

CHOIR Syllabus

Mrs. Walker Room 229

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TREBLE CHOIR

SWING CHOIR

MADRIGAL CHOIR

All choirs are year-long classes focusing on performance with the purpose of developing the student's voice and ensemble skills. This class is intended to be a fun learning experience – not just individually, but as a cohesive group. It can be the beginning of a lifetime of enjoyment, but like anything worthwhile, it requires effort, perseverance and commitment.

GRADING

MPS uses Standards-Based Grading to calculate student grades. All report card grades will be based on students' mastery of the academic standards identified for each course. Teachers will collect multiple pieces of evidence for each standard to determine what students know and can do using a proficiency based scoring system. Teachers will offer multiple ways for students to demonstrate mastery and will focus on progress over time by replacing old evidence with newer evidence. Practice activities will be provided and students will be encouraged to use practice as a way to strengthen their skills.

Effort and behavior will not be calculated in the students' grades. No credit will be given for non-academic activities or behaviors. Students must show responsibility for their own learning by completing the "Practice" activities (*i.e. what used to be called "Homework"*), acting on teacher feedback on their practice assessment, and taking necessary steps to re-take assessments when needed to master the concepts/skills being measured. **The responsibility is on the students' shoulders to demonstrate their mastery of concepts/skills in each class.** Students' grades will only reflect the "**Evidence**" of the **State/National Standards being assessed.**

All Students will take part in the Class Final Project/Assessment/Jury near the end of the semester.

- Students who need to complete or revise/redo any part of the Final Project/Assessment/Jury will have the opportunity to do so during the "official" Finals week.
- Students who satisfactorily complete all requirements and the Final Project/Assessment/Jury will receive an excused absence form for that Finals period (Parents must sign and turn form in before Finals week).

Grading Criteria

Category 1: CREATE • (Standard 1, 3, 4, 6)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensemble Technique • Tone • Intonation • Accuracy • Technique • Dynamics • Expression • Choreography • Diction 	10%
Category 2: PERFORM • (Standards 1, 2, 5, 7)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances • Concert & Rehearsal Preparation • Concert & Rehearsal Etiquette • Presentation 	50%
Category 3: RESPOND • (Standards 5, 6, 7)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical Form • Musical Theory • Academic Vocabulary • Evaluation/Critique of performances • Musicianship in Ensemble 	30%
Category 4: CONNECT • (Standards 8, 9, 10)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Relationships • Cultural/ Historical • Individual Performance • Literacy Initiative • Voice Lessons 	10%

Music Standards, Grades 9-12

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others a varied repertoire of music.*
3. Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments.**
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.**
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside of the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.
10. School wide Literacy Initiative

*This standard is for instrumental ensembles only, not choral.

**This standard will be introduced but not graded in choir, the standard is usually taught in a smaller ensemble.

Performance Music class criteria usually teach several of the standards above at once within broader concepts. Standards-based grading in Performance Music weights the broader concepts ("Categories") as shown at left. Standards used in each Category are listed.

Concerts – Performance ensembles always

have after school concerts. Concerts can be considered the “term paper” or major project for the choir. **Concert attendance is mandatory.** Choirs depend on all members to have a successful performance. Dancers rely on their partner to be present. Concerts have strict rules for an excused absence. A death in the family or personal illness so severe that student is in the hospital are the only excuses that will be accepted. If these unfortunate circumstances occur written proof is required. A note from the parent is not sufficient. Work, babysitting, lack of transportation are not excuses for missing a concert. Student will have plenty of notice prior to concert performances.

Grading Scale

Students will receive one of the following grades for their evidence (quizzes, tests, projects, papers, labs, presentations, oral commentaries, anecdotal observations and more):

- **Advanced:** The student demonstrates a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of rigorous subject matter and provides sophisticated solutions to complex problems.
- **Proficient:** The student demonstrates a solid understanding of challenging subject matter and solves a wide variety of problems.
- **Basic:** The student demonstrates partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work.
- **Minimal:** The student demonstrates limited knowledge and skills in the subject matter and a limited ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively.

Proficiency Scale	Meaning	Numeric Conversion	Report Card Grade Conversion (done by Infinite Campus) by averaging the value of the proficiency scores shown in column 3.
AD	Advanced or 4 on a 4 point rubric	100	90-100=A
PR	Proficient or 3 on a 4 point rubric	85	80-89= B 70-79= C
BA	Basic or 2 on a 4 point rubric	65	60-69=D
MI	Minimal or 1 on a 4 point rubric	50	59 and Below=U
O	No evidence (<i>the LETTER "O", not a zero</i>)	0	U

Supplies - Each student will be assigned a folder for choir. This folder is for choir only and may be kept in the classroom or taken home to practice. This folder will be used to store music and choir documents. Students are required to have this folder in class every day and a pencil for taking notes. If this folder is lost or damaged the student must replace it. Students will also need a pen or pencil daily for class.

