

# Stratford 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Gr. Middle School Choir Syllabus 2020-'21

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 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students. The course is designed to teach students basic choral skills and cultivate a love of singing.
Course Structure:	The course meets daily 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.
Learning Outcomes:	<p>I can (or I am working towards):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MP1.Cr.9.m: Develop musical compositions for voices or instruments.</li> <li>• MP1.Cr.10.m: Improvise rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic variations to embellish a song.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• MP1.Cr.12.m: Arrange short pieces using standard and/or alternative notation with symbols and/or technology means using specified guidelines.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• MP2.P.18.m Perform using expressive qualities and techniques.</li> <li>• MP2.P.19.m: Discuss own ideas and feedback of others to develop strategies to address technical challenges.</li> <li>• MP2.P.20.m: Illustrate how the setting and music elements contribute to the context of the music.</li> <li>• MP2.P.21.m: Demonstrate an understanding of music from aural traditions and through standard and nonstandard notation through performance.</li> <li>• MP2.P22.m: Perform collaboratively as a part of an ensemble, demonstrating well developed ensemble skills.</li> <li>• MP2.P.23.m: Perform solos and in small ensembles, contributing performance ideas collaboratively to enhance the performance.</li> <li>• MP2.P.24.m: Demonstrate proper concert etiquette collaboratively in a rehearsal for a variety of musical settings.</li> <li>• MP3.R.9.m: Define and demonstrate understanding of foundational musical elements in discussion and written reflections.</li> <li>• MP3.R.10.m: Express musical ideas through verbal, movement, written, artistic, or technological means.</li> <li>• MP3.R.11.m: Evaluate and critique musical performances, recordings, and compositions using appropriate music terminology and technology.</li> <li>• MP3.R.12.m: Demonstrate proper concert/audience etiquette for a variety of musical settings.</li> <li>• MP3.R.13.m: Reflect upon and critique performances using grade- appropriate music vocabulary.</li> <li>• MP4.Cn.9.m: Analyze the historical and cultural relationships of music's interactions with other disciplines.</li> <li>• MP4.Cn.10.m: Explain how music relates to self, others, and the world using grade- appropriate music vocabulary.</li> <li>• MP4.Cn.11.m: Categorize musical connections, similarities, and differences.</li> <li>• MP4.Cn.12.m Compare and contrast the roles of musicians in various music settings and world cultures.</li> </ul>
Concert Attire:	<p><i>Option 1:</i> Black pants, black socks, black dress shoes (no tennis shoes) &amp; 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) &amp; white top.</p>

*Based on Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Music*

<p>Classroom Policies:</p>	<p><b>Passes</b> – 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. Student must ask &amp; obtain a pass before leaving the room. Student must <u>sign out in the record book</u>.</p> <p><b>Tardiness</b> – 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 5 minutes late to class will be marked absent.</p> <p><b>Classroom Equipment</b> – Equipment in the classroom is to enhance the learning experience of ALL students. Show respect to all equipment. Mistreatment of equipment will result in fines to maintain or replace it, disciplinary action or both.</p> <p><b>Food &amp; Drink</b> - Food is NOT ALLOWED in the choir room. Clear water in a sealable container is the only drink allowed.</p>
<p>Expectations:</p>	<p>In addition to the Tiger Classroom Pride Expectations matrix (attached), students are expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete assignments on time.</li> <li>2. Pick up after oneself in the classroom, and not eat, drink or chew gum during class.</li> <li>3. Always ask before leaving the room, obtain pass book &amp; sign out in record book.</li> <li>4. Do not play the piano and or touch any technology in the room without permission.</li> <li>5. Only use cell phones in accordance with SDS Student/Parent Handbook rules.</li> <li>6. Maintain a positive attitude, be supportive of each other, and work as a team.</li> <li>7. Return <i>Syllabus Acknowledgement Form</i> signed &amp; dated by both student &amp; parent/guardian.</li> </ol>
<p>Academic Integrity Policy:</p>	<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> (School District of Stratford 6 – 12 Student/Parent Handbook)</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. If you are struggling with the work, please ask me for help. That's what I'm here for. Please be advised that Athletic &amp; Activity Code consequences also pertain to academic integrity violations.</p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense:</b> 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><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:</b> 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><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense:</b> Same as 2nd offense. Additionally, the student could risk failing the course due to a lack of points.</p>
<p>Grading Policy:</p>	<p>Overall grading scheme for each semester is as follows:</p> <p><b>Quarter 2/4:</b> 80% + <b>Final Exam:</b> 20% = Semester grade  <small>(Formative: 50% - Daily grade, Lessons, Sectionals, RepTesting, Sight-singing, Other Wk)</small>  +  <small>(Summative: 50% - Unit tests, Concerts)</small></p> <p><b>Daily Grade:</b> (6 points) The following three criterion comprise the daily grade:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Participation (2 pts)</b></li> <li>2. <b>Behavior/Procedures (2 pts)</b></li> <li>3. <b>Musicianship (2 pts)</b></li> </ol> <p>See the attached <u><i>Choirs Daily Grading/Assessment Rubric</i></u> for further details and explanation.</p>

**Lessons:** (6 points) All students are scheduled 15 minute lessons during 4<sup>th</sup> hr with Mrs. Dahlby. Lesson groups and schedule are posted on the choir bulletin board, class web page and 4<sup>th</sup> hr class 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 may be rescheduled during the current quarter but not in the last week before the end of the current quarter. 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 need 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:**

No retakes on daily formative assessments. 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 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.

Please remember, 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 20% 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).

**Parent excused absences** (filed in the office) do not need to be made up. However, long term illnesses or absences may require remediation. Remediation lessons must be **scheduled in advance & during 7<sup>th</sup> hour.**

<b>Grading Scale</b>	
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

<b>GPA Calculation</b>	
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 the Stratford School District website and enter 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 12 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.

## **2020-2021 Stratford 7th & 8th Grade Middle School Choir Calendar\***

**\*Dates and times subject to change.**

<b>QUARTER</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>GRADE PTS</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter		January	TBD	Winter concert performance alternative	TBD
	Wednesday	January	20	END OF SECOND QUARTER	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	Monday	March	29	END OF THIRD QUARTER	N/A
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter		May	TBD	Spring concert performance alternative	TBD
	Friday	June	4	END OF FOURTH QUARTER	