

2014-2015 West Potomac High School Choirs

Syllabus, Course Requirements, and Grading/Attendance Policy

Instructor: Ernest Johnson

Classroom : 528

Email: eljohnson1@fcps.edu

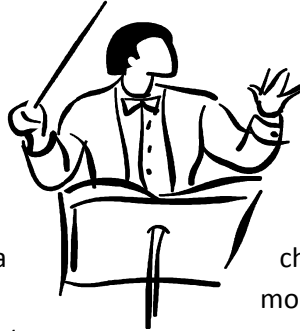
Office: (703)-718-2687

FCPS 24/7: <http://fcps.blackboard.com/>

WPHS Chorus website: www.westpotomacchoirs.org

Course Overview

Singers in each choral ensemble voices, increase their musical knowledge, performances (both in school and in the Most often students have returned to take a the first year, or returning to the same or improve upon their present skills as follows. (FOR



will have the opportunity to develop their singing become better musicians through rehearsals and community) and improve their sight-reading skills. chorus class each year. Whether they are entering for more advanced select ensemble, they will develop or

A MORE EXTENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE CHORAL CURRICULUM, REFER TO "FCPS and WP Program of Studies, Choral Areas of Study, and Annual program overview" on the West Potomac Choral Website)

Each singer will

1. Develop correct good vocal technique
2. Rehearse and perform a wide variety of music, sacred and secular, including classical, folk, multicultural, contemporary/popular, and Broadway genres.
3. Acquire fundamental skills in sight singing and ear training, and music theory as it applies to singers.
4. Strengthen critical listening skills as a performer and listener .
5. Identify musical elements in varying styles and genres of choral literature and express such style appropriately
6. Recognize and demand outstanding musicianship, quality repertoire, choral blend, balance, appropriate style, flawless intonation, beautiful tone and superior performance expectations.
7. Experience the commitment and dedication necessary to develop an outstanding standard of performance and poise. Acquire and enhance rehearsal, performance, and audience etiquette skills.
8. Strengthen leadership skills, teamwork and self-discipline .
9. Implement and develop a rewarding avenue for self expression.
10. Become an independent, literate, knowledgeable musician and expressive performer.

CHORAL FEES

- **Uniform fee – based on new or returning member see attached form for itemized items for your ensemble.**
- **Chorus activity fee- \$40**
Includes: Music, folio, pencils, chorus t-shirt, spring show t-shirt, clinicians and accompanist fees.

For those on Free/Reduced lunch – those singers who have an approved application for reduced or free lunch will have all choral and uniform fees waived.

Student Progress

Mr. Johnson will be available for extra help as needed. Students must make an appointment in advance, and reserve a time, either speaking with him and signing up for a time to meet, or emailing him at eljohnson1@fcps.edu and request a day and time. Information regarding student progress may be requested at any time by emailing Mr. Johnson Requests will be answered within 48 hours.



Attendance Policy – Please refer to the *WP Fine Arts Policies* regarding Dress Rehearsals and Performances

As a member of a performing ensemble, each student is expected to attend all class sessions *and* after school rehearsals and performances. Choir demands a team effort from each individual, and each student's participation affects the group outcome. Each singer plays a valuable role in the process of rehearsing and preparing for a performance. Whenever a singer is absent from a rehearsal, the student misses valuable opportunities for musical growth, both individually and with the ensemble.

- **ALL Dress Rehearsals and Concerts are REQUIRED events, and are graded as “final exams” for the course, worth 40% of the quarter grade.**
- **A choral calendar of all required and optional events is posted on FCPS 24/7 –blackboard. The calendar is also distributed to everyone in class the beginning of the school year, at the Fall Banquet, and at Back to School Night.** Extra copies are also posted in the choir room, and can be found on the choral website: - www.westpotomacchoirs.org . Please be sure to post all events on your personal and family smartphones, refrigerator calendars, and planners.
- **Students and parents must communicate ALL potential conflicts** with required choral rehearsals and concerts **IN WRITING**, as far in advance as possible, and as soon as they are known. (email: eljohnson1@fcps.edu). This includes athletic practices and games. The director has a good working relationship with all coaches and sponsors. Communicate conflicts to both the choral director and the coach or sponsor, and they will work it out for you with no penalty applied in either activity.

