

Middle School (7th & 8th) Chorus Class

Mrs. Busovsky

Course Outline and Expectations

2019-2020

Course Description:

Middle School Chorus meets two times per week as an elective class. Students will learn to sing music of different styles, genres, and languages. Students will learn the fundamentals of reading music. Students will continue to learn about proper vocal technique. Choral members will be exposed to many different performance opportunities throughout the course of the semester. **Both Winter and Spring Concerts are REQUIRED as well as the Spring Music in the Parks Competition. Failure to attend these events or remain for the entirety of the performance will result in the lowering of your final grade.**

Grading Procedures:

Students are graded on class participation (25%), in and out of class assessments (25%), required concert attendance (50%). The following grade scale will be used to determine your final grade.

A	93-100		C	80-82
B+	90-92		C-	76-79
B	88-89		D+	74-75
B-	86-87		D	72-73
C+	83-85		D-	70-71
			F	69 and below

Lesson plans for students and parents will be able to be viewed in Renweb. In the first tab, there will be information about what is being taught in that particular class. In the second tab, homework will be listed for that evening. It is important to remember that these are tentative objectives. Due to extra reinforcement, more review, or lack of time, these objectives are subject to change. Please use these as only a guideline as to what is being taught and not what is set in stone. It may be necessary to change or alter the objectives to attain the greatest success for the students.

Laptop Policy

Students are expected to bring their laptops to rehearsal each week fully charged. Students are expected to have any rehearsal tracks provided available on their laptop for rehearsals. Students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the Caravel Academy Technology Handbook.

Communication

All communication will be made through Renweb and the students caravel.org email address. According to Caravel policy student emails may not be sent to an alternative email address. Students are expected to check their Caravel.org email address daily for school/choral communications.

Supplies:

***Choral folder:** Contains music for the current school year. The folder and music is the property of the Caravel Academy Music Department and must be returned at the designated times in order to receive their final grade for the course. The music may be taken home to practice but must return for choral rehearsals.

***Laptop:** Students will be using their laptops and iPads for in class practice track rehearsals, sight reading exercises and second and third marking period assessments.

***Earbuds:** Students should always have a pair of earbuds for class. We recommend inexpensive brands that can be kept in a zipper pouch/ pencil case.

***Pencils:** Required for class at all times to make notes in music. **PENS MAY NOT BE USED** to make notes in a piece of music.

*** Performance attire:** *See Performance Dress Code Below*

Homework:

Homework assignments are occasionally given; in addition, students are expected to study and memorize their choral music at home. Student practice tracks can be accessed at www.camusicboosters.com

Required Events:

Middle School Chorus has many performance opportunities throughout the year. These performances are required. **Failure to attend these events or stay for the entirety of the event will result in the lowering of the student's grade significantly since performances make up 50% of the marking period grade.** If an extenuating situation occurs, please contact me as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made.

The required performances are:

First Marking Period Hearing Assessment: Done at home (TBA)

Tree Trim: Friday, December 6th (1:00-2:45pm)

Winter Fine Arts Festival: Wednesday, December 11th (6:30pm-8:30pm)

Third Marking Period Hearing Assessment: Done at home (TBA)

Spring Fine Arts Festival: Wednesday, May 13th (6:30pm- 8:30pm)
Music In the Parks Competition/ Six Flags America (Largo, Maryland): **FRIDAY**, May 1st
(7am-10pm)

Please note our trip is on a Friday again this year!

(please note that the competition is approx. \$120.00 per student. This includes coach bus transportation, competition fees, park admission, buffet lunch and competition t-shirt). 2 Fundraisers are offered throughout the year to offset the cost of the trip for families that may want to take advantage of those opportunities.

Performance Dress Code:

Both Chorus and Band students are required to wear a maroon Caravel polo shirt (which needs to be purchased through Lands End or other approved vendor, chest logo of your choice), Caravel Academy dress code approved black bottoms and black shoes to all performances unless otherwise indicated. See our performance dress code pictures on the Caravel Music Website. **Capri pants or flip flops are not acceptable performance attire. Students not dressed appropriately will lose 5 points from their concert grade for each dress code infraction.**

Chorus as an Activity:

Although it is a class, Chorus is also an acceptable activity for the National Junior Honor Society. This is due in part to the three major events choral members participate in outside of the normal class time.

Note to Parents and Students:

Once you have read and understood the above, please click on the link the following link to electronically respond that you have read the course guidelines:

<https://forms.gle/wY8tempASezJYAK29>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at school. **I prefer to communicate through email since I am able to check it more frequently throughout the day.** Parents may also access our website at any time to see our master calendar of events, trip information, dress code, etc.

www.camusicboosters.com

Musically yours,
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