Palmyra Area High School
Concert Choir Syllabus
2013-2014
Mr. Pierce
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Please read the following information:

Concert Choir Attendance:
Students are required to participate in all choir activities as scheduled. Choir is a class and it is your responsibility to be in rehearsal. An unexcused choir rehearsal is considered a skipped class and will be treated as such and will result in an F for that day. Also, an unexcused absence from an after school performance will result in a lowered grade. Examples of excusable absences are illness (out of school), family emergency, or an important family engagement (wedding, graduation, or important trip).

Required Performances

*December 15, 2013 – 2:00 p.m. High School Music Department Holiday Concert in the High School Auditorium

*February 24, 2014 – 3:00pm-7:00pm (March 3, 2014 Snow Make-up) For The Love Of Music Elem, MS & HS Choir Workshop & Concert in the HS or MS Auditorium.

*May 7, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. High School Choir Spring Concert in the High School Auditorium

Optional Performances

*April 14-19, 2014 High School Band/Choir/Orchestra Trip to Disney World.
Course Objectives:
In high school choir, we will be focusing on the following concepts and techniques throughout the year:
- Melody/Harmony
- Tone Production
- Rhythm
- Ear Training/Intonation
- Musicality
- Solfege
- Sight Singing
- Music History
- Musical Styles

Grading:
Attendance, preparedness, class assignments and singing tests, make up your choir grade. The following components will determine a student’s grade in concert choir:

1. Choir Participation – 40%
   a. Includes positive attitude, behavior, following directions, being engaged in rehearsal, being prepared with your music, sight-singing material and a pencil.

2. Singing tests – 25%
   a. On sight-singing material and concert repertoire
   b. Singing tests will be both announced and unannounced
   c. Each student will participate in one unannounced quartet style singing test each semester.

3. Theory/History/Listening Assessment – 10%
   a. There will be a listening assignment due at the end of every week beginning the 2nd week of school.

4. Concert attendance – 25%
   a. ANY CONCERT ABSENCE will result in the concert grade of 0. If the absence is excused (which Mr. Pierce will determine) a written note should be provided at least a week before the concert date. If excused you may make up the 0 by following the procedure below.
   b. If you are not able to be at the concert, you must write a three-page paper about one of the composers being performed. Provide a biography of this composer, and any background information about the song, lyricist or arranger. You should also provide a description of the piece. What makes it challenging? Be specific. Make sure you provide citations within the body of the paper, and provide a Works Cited page at the end. Full credit on this paper can equal half credit for concert participation.
Classroom Expectations:
1. The Palmyra Choir adheres to all rules in the PAHS Student Handbook.
2. Act in a manner that is beneficial to the group and does not hinder the choir from reaching its fullest potential. You are expected to conduct yourself as a role model.
3. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
4. Be prepared – have a pencil, music, and sight-singing materials for all rehearsals and performances.
5. Upon arrival to class, go directly to your assigned seat, and pull out your black folder and materials.
6. Do not talk when another section is rehearsing.
7. Follow directions promptly when given.
8. Sing/talk only when instructed to do so.
9. No food, gum, or drink is permitted.
10. No cell phones will be permitted during rehearsal.
11. Every member of our choir ensemble will be treated with respect. No bullying will be tolerated.

Consequences:
Any member of this ensemble not following the policies is subject to the following:
1) Warning unless level 1 or 2 infraction in the PAHS Handbook.
2) Parental notification and after school detention
3) Parent Conference requested and after school detention
4) Administrative Referral

Concert Attire:
Proper concert attire is as follows:
- Males – White dress shirt, Tie, Black Dress Pants, Black Socks, and Black Dress Shoes.
- Females – White collared shirt/blouse (No T-shirts!), Black Pants and Black Dress Shoes. No Skirts/Dresses are permitted for the concerts.

Section Leaders:
Section Leaders will be in charge of communicating director notes to the entire section, as well as leading sectionals. Section leaders must be students who are in enrolled Concert Choir every day. They will be in charge of passing on notes from the director to students who are in other ensembles during our small rehearsal days.
Officers:

Qualifications:
1. Any student in the Palmyra High School Concert Choir may run for an office position. The position of President can only be filled by a student with at least one year experience in the High School Choir.
2. Officers must show strong leadership qualities.
3. Officers must always follow all classroom expectations.
4. Officers must be able to attend at least 5 out of 7 officer meetings throughout the year. These will take place before or after school.