Absences from any choral dress rehearsal or concert must be made up (See Make-Up Project below)

Excused Absences

- **Illness which confines you at home**
And you have missed school that day
Note from health care provider required
- **Death in family**
- **Pre-excused event in which previous notice was given**
In advance to director in writing and approved

Unexcused Absences (may result in lower grade)

- **Job or Work responsibilities**
- **Homework, studying for test**
- **Didn't have a ride**
- **birthday, anniversary, vacation**

IMPORTANT !!

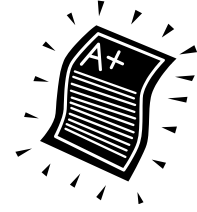
- ❖ **Absence from a Dress Rehearsal may also prevent you from performing in the Concert. The director will make a final decision after discussing the absence, along with the specific logistical and musical demands of the concert , with you. If you are not permitted to perform, you must attend the concert and write a review. If you attend the concert, you will not have to perform as noted below, but you must do the written project.**

Make-up Project

Anyone missing a graded *Dress Rehearsal* or *Concert* for any reason **MUST** complete the required make up project. The form is provided on blackboard, website or hard copy in choir room. This must be completed one week of the missed dress rehearsal or concert to receive credit for the missed event.

- **Sing the entire concert from memory, unless music was used in the concert.**
- **Write a 4-6 page review of the rehearsal or concert after listening to the recording.**

QUARTER GRADE CALCULATION



❖ 40% DAILY GRADE ON REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE (THE “PROCESS AND PREPARATION”)

10 POINTS per class period based on demonstrating **these** proper rehearsal techniques:

- ✓ Be on time –in your seat, ready to go with choral folio and pencil
- ✓ No gum, food, drinks, hats;
- ✓ No electronic devices being used at any time during rehearsal or concert
- ✓ Show of respect to peers, director, and music
- ✓ Follow instructions- marking music in EACH rehearsal, and noting areas needed for practice
- ✓ Participation and Concentration at 100% --contributing to the “team” effort of the rehearsal.

❖ 40% PERFORMANCE AT DRESS REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS

200 points per event, based on

- Arrival on time
- Wearing complete performance attire (if not a rehearsal)
- Proper stage etiquette
- Music folder and music if required
- Proper audience etiquette.

NO CELL PHONE USE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME IN A REHEARSAL OR CONCERT! Singers found texting or using phone in any concert will be dismissed from the event, and be required to serve detentions, and do a makeup project. Grades will be adjusted accordingly.

- ❖ **20% -Assessments of rehearsal and performance literature, sight-reading quizzes, and tests on music fundamentals as they apply to music studied. Grade reflects *progress* towards attainable goals each quarter.** Singers perform examples in a variety of ways – digital recorder; privately for the director; with peers in small groups, or as part of their ensemble. Points are given for individual progress. Sight-reading benchmarks will be assigned point values that reflect the size and skill level of the activity. Benchmarks must be passed by the end of each quarter in order to receive credit Final sight-reading grade dependent on level achieved in one quarter.

- ❖ **Bi weekly progress reports will be sent to parents.**

Because of the cumulative nature of the subject matter taught, the following weighting applies to each marking period:

1 st Marking Period	2 nd Marking Period	3 rd Marking Period	4 th Marking Period	Final Exam*
1	1.33	1.67	2	1

Final Exam and Final Grade

Often the Spring Show event counts as both the final exam grade and the 4th quarter grade. A written review of the year is also part of the final exam. This is the culminating activity, and is weighted. The Final Grade will be based on the ***student’s individual progress*** throughout the year, and trended upward to reflect their achievement. If little or no progress is made, then the grade will be averaged among the four quarters and the final exam.

Final “notes”

If you have any incomplete work, or have missed concerts which were not made up, you will still be expected to complete the assigned work, or its equivalent, to demonstrate your mastery of the skill or knowledge the original assignment is intended to measure. I also reserve the right to involve administrators if necessary, and consequences may extend beyond the classroom.



