

Stratford 7th and 8th Gr. Middle School Choir Syllabus 2019-'20

Director: Mrs. Elizabeth Dahlby

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Supply List:	Folder & Music (provided), pencil, eraser, assignment notebook, Chrome book, concert clothing
Description:	This mixed choral ensemble is open to 7 th & 8 th grade students. The course is designed to teach students basic choral skills and cultivate a love of singing.
Course Structure:	The course meets days on "B" days for a period of 45 minutes. We will begin promptly after the bell rings starting with warm-ups and attendance. Students may be asked to sing in small groups as we prepare music for performance.
<p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p><i>Based on Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Music</i></p>	<p>I can (or I am working towards):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP1.Cr.9.m: Develop musical compositions for voices or instruments. • MP1.Cr.10.m: Improvise rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic variations to embellish a song. • MP1.Cr.11.m: Compose short pieces using standard and/or alternative notation and technology within specified guidelines, demonstrating the use of the elements of music. • MP1.Cr.12.m: Arrange short pieces using standard and/or alternative notation with symbols and/or technology means using specified guidelines. • P2.P.17.m: Rehearse and demonstrate the ability to sing and/or play expressively, on pitch, and in rhythm, while using proper technique and • MP2.P.18.m Perform using expressive qualities and techniques. • MP2.P.19.m: Discuss own ideas and feedback of others to develop strategies to address technical challenges. • MP2.P.20.m: Illustrate how the setting and music elements contribute to the context of the music. • MP2.P.21.m: Demonstrate an understanding of music from aural traditions and through standard and nonstandard notation through performance. • MP2.P22.m: Perform collaboratively as a part of an ensemble, demonstrating well developed ensemble skills. • MP2.P.23.m: Perform solos and in small ensembles, contributing performance ideas collaboratively to enhance the performance. • MP2.P.24.m: Demonstrate proper concert etiquette collaboratively in a rehearsal for a variety of musical settings. • MP3.R.9.m: Define and demonstrate understanding of foundational musical elements in discussion and written reflections. • MP3.R.10.m: Express musical ideas through verbal, movement, written, artistic, or technological means. • MP3.R.11.m: Evaluate and critique musical performances, recordings, and compositions using appropriate music terminology and technology. • MP3.R.12.m: Demonstrate proper concert/audience etiquette for a variety of musical settings. • MP3.R.13.m: Reflect upon and critique performances using grade- appropriate music vocabulary. • MP4.Cn.9.m: Analyze the historical and cultural relationships of music's interactions with other disciplines. • MP4.Cn.10.m: Explain how music relates to self, others, and the world using grade- appropriate music vocabulary. • MP4.Cn.11.m: Categorize musical connections, similarities, and differences. • MP4.Cn.12.m Compare and contrast the roles of musicians in various music settings and world cultures.
Concert Attire:	<p><i>Option 1:</i> Black pants, black socks, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes) & white, button-down or polo shirt.</p> <p><i>Option 2:</i> Black skirt/slacks, black socks/hose, low-heeled, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes) & white top.</p>

