

OEHS Choir Syllabus

Mrs. Chelsea King

cking@sd308.org

www.oswegoeastmusic.org



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As part of their participation in choir, students will:

- Learn about the arts through performance.
- Gain skills at interpreting written notation.
- Become more reflective performers and listeners.
- Connect the arts with society and various cultures.
- Have fun making great music together!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Black ½” 3-ring Binder	Pencils	Music Provided by Instructor	Regular lined paper
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GRADING (Approximate):

Weekly Participation: 35%	Music Theory Homework, Tests: 20%
Patron of the Arts: 15%	Performance: 30%

PARTICIPATION GRADE:

At the end of each week, each student will be given a grade (out of 20 points) for their class participation. The following expectations will be followed:

The grade of B (16-17 points) will be given to students who demonstrate:

- Punctuality
- Mature, positive and professional attitude
- Ability to perform assigned parts
- Bring necessary materials to rehearsals on a daily basis

Grades lower than B will go to students who need improvement in the areas listed above.

The grade of A (18-20 points) will be reserved for those students who demonstrate the requirements listed for the B grade, plus:

- A willingness to assist as needed or requested either by the director or other students (e.g. showing leadership in section, running sectionals, showing interest in co-curricular musical activities, auditioning for solo opportunities)
- Demonstration of superior technical and musical ability through the performance of passages from compositions rehearsed during the grading period as requested.

SECTIONALS:

A Cappella and Women's Choir students are expected to complete a sectional outside of class time. Students will be put into groups and will be given pieces quarterly that they are to work on outside of class. Groups will perform in their sectionals in class after concerts.

PATRON OF THE ARTS PROJECTS:

Students in choir will attend FOUR artistic performances per year and write reflections. Mrs. King will periodically announce affordable options in class, but students are expected to seek their own opportunities. High school, college, or professional events such as band, orchestra, choir, theater programs, and visual art exhibitions are eligible. Complete your projects online on the Patron of the Arts page. Go to oswegoeastmusic.org, select "Choir", and select "Patron of the Arts Projects".

Music Theory Homework:

Students will complete worksheets or online assignments dealing with music theory. These will either be written assignments for homework, or online assignments at musictheory.net, a free music theory website. For musictheory.net assignments, students will follow a link provided by Mrs. King which will take them to a timed exercise. Students will complete exercise and then click View Report. They will enter their name and then click sign report. This will lead them to a verification code, which each student can copy the link and paste it to the assignment on their Google classroom.

Rhythm & Melody Homework:

Students will be assigned brief rhythmic and melodic excerpts each week that students will need to video record each excerpt and turn the video in on their Google Classroom. Students will have multiple attempts on recording, and are able to turn in their best product. Students will not be graded on tone, but just on rhythmic and melodic accuracy.

Concerts:

Concert participation is **MANDATORY**. The choir depends on the participation of each student. If a student's behavior has been significantly disruptive, Mrs. King reserves the right to hold a student out of the concert for the good of the group. This will not happen due to musical ability, only as a result of inappropriate behavior. In such a case, the student will need to follow the Absence policy below to make up the grade.

ANY ABSENCE will result in the concert grade of 0. You may only make up the concert grade if it is an excused absence, and you will need to complete the following:

- If you do not perform at a concert, you will need to sing selections from the concert music for Mrs. King once you are well enough to sing. This must happen within two weeks. If this does not take place in two weeks, the grade will be entered in as a zero, and it is up to the student to make an appointment to perform these selections.
- 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 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.

Excused absences from a concert or mandatory rehearsal include:

- Student illness
- Family emergencies
- Religious holidays (director must be notified in advance, in writing)

Unexcused absences can include, but are not limited to:

- Study or private lessons
- Family vacations or trips/College visitations
- Work

Students assume the responsibility for making up all missed work. In the event of any *excused* absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the director and discuss material missed or obtain additional help. If make-up material is not turned in by two weeks after the concert, the grade will result in a zero.

Concert Attire: Students are required to have an all black concert outfit. Men should have black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes, and a black button down, long sleeve shirt.

Women should have either a floor length black skirt/dress or black dress pants. Black shirts must be three quarter length sleeve, or long sleeve. If short sleeves are worn, a black cardigan is required. Women should also have black flats. Extra curricular ensembles may have different attire depending on the ensemble. Women's Choir and A Cappella Singers will be performing in all new dresses and tuxes. Each singer will be measured and assigned a dress or tux at the beginning of the year. Singers are required to provide their shoes, and students with tuxes are required to provide a white tux shirt. Singers will also be required to clean their garments before returning them at the end of the year.

CONCERT DATES:

Tuesday, October 1st, ILMEA Auditions

Tuesday, October 29th, 7pm - Fall Concert

Saturday, November 2nd, ILMEA Senior District Festival

Tuesday, November 12th, Fall Jazz Concert

Thursday, November 21st SPC Festival

Saturday, November 23rd, ILMEA Senior Jazz District Festival

Tuesday, December 3rd, 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm - Winter Concert

Wednesday, January 8th - East Side Choral Fest

January 30- February 1st, All State Festival, Peoria

Tuesday, March 3rd, 7pm - Early Spring Concert

Friday, March 13th, Concert with Bradley University and A Cappella

April 23-25th - Spring Musical

Wednesday, April 29th 7pm- Jazz Explosion Concert

Tuesday, May 5th, 7pm - Spring Concert

Friday, May 10th, 7pm- Pops Concert

Additional Performances by A Cappella, and Women's Choir and extra curricular ensembles are TBA.

Practice Room Rules:

1. No food or drink is allowed in the instrument storage room or practice rooms. Students wishing to spend lunch in the band room must first have approval from the directors.
2. Practice rooms are for practicing only. During lunch/guided study periods students may use the practice rooms. Students must first check out a practice room by using the practice room reserve board located in the hallway between the band (B141) and choir (B121) rooms. If all practice rooms are filled, students may not hang out in the music wing. They must return to their lunch/guided study.
3. Private lessons will be given priority when assigning practice rooms.
4. Practice rooms do not need to be reserved for before or after school, only during guided study/lunch periods.
5. Failure to use the practice rooms appropriately will result in an after school teacher issued detention. No warnings will be given.
6. Practice rooms are only for currently enrolled band & choir students. No other students are permitted to use the music wing.