Be sure to sign and return the ***Syllabus/Calendar Acknowledgement Form*** on or before **September 9** (The evening of the Choral Family Potluck and Preview) Bring it to class, place in the blue box, or bring to the potluck)

Regarding Concert Program selections:

The Fairfax County Public Schools Music ***Program of Studies*** requires the performance of literature that is both sacred and secular. Balance of music selected and performed from among historical and contemporary composers, genres, and periods is achieved through the course of a year’s instruction and not within any individual concert.



Honor Code/Academic Integrity

There will be absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Cheating is giving or receiving unauthorized aid on any assignment. Students will still be expected to complete the assigned work, or its equivalent, to demonstrate mastery of the skill or knowledge the original assignment is intended to measure. Should an instance of suspected cheating occur, teachers will follow the procedure indicated in the West Potomac High School Honor Code.



West Potomac High School Fine Arts Department Policies

The following policies are for the entire West Potomac High School Performing Arts Department, including, Band, Chorus, Guitar, Orchestra and Theatre.

I. Dress Rehearsals- a Dress Rehearsal is defined as one or more rehearsals leading up to a concert. The Dress Rehearsal will be clearly noted as a dress or final rehearsal on a curricular syllabus. Directors reserve the right to call extra rehearsals leading up to the concert. Every effort will be made on the Director's part to notify the students in a timely manor. The student must make every effort to attend these rehearsals.

a. Excused Absences- Personal Illness, Family Death. Student must present a note from a qualified healthcare professional confirming absence and/or illness. The deadline to let your instructor know about any excused absence from a concert or dress rehearsal is 1 month. By giving notice, students are not automatically excused. At the discretion of your director, approval of the absence may be given. Emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis; students will be subject to the same criteria for a missed concert or dress rehearsal.

b. Unexcused- All other. Excessive school absences during a concert/performance cycle can forfeit your privilege to perform in a concert but does not excuse you from attending the concert.

II. Grading for a Missed Dress Rehearsal- When you miss a Dress Rehearsal; you miss the following items; Rehearsal technique, performance technique, and ensemble performance techniques. You will still be expected to complete the assigned work, or its equivalent, to demonstrate your mastery of the skill or knowledge that the original assignment was intended to measure. Directors also reserve the right to involve administrators if necessary, and consequences may extend beyond the classroom.

a. Make Up Assignments:

1. You will still be expected to complete the assigned work, or its equivalent, to demonstrate your mastery of the skill or knowledge that the original assignment was intended to measure. Directors also reserve the right to involve administrators if necessary, and consequences may extend beyond the classroom.

III. Concerts/Performances-Concerts/Performances are clearly noted on Curricular Syllabi. Concerts are mandatory for all students to attend. Students are required to stay for the duration of the concert. The deadline to let your instructor know about any excused absence from a concert or dress rehearsal is 1 month. By giving notice students are not automatically excused. At the discretion of your director, approval of the absence may be given. Emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis; students will be subject to the same criteria for a missed concert or dress rehearsal.

a. Excused Absences- Personal Illness, Family Death. Student must present a note from a qualified healthcare professional confirming absence and/or illness.

b. Unexcused- All other.

IV. Grading for a Missed Concert - Student will perform the concert for the instructor. They will also be required to complete a written assignment related to the concert, or at the discretion of the director. The assignment will be graded and counted as a replacement for the missed concert. Students will not receive full credit. They have the opportunity to earn 90% of the credit that was allowed by the original event.



WPHS CHOIRS – Syllabus/Calendar Acknowledgement Signature Form

***Return this completed page to Mr. Johnson on or before Sept. 9.
(Choral Potluck and Preview night)***

I have read and understand the syllabus and course expectations; and have reviewed the WPHS choral calendar and noted all required events and placed them on our personal and family calendars. I realize I must communicate all conflicts with choral events to coaches, sponsors, employers, and the choral director in advance, in writing so that they may be resolved in advanced in the best interest of the student and conflicting organizations. I also understand that I can contact Mr. Johnson anytime at eljohnson1@fcps.edu, and he will respond within 48 hours or sooner.

