

## 2023 Middle School Choir Syllabus

Miss Gotham

hgotham@ekcsk12.org

Auditorium/phone 316

***“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.” – Victor Hugo***

### Goals:

- To establish and reinforce correct singing through vocal technique and skill.
- To recognize, understand, and apply structural elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form as both a performer and listener.
- To improve the use of expressive elements, such as dynamics, phrasing, and tempo.
- To develop a sense of fulfillment, responsibility, and pride as musicians and performers.
- To expand interest and knowledge of musical repertoire, performances, and artistic achievement from a variety of cultures around the world.
- To cultivate a sense of identity and positive self-image through participation in a successful performing ensemble.

### Evaluation (per marking period):

- Scheduled Sectionals - 40%
- Participation/Discussion - 20%
- Concert Attendance - 20%
- Assignments, Forums, Projects, Quizzes, & Exams - 20%

\*Extra credit will be given to students who attend concerts other than their own and for various other music-related items throughout the year.

## Scheduled Sectionals - 40%

Sectionals are a required part of this course. A sectional schedule will be posted on each Day One via Google Classroom and outside of the chorus room. Students will have scheduled sectionals once in a six day cycle, as needed, typically during fifth period. In these sectionals we will focus on the following for each voice part:

1. Music Literacy
2. Vocal Quality
3. Basic Music Theory
4. Choral Repertoire

**Excused Sectionals:** Students are allowed to miss a chorus sectional in the case of a test or quiz in a class they may be missing or if absent from school. Other than this case, all sectionals should be attended. Students are encouraged to still make up the sectional rehearsal in the case of a test, quiz, or school absence.

**Unexcused Sectionals:** Students who miss a sectional for any reason other than a test, quiz, or school absence are able to make up the lesson for full credit by contacting Miss Gotham to schedule a make-up time. Unexcused lessons that are not made up will impact a student's grade.

## Participation/Discussion - 20%

Students must follow these classroom expectations during class and lessons:

- **Be Present:** Attendance is ESSENTIAL in this course. Students must make up any written classwork, if applicable, upon their return. To make up for rehearsal time, a student must meet with Miss Gotham if they miss 2 days or more in a 2 week period. Unexcused absences will follow the Edwards-Knox Middle School attendance policy.

- **Be On Time:** Students who are tardy should walk in quietly and find their seat without causing a distraction to the other members of the choir. A total of three tardies will equal one absence. If you have a late pass or excuse slip, hand it to Miss Gotham at the end of class. Being early is being on time.
- **Be Ready to Learn:** Students are expected to have materials ready at the beginning of class time. All students will need their Chromebook, a black folder, pencil, and their music.
- **Be Engaged:** Students should contribute meaningfully to the choir's music-making and any class or group discussions about the material we are working on.

#### Concert Attendance - 20%

As a member of a performing ensemble, concert attendance is MANDATORY.

- **Mandatory Concert Dates:**
  - Spring: May 16th, 2023 at 6 pm
- **Concert Attire:** When attending mandatory concerts, students are required to wear all black. Students should do their best to avoid ripped jeans, sweatpants, unsafe heels, or brightly colored sneakers. All school dress code policies apply. If a student is unable to obtain proper attire, please see Miss Gotham in advance.
- **Missing a Concert:** Students who are unable to attend mandatory concerts must provide a written excuse to Miss Gotham which should be signed by a parent or guardian at least one week before the concert. This will allow students to achieve full credit through an alternative assignment, which includes either meeting with Miss Gotham to sing through all concert pieces individually with a recording of the ensemble or writing a three page paper about one of the pieces performed in the missed concert. For more information about these alternate assignments see Miss Gotham.

## Assignments, Forums, Projects, Quizzes, & Exams - 20%

Students will be given this work via Google Classroom or during class time. Students will be notified during class when any work is posted and when it is due and they should also frequently check Google Classroom for any work posted.

## Course Skills, Expectations, & Outcomes:

- Personal Growth
  - Improvement should be made over the course of our time together.
  - Enjoy the process of learning together. Many of our goals will take time. Do your best work each class, but be patient with yourself and others as we grow together as musicians.
- Habits to Build - Choices to Make
  - The ability to be ready on time with your materials in hand by the time the bell rings reflects the kind of dedication and attention to detail that each student needs to have during rehearsal.
  - Respect for both the teacher and your classmates is expected at all times.
  - Great posture leads to great singing, whether you are sitting or standing.
  - Active listening is a skill we can use in both the music room and the world around us. Learning to listen when other parts of our ensemble are rehearsing is a tool we can use to grow as singers.
- Classroom Contributions
  - Be respectful, kind, and courteous to others.
  - Take part in all activities - we must all participate fully and as a team.
  - Be supportive of one another - help make choir a safe environment for all.
  - Take risks and chances in your music-making.
- Group Skills/Leadership
  - Lead by example
  - Follow your part in the music when other sections are rehearsing

Other Classroom Policies:

- No gum - use the wastebasket before class starts
- No candy, food, or beverages, in the chorus room. Water is highly encouraged always.
- No headphones, iPods, or other electronic items during chorus or in the practice rooms.
- Cell phones must not be visible!
- Any lost or damaged music, folders, or clothing borrowed for concerts will need to be replaced or financially covered by the student and/or their parent/guardian.
- If you are ill and cannot sing, please talk to Miss Gotham before class begins.

**Mandatory Spring Concert Date: May 16th, 2023 at 6 pm**



By signing below, you agree to the 2023 Middle School Choir syllabus.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_