Job Descriptions:

President: The President is the executive officer of the student board. He/She will assist the director with planning social functions for students, concerts, and communicating the needs of the choir members to the director and the other officers. The President is also expected to attend Band/Orchestra Booster Meetings to represent the choir. In addition, the president may be required to handle special duties as requested by the director.

Vice-President: He/She assists the president in his/her duties and will preside over the officer meetings if the president is absent. The Vice-President will also be in charge of taking attendance at the beginning of every Concert Choir class.

Librarian: He/She will assist the director in distributing, collecting, organizing, and filing music. The Librarian will be compiling a library database from the choir library. This position requires time outside of school to complete the duties.

Historian: The historian will be responsible for keeping records (i.e. photos, programs, and a brief written summaries) of each event throughout the year. The director will supply all the materials needed to complete this project.

Student Conductor: The student conductor will be responsible for leading the choir in warm-ups and filling in for the director when needed. He/She will need to show adequate conducting skills to perform the required task. The student conductor will also work with Mr. Pierce to iron out technical issues during the concert. These include organizing the choir to get on and off the risers. The student conductor will also have a piece to conduct in the Spring Concert.

Consequences: A student officer who fails to maintain these standards and expectations will forfeit their office. The director will appoint a suitable replacement.
***Student’s interested in a section leader or officer position, must see Mr. Pierce for an application by September 4th.

**Concert Choir Materials:**
- **Black 1” Binder** – every student will need a black binder to store their music in and use for concerts.
- **A pencil** will be needed for EVERY rehearsal. Students are NOT permitted to write in their music in pen.
- **Music:**
  - The Choir Music handed out to students will be returned at the end of every concert.
  - Students may use a hole punch on their music and may write in their music in pencil.
  - It is expected that music will be returned to Mr. Pierce in the same quality to which the student received it. Students will be charged for music that is returned damaged or lost. Examples of damaged music is torn, defaced, or written in with pen, marker, or another permanent writing utensil.
Choir Syllabus Contract
Due September 3, 2013

Student’s Name_____________________________________________

Grade_______ Voice Part (if known)__________________

Are you taking private voice lessons?   Yes /   No
If YES, with whom? __________________________________________
If NO, are you interested in receiving names of teachers from the area? Yes / No

We have read the PHS Choir Handbook and my son/daughter and I understand the requirements as listed.

_____________________________     _____________________________
Parent’s Signature               Student’s Signature

Parent’s Name
__________________________________________________________
Address
__________________________________________________________
Phone Number
__________________________________________________________
Parent’s Email
__________________________________________________________
Choir Parent Booster’s

Dear Choir Parent’s,

This year I will be looking for choir parent volunteers to help with various activities throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Below are some areas that I will be looking for help from the Choir Parents. Please select all that you would be willing to help with. Thank you for supporting your students and the HS Choir Program! I look forward to a great year getting to know the HS Choir and seeing all that we can achieve together.

Thank you!
Mr. Pierce

_____ - Helping at the HS Music Department Concession Stand during Football Games.

_____ - Fundraising – We are looking for parent volunteers to help with various fundraising events as we prepare for Disney!

_____ - Holiday Concert Refreshments (Dec 15th) – work with the HS Band/Orchestra Boosters to get volunteers and set up for refreshments after the HS Holiday Concert.

_____ - Fruit Sale Distribution (Nov. 22) – We are looking for parent help for our biggest fundraiser of the year! We need help from 3:00pm-7:00pm to help distribute the fruit and collect money. Any time frame you can help will be appreciated!

_____ - Spring Concert Refreshments (May 7th) – Help get volunteers to donate food and help set up refreshments for after the HS Choir Concert.

_____ - Music in the Parks – We are looking for parent volunteers to help with MITP at the HS. This is a great fundraiser that brings in money for the music department, and will be used to benefit out students.
- Photographer/Videographer – I am looking for volunteers to help with taking video footage during concerts and photos of various choir events during the year.