PRINT: Student Name _____ period _____

Student Signature _____

PRINT Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Parent E-mail Address _____

Daytime contact phone: _____

**2014 - 2015 West Potomac Choral Department
Choral Activity Fee and Uniform Fee Payment Form**

Fees cover consumable items to be used and kept by the student.

Choral Activity Fee

\$40

- Music ,folders, pencils
- Workbooks/sight-reading materials
- Clinicians
- WP Choir and Spring Show t-shirts

*** Uniform Fee: See below for cost for your ensemble's uniform**

The choral uniform is required for concert performance, which is 40% of your grade.

For those on Free/Reduced lunch – choral and uniform fees are waived and will be paid by FCPS.

If you do not qualify, but are in needed of assistance, please indicate this on the reverse side of the form. A monthly installment plan can be arranged, with total fees due by June 1, 2015. **Students may participate in fundraising opportunities that are offered throughout the year to help defray the cost of fees, uniform, and optional trips.**

***Returning member** -Please make sure your gown/tux/shirt/shoes fit, and if necessary, place an order now for what you need! Do not wait until dress rehearsal evening to discover that you need a new uniform item –it will not be available. and you may not be allowed to perform!

The following concert uniform items are required. Please check those items which you will need to purchase

Women:

- _____ \$ 62.00 Black Serena gown** (*all choirs*)
- _____ \$ 29.00 Black Character shoes (*all choirs*)
- _____ \$ 6.00 Pearls (*Pd 2 only*)
- _____ \$ 8.00 Blue rhinestone belt (*Pd 3 only*)
- _____ \$ 8.00 White rhinestone belt (*Pd 5 only*)

Men

- _____ \$100 Complete Tuxedo outfit: (*black shoes/socks supplied by student, or see below*)
(jacket, pants, wing collar tux shirt, black (pd 2) or blue (pd 3) cummerbund and bow tie)

Order separates as needed below:

- _____ \$58 Tuxedo jacket
- _____ \$26 Tuxedo pants**
- _____ \$14 Tuxedo shirt (white, wing collar)
- _____ \$37 Black Dress Shoes (polishable, you may purchase these elsewhere or they can be ordered for you)
- _____ \$ 7 Black Cummerbund (*Pd 2 only*)
- _____ \$ 4 Black Bow tie (*Pd 2 only*)
- _____ \$ 7 Blue Cummerbund (*Pd. 3 only*)
- _____ \$ 4 Blue Bow tie (*Pd 3 only*)

****Important note: all dresses and pants arrive *unhemmed*. The must be properly hemmed by November 7. (Specific lengths and Instructions will be given out with the uniform) You may take the item to a seamstress, or do it yourself if you have the skills to do so. A few choral parents and community members are able for hemming for a small fee.**

_____ Please check here if you would like assistance in hemming the dress or pants. The fee (between \$ 10-15) will be paid *directly* to the seamstress. Do not include this fee with your chorus payment. You will pay the seamstress

FEE PAYMENT

\$40.00 Chorus fee

+ \$ _____ **Uniform fee**

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: Check made payable to WPHS Chorus \$ _____

PLEASE FILL OUT ALL INFORMATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAGE.

CHORAL FEE - PAYMENT FORM

Please print all information clearly

Student Name: _____ Choir: Pd 2 Pd. 3 Pd. 5

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Home Phone : _____ Cell: _____

Parent Email: _____

I qualify for the free/reduced lunch program. No fee is due.

I do not qualify for the free/reduced lunch program but am in need of assistance; Please put me on a payment program of \$_____ per month, with full payment by June 1, 2015. I understand my child will be given opportunities to defray this cost, and that it is their responsibility to participate in these events when offered.

A locked blue deposit box is provided in the choral room for all deposits. Please have your student place the following in the box:

- **This Form with Activity and Uniform fee payment , payable to WPHS**
- Signed Syllabus if not already submitted.

You may also send to:

Attn: Ernest Johnson, Choral Director,
WPHS
6500 Quander Rd
Alexandria , VA 22307