

Cumberland High School
Unified Arts Department
2016-2017

Concert Chorus

Instructor: Janita Ducharme

Room: CH 1

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Concert Chorus provides the opportunity to sing a wide variety of musical styles in a group setting. Training in proper breathing, tone and diction are emphasized through the study and interpretation of each piece. Participation in performances is required. Concert Chorus is not an auditioned ensemble; it is available to all students in all grades. This ensemble participates in local festivals every year and travel for national festivals every even school year. *Prerequisites: None*

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS:

Students will learn choral singing, vocal and performance techniques through a variety of vocalises and choral arrangements developed for performance.

TEXT/STANDARDS:

A variety of choral arrangements by various composers and arrangers chosen by the conductor.

National Music Standards: NS 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

RI Music GSEs: M1 (9-12)-1, M3 (9-12)-1, M4 (9-12)-2

ELA GSEs: W-10

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- Choral folder or 3-ring binder to organize music.
- A pre-sharpened or mechanical pencil (with plenty of replacement lead).
- Concert attire is:
 - Males: Black pants, white dress shirt, black shoes, black socks, black neck tie.
 - Females: Floor length black dress with quarter-length sleeve or black cardigan, black nylons, black shoes. Gowns may be purchased from Formal Fashions Inc. as well, but are not a mandatory purchase.

MAJOR ASSESSMENTS:

- Common Tasks
 - Written critiques of the chorus's concert performances.
 - Audio Recording Assignment – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Quartets – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Spot checks – Performance based assessment held various times per quarter.
- Common Course Assessment
 - Written critiques of the chorus's concert performances.
 - Audio Recording Assignment – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Quartets – Performance based assessment held once per quarter.
 - Spot checks – Performance based assessment held various times per quarter.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Quarter/Week

Topic

Assignment

Quarter 1

Developing good vocal habits and techniques

Vocalises that focus on techniques, specifically diaphragmatic breathing, vertical space, and using the breath through the musical phrase.

Learning to harmonize

Choral warm-ups

	Reading notation	Students learn to read notation by following the contour of their melodic or harmonic lines while the teacher/accompanist plays parts.
	Preparation of holiday concert program	Students rehearse parts, both in sections and as a full chorus, of the music being prepared for concert performance.
	Following the cues of the conductor	Students follow the hand motions of the conductor to learn cut offs, phrasing, dynamics, etc. This is done through choral warm-ups and the songs being prepared for concert.
Quarter 2	Developing more in depth vocal technique with more challenging vocalises.	Vocalises that stress vocal line, learning to use the breath to better form the musical phrase and learning to use the breath to sing wider intervals.
	Developing the student's ability to harmonize.	More challenging choral warm-ups and the addition of the do-do-re-do warm-up.
	Continuing to develop the ability to read notation.	Students learn to read notation by following the contour of their melodic or harmonic lines while the teacher/accompanist plays parts.
	Continue progress on the pieces for the holiday concert program.	Learning parts, musical expression of the text through dynamics and articulation.
	Continue development in following the conductor.	Students follow the hand motions of the conductor to learn cut offs, phrasing, dynamics, etc. This is done through choral warm-ups and the songs being prepared for concert.

Quarters 3 and 4 continue to develop the techniques described above, through more challenging exercises and new music that is being prepared for the festival and spring performances. Festival and spring music are more challenging to accommodate the development of the singers in the chorus.

Common Syllabus – Shared Expectations for all CHS Courses

CORE VALUES AND BELIEF STATEMENT

The Cumberland High School Community promotes development of a culture in which students are respectful, responsible, and ready to succeed. We guide our students to be actively involved in the learning process that combines academic depth of understanding with higher order thinking, problem-solving, risk-taking, and creativity. We offer opportunities for students, as members of a 21st century world society, to become life-long learners and informed, productive citizens.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students will:

- Communicate effectively and critically through reading, writing, and speaking.
- Exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills related to information media and technology.
- Apply effective problem solving skills independently and collaboratively.
- Analyze and evaluate a variety of sources for reliability and credibility.
- Act with respect, tolerance, courtesy and compassion.
- Act responsibly and display good citizenship.
- Attend bi-monthly Wednesday night rehearsals and all dress rehearsals.
 - Dress rehearsals: December 13th (Tuesday), March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th
- Attend and perform at all chorus performances.
 - October 6th, November 19th, December 15th, March 23rd, March 28th-30th (date TBD), April 27th, May 25th

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**All members of the classroom will:**

- Bring all their music and a pencil to rehearsals (Amateurs use their memories; Professionals use pencils.)
- Bring a water bottle to rehearsal
- Respect the abilities, views and rights of others
- Show respect for the speaker/director
- Use appropriate language
- Show consideration for emotional and physical space
- Consider remarks that are positive and/or constructive
- Be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn
- Display leadership within ensemble, sectionals, and performances

FORMAL EVALUATION:

A+	96.5-100
A	93.5-96.4
A-	89.5-93.4
B+	86.5-89.4
B	83.5-86.4
B-	79.5-83.4
C+	76.5-79.4
C	73.5-76.4
C-	69.5-73.4
F	50-69.4
I	Indicates missing work or evidence
NC	No Credit – used for Semester Grades only

See CHS Grading Guidelines for 2016-2017 for further explanation of the grading system.

CHORUS – EVENING REHEARSALS

Chorus members are expected to attend and participate in bi-monthly Wednesday evening rehearsals from 6:00pm – 7:15pm in the chorus room. These rehearsals are to provide an opportunity for both sections of chorus to rehearse and adapt to each other. Dress rehearsals begin at 5:30. Everyone's attendance is expected and encouraged to ensure the quality of our performances. Carpooling is encouraged. Please see the dates below, mark your calendars, and plan accordingly. **If you must miss a rehearsal, you must provide me with a notice (email, note, parent contact, etc.) at least 7 days beforehand.** Emergencies will be taken into consideration.

Semester 1

- September 21
- October 5
- October 19
- November 2
- November 16 (Photos – Concert Dress Attire)
- December 13 (**Tuesday** Dress Rehearsal)
- January 4
- January 18

Semester 2

- February 1
- February 8
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22 (Dress Rehearsal)
- April 12
- April 26 (Dress Rehearsal)
- May 3
- May 10
- May 24 (Dress Rehearsal)