

# MLWGS Chorus

2013 - 2014

**Director:** Mr. Drummond

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**Website:** <http://mlwgschorus.weebly.com/>

**Meeting:** 7<sup>th</sup> Period, MWF

## DESCRIPTION

This course is a performance-based vocal music class, whose purpose is to develop musicians through a variety of avenues, including:

- Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- Reading and notating music, including sight singing.
- Listening to, analyzing and describing music.
- Evaluating music and music performances, both live and recorded.
- Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and other disciplines.
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

(taken from the [National Standards for Music Education, NAFME](#))

The ensemble will use a wide range of choral repertoire to develop skills in reading music notation, sight-singing, choral singing techniques, interpretation of text, and musical sensitivity. The overall purpose here is to learn and develop skills as independent musicians that will be useful to any sort of musicking, whether or not you sing in a choir in the future.

The MWGS Chorus will have multiple performance opportunities throughout the year, including the Fall Festival, Winter and Spring Concerts, District Assessment, and Baccalaureate. Please refer to the attached list or the calendar on my web page for updates. **Unless otherwise stated, all performances and scheduled rehearsals are mandatory, and are included in your grade.**

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

**Be on time.** We can't start class without students! You must be here, in your seats, with everything you will need when class starts, or you will be marked tardy. I don't want to hear about your locker.

**No cell phones, etc.** Any phones I see will be turned in to the office, no questions asked, no excuses. You know the school policies. There may be times when you are allowed to listen to music – if it is not one of those times, I will take iPods and other devices, as well.

**Respect!** I intend to give you the respect that you all deserve, and fully expect you to do the same for me and for each other. This is a safe environment where you can feel free to try new things, express yourself, and learn. Treat others as you want to be treated.

**Sing, Don't Touch.** We are using a room set up for classes other than chorus; if you see musical instruments, computers, books, or any other materials that do not have to do with our class, leave them alone. I know those drums look fun – they are – but there's a time and a place.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students will be issued select choral literature and repertoire for the class, rehearsal and performances. They will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their assigned choral folder. A pencil will be needed in class and rehearsal. Choral music must be returned in the same condition that they were issued following study and/or performance. Students assume responsibility for damaged or lost materials.

## ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Grades are earned by assessing each student's **knowledge** (classroom assignments, quizzes, etc.) **skills** (sight-singing and ear-training assessments), and **participation** in daily rehearsals and required performances.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Class participation	30%
Performance/Rehearsal Attendance	20%
Ear training and Sight Singing tests	20%
Independent Musicianship Assignments	25%
Professional Concert Attendance & Critique	5%

Section-based and small-group singing tests will be done periodically, as well as individual prepared and sight-reading assessments. The historical and cultural perspectives in music will tie into the school-wide global studies focus, as well as providing insight into concert repertoire.

Students will be required to attend at least one performance of vocal music per quarter outside of a school setting (including non-MLWGS events), and provide a concert program and critique of the performance. The chorus website will have a list of local concert opportunities if anyone needs help finding something to attend.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

Ladies: Chorus dresses will be purchased at the cost of the student. Additional assistance through MLWGS may be available. Dresses will be ordered early in the year after measurements have been taken.

Gentlemen: White long sleeve dress shirt, black straight tie, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes at the cost of the student; black coat from the MLWGS music department.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understood the syllabus for MLWGS Chorus, and agree to the expectations of the instructor, including participation in class, completion of any assignments, and attendance to all performances.

(student): \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

(guardian): \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_