



Shepherd Hill Regional High School
Visual and Performing Arts Department 2011-2012

Course: Chamber Singers

Level: 1

Teacher: Ms. Galli

Credit: .5

Room: Auditorium

Course Description:

Chamber Choir is a mixed (SATB) performing ensemble dedicated to the preparation and performance of music suited to the small ensemble. Chamber Choir members will refine solo and ensemble singing skills to meet a high standard of performance. Independent singing and part learning are an important (graded) component of this class. Numerous performances will be scheduled throughout the year. Chamber Choir members are selected by audition. For the 2011-2012 school year all members of Chamber Singers will be members of “Fantasy.”

Student Learning Expectations:

8 - The Shepherd Hill student demonstrates an understanding of culture and the arts.

Texts/Materials:

- ♪ Choral literature from a variety of periods and styles with an emphasis on madrigals and pop / vocal jazz.
- ♪ “Easy Rhythm SATB” Sight Singing Series Vol. I & II.
- ♪ Drill and practice software, and audio files available at shepherdhillchorus.com for part learning
- ♪ Text: “Music Theory for Choirs” (Laurel Larsen); Handouts

Assessment/Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on the following:

- ♪ Class participation
- ♪ Part learning (Performance assessment alone and in small groups)
- ♪ Written/aural tests and quizzes
- ♪ Fundamental singing skills – posture, breathing, tone production, diction
(Note: evaluation in this area will be based on improvement/growth and not ability)
- ♪ Attendance at all events outside the regular school day
(A legitimate excuse – at the director’s discretion – must be communicated by phone or in writing by a PARENT / GUARDIAN PRIOR TO the DAY of the event)

Classroom Procedures/Requirements:

- ♪ Chamber Choir is designed to challenge the serious vocal student. Most music will be level 5 of higher. Considerable preparation outside of class is REQUIRED.
- ♪ Individual parts are to be learned prior to scheduled rehearsal for that piece. Students will have a minimum of one week to learn a song. Students who are consistently unprepared for class will be removed from the ensemble.

“ . . . committed to excellence with pride and unity.”

- ♪ Chamber Choir is a co-curricular activity. Rehearsals and performances outside the school day are required. Because of the size of the group, it is particularly important that all members attend every performance.
- ♪ A successful choir is built on a spirit of cooperation and respect. In addition, a small select ensemble also requires a commitment to the success of the group. Behavior that interferes with the success of the group, or holds back the group's progress will result in removal from the ensemble.

Behavioral Expectations: Students involved in Chamber Singers should:

Be Respectful and Cooperative:

- Contribute to a positive classroom atmosphere
- Respect the abilities of your peers – listen to your section leaders
- Do not interrupt rehearsal by talking or otherwise distracting others
- Be prompt – be ready to begin active rehearsal when the bell rings

Be Responsible and Productive:

- Bring all music, sight-singing materials and a pencil to each class
- Give your best effort at all times
- Be attentive to the rules of good singing – posture, diction, intonation, musicianship
- Participate fully in all class activities
- Come to class prepared each day – learn vocal parts as assigned

Follow School Rules and Teachers' Expectations:

- Keep food and drinks (except water) out of the auditorium
- Do not chew gum in rehearsal
- Remain focused on the director/section leader throughout class

***Student Signature:** _____

***Parent/Guardian Signature:** _____

***Signature indicates receipt of course syllabus.**

To publicize music dept. events, your child's picture may be published in the newspaper or on the web site for public viewing. Your signature below will give the music dept permission to use your child's photograph for publicity in the 2011-2012 school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parents - Notices and schedules distributed to students in class can be emailed to you as well. Please complete the information below to be included on our email list.

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

May we share your contact information with the Music Parents Association? Yes / No

The Music Parents Association meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Shepherd Hill cafeteria. To enhance the music experience for all, the organization hosts various events throughout the year. Your input, participation and assistance are gratefully appreciated.

Website: shepherdhillchorus.com

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