Classroom Policies:	<p>Passes – Only two (2) bathroom passes are allowed during the hour. Passes for other reasons are <i>not allowed</i> during class time. Please address your personal needs between classes. Students must always ask before leaving the room, <u>provide student pass book</u> for signing and sign out in the record book.</p> <p>Tardiness – A clear understanding of musical and singing concepts is best met with good attendance. Those students not in their assigned seat at the beginning of any class are considered tardy and will be recorded as such in the computer. (<i>School District of Stratford Grade 6-12 Student/Parent Handbook</i>) A partial loss of daily points may result. Students more than 3 minutes late to class will be marked absent.</p> <p>Classroom Equipment – Equipment in the classroom is to enhance the learning experience of ALL students. Mistreatment of equipment will result in fines to maintain or replace it, disciplinary action or both.</p> <p>Food & Drink - Food is NOT ALLOWED in the choir room. Clear water in a sealable container is the only drink allowed.</p>
Expectations:	<p>In addition to the Tiger Classroom Pride Expectations matrix, students are expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Complete assignments on time.2. Pick up after oneself in the classroom, and not eat, drink or chew gum during class.3. Always ask before leaving the room, provide student pass book & sign out in record book.4. Ask for permission to play the piano and do not touch any technology in the room without permission.5. Only use cell phones in accordance with SDS Student/Parent Handbook rules.6. Maintain a positive attitude, be supportive of each other, and work as a team.7. Return <i>Syllabus Acknowledgement Form</i> signed & dated by both student & parent/guardian.
Academic Integrity Policy:	<p><i>Academic dishonesty is plagiarism, submitting falsified or invented information as fact, unauthorized use of tools, notes, textbooks or electronic devices on assessments, being complicit in the act of allowing another student to copy work or copying another student's work and submitting as your own.</i> (<i>School District of Stratford 6 – 12 Student/Parent Handbook</i>)</p> <p>Some class work will be expected to be done independently. Students who violate the guidelines of such work will be handled on an individual basis. If a student is unclear whether the work is group or independent work, it is the student's responsibility to ask. Please be advised that Athletic & Activity Code consequences also pertain to academic integrity violations.</p> <p>1st Offense: Dean of Students (Coaches/Advisors) and parents to be contacted. The student may be allowed to redo the assignment/minor assessment for partial credit (up to 70%).</p> <p>2nd Offense: Principal, Dean of Students (Coaches/Advisors) and parents to be contacted. The student receives a zero on the assignment/minor assessment with no opportunity to recover the lost points.</p> <p>3rd Offense: Same as 2nd offense. Additionally, the student could risk failing the course due to a lack of points.</p>
Grading Policy:	<p>Overall grading scheme for each semester is as follows:</p> <p>Quarter 1/3: 45% + Quarter 2/4: 45% + Final Exam: 10% = Semester grade</p> <p><small>(Formative: Daily grade, Lessons, Sectionals, RepTesting, Sight-singing, Other Wk) (Formative: Daily grade, Lessons, Sectionals, RepTesting, Sight-singing, Other Wk)</small></p> <p><small>(Summative: Unit tests, Concerts) (Summative: Unit tests, Concerts)</small></p> <p>Daily Grade: (6 points) The following three criterion comprise the daily grade:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Participation (2 pts)2. Behavior/Procedures (2 pts)3. Musicianship (2 pts) <p>See the attached <u>Choirs Daily Grading/Assessment Rubric</u> for further details and explanation.</p>

Lessons: (6 points) All students are scheduled a 15 minute bi-weekly lesson from 2:30 – 2:45pm with Mrs. Dahlby during 8th hour. The lesson groups and schedule are posted on the choir bulletin board, class web page and 8th hour ELT rooms. Choral repertoire, solo and ensemble selections and vocal technique will be studied. Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed using the *Choirs Daily Grading/Assessment Rubric*. A missed lesson MUST be made up before the student's next lesson. One lesson per quarter may be missed due to a quiz/test/lab or field trip without penalty. If Mrs. Dahlby cancels a lesson for some reason, it does not to be made up.

Sectional Rehearsals, Repertoire Testing, Sight-singing & other written work: Sectional rehearsals, repertoire testing, sight-singing and other written work will be scheduled and administered throughout the semester to improve student skills, prepare for performances and the semester exam. These items will be assessed through the use of a rubric. Missing a rehearsal for a school event where the student is not playing/participating will not be considered an excused absence.

Retakes:

Students who score below 70% on a summative assessment will be allowed to retake the assessment under the following conditions as recorded below. (*School District of Stratford Grade 6-12 Student/Parent Handbook*) **However, retakes do not apply to performances or semester final exams.**

1. The student must complete a supplemental learning packet and submit it to Mrs. Dahlby for additional assessment.
2. The student must schedule a meeting during the school day (7:30 – 8am, 3:15 – 3:30pm, or other times as available) with Mrs. Dahlby for further remediation.
3. The student must retake the assessment within five (5) days of his/her initial assessment.
4. The student can only retake the assessment once.
5. The second assessment will be a different exam but remain in the same or similar format as the initial assessment.
6. The score of the second assessment will be recorded as the final grade in the grade book.

Concerts/Performances: (Please see the attached *Concert/Performance Grading Rubric*.) **Concert attendance is mandatory** as the performance is considered an examination of the material that has been covered in the singer's class.

