

Fairview Choirs
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FAIRVIEW CHOIR SYLLABUS

This syllabus has been written for the members of the choirs and their parents/guardians to communicate information regarding all aspects of participation in a Fairview choir, including goals, expectations, attendance, and grading policies.

All choir members and their parents/guardians are required to read this syllabus and return a signed contract confirming his/her understanding of the information contained in the syllabus.

Music Education Goals

- I.** The student will develop a degree of musical independence which will enable him/her to read and perform music.
- II.** The student will study and sing music from the various style periods of music history, including music by recognized composers.
- III.** The student will participate in activities which are designed to stimulate aesthetic response.

Student Responsibilities to the Music Program

- 1. Be a regular attendee and account for all absences and tardies.
- 2. Make an effort to learn and improve musical skills daily.
- 3. Be responsible for your actions.
- 4. Cooperate with fellow members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the program.
- 5. Contribute positively to your music education and that of others by utilizing your talents.
- 6. Read and sing music with interest and insight.
- 7. Improve your knowledge and understanding of music theory and history.
- 8. Develop good listening habits.
- 9. Follow all classroom guidelines, school regulations, and all travel instructions issued for all field trips.

Classroom Guidelines

1. Be punctual and present every day. Be in your assigned seat with your music and a pencil when the bell rings.
2. Participate willingly, eagerly, energetically, enthusiastically.
3. Bring only water; no food or beverage.

While in rehearsal or sectionals...

1. Use good posture, support your breathing, and sing out.
2. Listen to yourself and to the group.
3. Mark your music.
4. Give your best effort.

At the conclusion of rehearsal...

1. Wait until you are dismissed by the director.
2. Pick up personal belongings, any litter (especially water bottles under chairs), and replace music in your assigned folder rack.

Music

1. Every student will be issued a folder and music to share. Lost, stolen, or damaged music is the responsibility of the student(s). A fine will be assessed based on current replacement and shipping costs.
2. Bring all your music to every rehearsal.
3. Mark your music with a pencil only.
4. Inform the director of lost or damaged music.
5. You may take music home with you, as outside practice is encouraged and in some cases required, but all music must return with you the following day.

Auditions

Auditions for all choirs will be held in the spring. All singers will be evaluated in vocal skills, sight-singing, tonal memory, attitude, and past records of attendance and punctuality, as well as participation in other choirs and extra events.

Performances and Dress Rehearsals

Performances are the “exams” of our class, and therefore are mandatory for all choir members. Our concert dates and dress rehearsals are given well in advance so you can plan ahead. You must attend the entire dress rehearsal; please do not ask to leave early or come late, except in cases of conflicts with other Fairview activities, i.e. sports, plays, etc. Compromises will be discussed if conflicts are communicated to the director at least two weeks in advance. **If you are absent (excused or unexcused-including college visits) two weeks before a choir concert, your participation in the concert is at the discretion of your director.** Our concerts are our finals and each rehearsal leading up to the concert is crucial for a great performance and learning experience. If you are ill the week of a concert, you must contact your director before the missed rehearsal.

If you have an extreme illness or family emergency, please notify the director before the concert begins. If notification is not received before the beginning of the concert, credit will not be given. A doctor’s note will be required if the concert is missed due to illness. When you arrive (call time will be announced in advance), it is expected that you will be fully dressed, groomed, and ready to sing.

Grading

Grading will be based on attitude and participation.

- One Missed Concert = -41% (or three letter grades)
- One Missed Dress Rehearsal = -20% (or two letter grades)
- One Unexcused Absence = -10% (or one letter grade)
- One Excused Absence = -2.5% (After 4 absences your grade will go down 1 letter grade. Excused absences can be made up.)

Participation equals 9% of your grade.

Reasons for losing participation points include:

- Not having music/folder or pencil.
- Inattentiveness, consistently poor posture
- Talking in class, creating a disruption, using your cell phone (-2000!).
- Inappropriate or missing concert attire.
- Turning in forms after the due date, i.e. contract, FT permission forms, etc

Points will accumulate on a daily basis and tallied for each grading period.

- 90+ = A
- 80+ = B
- 70+ = C
- 60+ = D
- 59 = F

Attendance

Types of Absences:

Excused - i.e. your mom says you are sick. These absences count against the school's attendance policy AND they affect your grade in choir.

Excused with Record - Doctors appointments, college visits/auditions, or any other out of school activity. These do NOT count against the school's attendance policy but they DO lower your grade.

Activity - Any school sponsored activity including field trips, IB/AP tests, and college visits to the post grad center. These do NOT count against the school's attendance policy but DO lower your grade if a field trip notification form is not turned in one day in advance.

Unexcused - Each one lowers your grade 10% (you can only make up an unexcused absence at the discretion of the director).

You are allowed four **excused** (both Excused AND Excused with Record) absences before your excused absences start to affect your grade. After missing class rehearsal four excused times, you will need to make up the participation points for each additional day missed if you would like to earn an A in choir. For each day missed (after four excused absences) you will need to turn in a 30-minute rehearsal tape; missing a block day will require a 60-minute rehearsal tape. **REHEARSAL TAPES MUST BE TURNED IN WITHIN ONE WEEK AFTER RETURNING TO SCHOOL AND PRIOR TO THE UPCOMING CONCERT.**

Tardies

- After the bell = 1 tardy
- 3 tardies = 1 absence
- More than 5 minutes late (after the secretary sits down) = absent, per school policy

Fairview Choir Syllabus
2011-2012
Student/Parent Contract

I, _____, confirm that I have accessed the Fairview Choir Syllabus found on the FHS website, and I have read and understand all of the information contained within the syllabus. I confirm that I have read and understand classroom expectations, attendance policies, and how I will be graded. I understand that all classroom guidelines and school regulations will apply when I am present at any music function sponsored by FHS. I further agree to make any and all necessary arrangements to attend choir concerts and music functions sponsored by FHS.

Name of student (print) _____

Signature of student _____

Name of parent (print) _____

Signature of parent _____

The parent/student contract is due Friday, September 16, 2011.

Field Trip Notification

Student Name

Today's Date (mo/day/yr)

I will be attending a school-sponsored field trip on:

_____ during _____

Day and Date

Period(s) missed

For: _____

Class

Teacher

I will be missing: _____

Name of choir