and fifths ascending and descending.
6. Music Theory Concepts applied to repertoire
7. Divisions of the Beat in Simple and Compound Meter
8. Performance etiquette in competition
9. Spring Choir Concert
10. Middle School Musical
11. Six Flags Choral Competition

Performance Rule:

Students are not allowed to miss performances, unless there is a family emergency or serious illness. In the event of an emergency, students are allowed to write a paper to make up the performance grade. Guidelines for the paper can be found on the GWA Choral Webpage.

George Walton Academy Choral Contract
Return with payment to Mrs. D by Monday, August 18th

Student Name: _____

I have received, read, and understand all parts of the GWA Choral Syllabus.

Initial: _____

I understand that Mrs. Donaldson must be notified via e-mail at least a week before a scheduled after school rehearsal if a conflict arises. Any conflicts I know of at this time I have listed below.

Initial: _____

I understand that concerts are mandatory and if an emergency arises, my child must write a paper to make up the equivalent of the exam grade. Initial: _____

I understand that permission slips and e-mail reminders will be sent to me at least a week before an event's date.

Initial: _____

I would like to be added to the parent list to help with ticket sales, costume design and creation, set design and creation, and/or anything else needed for performances.

Initial: _____

Area(s) of Interest for volunteering:

Signed: _____

Date: _____

My E-mail address is: _____

My dates for the school year that conflict with the choral calendar:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

If you did not purchase a Theory Book last year, please enclose \$10 with this contract for your child.

(Emergency Contact Sheet on Next Page)

Emergency Contact Information (Please Return with Choir Contract)**Student Name:** _____**Parents' Names:** _____**Primary Emergency Contact:** _____**Primary Emergency Phone:** _____**Secondary Emergency Contact:** _____**Secondary Emergency Phone:** _____**Student's Allergies:** _____

Additional Comments: _____

Dates for Middle School Chorus **(*) Mandatory Rehearsals and Performances**

Fall Semester

(*) Thursday, November 6th: 3:00 – 7:00pm, Lower Gym
Disney Dazzle Dessert Theatre Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Party

(*) Saturday, November 8th: 6:00pm Call 7:00pm Performance, Lower Gym
Disney Dazzle Dessert Theatre Performance

(*) Sunday, November 9th: 2:00pm Call 3:00pm Performance, Lower Gym
Disney Dazzle Dessert Theatre Matinee

Tuesday, November 11th: 8am Call, 9am Performance, Nicholson Center
Veteran's Day Program

(*) Tuesday, November 18th: GWA Fine Arts Night, more info TBA

Friday, December 5th: 8am Call 9am Performance, Nicholson Center, Christmas Tree
Presentation

(*) Monday, December 8th: 2:30pm Call (GWA will provide bus transportation to the
venue. Parents responsible for pickup. Dinner Provided.) 6:30pm Performance,
Lighthouse World Outreach Center, Christmas Collage Concert

Spring Semester

Monday, March 2nd: 3:00 – 5:00pm, Lower Gym
MS Musical Rehearsal for Leads Only

Monday, March 16th: 3:00 – 6:30pm, Lower Gym
MS Musical Tech Rehearsal for Leads Only

(*) Tuesday, March 17th: 3:00 – 7:00pm, Lower Gym
MS Tech Rehearsal for All 6th – 8th Graders

(*) Wednesday, March 18th: 3:00 – 7:00pm, Lower Gym
MS Dress Rehearsal for All 6th – 8th Graders

Thursday, March 19th: 8:00am Call 9:30am School Performance MS Musical

(*) Friday, March 20th: 6:00pm Call 7:00pm Performance MS Musical

(*) Saturday, March 21st: 1:30pm Call 3:00pm Performance MS Musical Matinee

(*) Monday, May 4th: 4:30pm Call 6:30pm Performance, Spring Choir Concert

Saturday, May 9th: All Day, Six Flags Competition