Costumes - Each choir is required to have a costume, students will need to purchase the costume for the specific choir (see below), and fundraising opportunities will be available to them. Students will not be allowed to perform without the proper attire.

Treble Choir: The Treble Choir ladies will be purchasing a T-Shirt for \$7. The money is due by Sept. 16th. If students have the shirts from last year, they do not need to purchase a T-Shirt.

Swing Choir:

Girls: Black character shoes, lollies in black (resemble cheerleader underwear), small fake diamond earrings, no other jewelry is allowed when we perform. Stage appropriate make-up will be required. Big hair. Gold dresses or bright dresses will be provided. Students must have all items by September 10th.

Guys: Black dress pants (with enough space to dance but not falling down), black belt, white long sleeve dress shirt with a collar, black dress shoes, black dress socks. No jewelry will be allowed when we perform. Gold vest and ties will be provided. Students must have all items by Sept. 10th.

Madrigal Choir:

Girls: Black dress shoes, small fake diamond earrings, no other jewelry allowed when we perform. Black long dresses with white sashes and red dresses will be provided.

Specific Classroom Rules

- 1 Choir students are expected to be ready, on the risers, with their folders in hand when the bell rings.
- 2 Choir classes are much larger than a normal class, up to 65 students. The large size of the classes makes excellent behavior a necessity. Often in rehearsal it is necessary to stop singing and work on music by sections. When rehearsal stops it is expected that the students wait quietly for the director to rehearse the other sections or give directions. Waiting for talking to stop, every time rehearsal is paused wastes too much instructional time. Classroom disruptions will not be tolerated.
- 3 No passes are allowed the first or last 10 minutes of class. No hall passes allowed hour 10. Students must ask permission and use the clipboard if they are to leave the classroom and only one student at a time. Each student is allowed 1 pass per week.
- 4 No food (candy, **gum**, etc.) or beverages will be allowed in the classroom, except bottles of water.
- 5 Students who are tardy to class will be sent to the tardy room.
- 6 Severely disruptive students will be sent to an administrator.
- 7 Disruptive students will:
First – Reminded to improve behavior
Second – Warned
Third – Removed from class, issued a detention and their parents will be called.


Behavior

Riverside students are expected to follow all school and classroom rules. Students will earn a Citizenship grade on their report cards, the rubric is below.

RUHS Citizenship Rubric

“Try your hardest, do your best and give your all.”

To earn a RESPECT CITIZENSHIP grade you must meet 3 or more criteria in one number band.

	Be Responsible	Be Respectful	Honor Academics	Be Safe
				
4	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on time to class phones, electronics are off and unseen food and drinks are not present during class (except water) 	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respectful of staff, students and school property uses appropriate language demonstrates appropriate school behavior 	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepared for class participates on task works to potential demonstrates academic integrity 	<p>Always</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows school and classroom rules follows staff directives secures personal belongings follows dress code
3	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on time to class phones, electronics are off and unseen food and drinks are not present during class (except water) 	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respectful of staff, students and school property uses appropriate language demonstrates appropriate school behavior 	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepared for class participates on task works to potential demonstrates academic integrity 	<p>Consistently</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows school and classroom rules follows staff directives secures personal belongings follows dress code
2	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on time to class phones, electronics are off and unseen food and drinks are not present during class (except water) 	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respectful of staff, students and school property uses appropriate language demonstrates appropriate school behavior 	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepared for class participates on task works to potential demonstrates academic integrity 	<p>Occasionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows school and classroom rules follows staff directives secures personal belongings follows dress code
1	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on time to class phones, electronics are off and unseen food and drinks are not present during class (except water) 	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respectful of staff, students and school property uses appropriate language demonstrates appropriate school behavior 	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepared for class participates on task works to potential demonstrates academic integrity 	<p>Rarely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> follows school and classroom rules follows staff directives secures personal belongings follows dress code

Please fill out and return by Sept. 8th.

I have read the choir description and understand the rules, material and costume requirements.

Student will have the proper attire for performances.

Choir name _____

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____ Sept. 2017

Student Cell Phone number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent Signature _____ Sept. 2017

Parental contact information:

Phone number _____

Cell phone number _____

E-mail address _____

Treble Choir girls please fill out:

T-Shirt Size _____

Cost \$7.00

Cash or checks are accepted. Please bring accurate change.

Checks should be written to Riverside University H. S. Choir