Authorized Absence With Prior Notification

Authorized absences are school, church, or other related conflicts or unavoidable family vacations or events. The director must receive a note from a parent/guardian or notification from school activity at least three weeks before concert/performance. To make up the concert/performance, the student must schedule an appointment to perform all pieces from memory and in concert dress. Missing a concert/performance for a school event where the student is not playing/participating will not be considered an excused absence.

Excused Absence After Event With Notification

Excused absences are due to student illness or family emergencies. If you are gravely ill and are unable to attend a performance or special rehearsal, please contact the director THREE HOURS before the concert/performance. (This allows us to make adjustments for spacing on the risers, etc.). You may e-mail or leave a voice mail message. A written note from a parent/guardian/doctor is to be brought in after the missed concert/performance. To make up the concert/performance, the student must schedule an appointment to perform all pieces from memory and in concert dress.

Unexcused absences will result in a total loss of points with no opportunity to make up the event. An

unexcused absence is a situation where a student skips a concert/performance, leaves the concert early, or has a work conflict. Work is not a valid excuse to miss a concert. If a student shows up to a performance without the appropriate concert apparel, such a situation will be considered an unexcused absence and the student will not be allowed to perform with the choir.

All events are listed on the school calendar, choir calendar (last pg of syllabus), Choir class & District websites.

Final exam: Will cover materials discussed and/or rehearsed during the semester (i.e. basic choral music concepts, theory and vocal pedagogy terms, music theory, composers, historical information, exercises, etc...). Students will be given a study guide 1 week prior to the final exam. **The exam is worth 10% of the final semester grade.**

Make-up work: Students are solely responsible to obtain and make up all their missed work. (*School District of Stratford Grade 6-12 Student/Parent Handbook*) Students will have *five (5) school days after the absence* to complete missed work. After the fifth day, the student may receive a zero(s). Unexcused absences will result in a zero in the grade book for that day(s).

To make up an excused absence, students must schedule a twenty (20) minute voice lesson with Mrs. Dahlby prior to or within five (5) school days after the absence. **Make-up lessons must be scheduled in advance & during 8th hour.** The semester schedule is posted on my office door. The student must fill-out a Make-Up Record as well as bring his/her music to the lesson, and engage fully in the entire lesson time to earn back the points missed. The number of points earned is a direct reflection of the student's effort. Missing Make-up Record forms as well as unexcused absences will result in a zero in the grade book for that day.

Grading Scale	
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
68-69	D+
66-67	D
65	D-
0-64	F

GPA Calculation	
4.00	A
3.67	A-
3.33	B+
3.00	B
2.67	B-
2.33	C+
2.00	C
1.67	C-
1.33	D+
1.00	D
0.67	D-
0	F

Posting of Grades: Grades are updated weekly. Please access Skyward to view your grade for this class

Extra credit: Extra credit points may be allocated daily at the discretion of the teacher. Up to 24 points **a quarter** will be awarded to those students attending or participating in a fine arts event including: participation in a church, temple or community choir, private piano/voice lessons, involvement in Solo & Ensemble contests, pre-approved concert event attendance (ticket stub or program required), etc... at the discretion of Mrs. Dahlby. Written documentation or other evidence is required to support your claim.

2019-2020 Stratford 7th & 8th Grade Middle School Choir Calendar*

**Dates and times subject to change.*

QUARTER	DAY	MONTH	DATE	EVENT	GRADE PTS
1 st Quarter	Monday	September	9	Choral Dept. Fundraiser begins	N/A
	Monday	September	23	Fundraiser Ends	N/A
	Tuesday	October	22	Choral Dept. Fundraiser Pick-up HS gym lobby from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	
	Monday	November	4	END OF FIRST QUARTER	
2 nd Quarter	Sunday	December	15	Christmas Concert – HS Gym @ 1:30 pm Warm-ups in choir room begin at 12:45pm	400
	Friday	January	17	END OF SECOND QUARTER	
3 rd Quarter	Wednesday	March	25	END OF THIRD QUARTER	N/A
	Friday	March	27	Solo & Ensemble – Stratford	
	Thursday	April	16	Large Group Contest – Abbotsford	400
4 th Quarter	Sunday	May	3	Spring Choir Concert–HS Gym @ 2:00 pm Warm-ups in choir room begin @ 1:30pm	400
	Wednesday	May	27	Musical Auditions from 3:30 – 5:30 pm	
	Tuesday	June	2	END OF FOURTH QUARTER	

