

MCLEAN CHOIR 2014-15 SYLLABUS

Linda Martin – lsmartin1@fcps.edu
Choir Office Phone – 703-714-5816
Like us on Facebook – McLeanChoral Society

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mens and Womens Choir

The Mens and Womens choirs are beginning, intermediate, and advanced level ensembles comprised of students from 9th grade through 12th grade. These choirs perform concert literature at the VCDA grade levels 4 and 5. The choir rehearses during the school day. Rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day will be required as part of the class as well. This ensemble will perform in all concerts, festivals, and trips throughout the school year.

Armonia

The Symphonic Choir is the premiere womens vocal ensemble at McLean High School. Students are placed in the choir by audition. Historically, more than 90% of the members in this choir have studied privately for more than a year and have attended summer music camps and clinics. Students in this class are expected to perform in all concerts and contests. These students will also be required to audition for the All-District or to perform the Audition material for the director.. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day will be required. All members of the advanced and artist level choirs must participate in the combined Chorale. **SUMMER REHEARSALS BEGIN THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH! MUSIC PACKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING IN JULY!**

Madrigals

The Madrigal Choir is the premiere vocal ensemble at McLean High School. Students are placed in the choir by audition. The most complicated and demanding choral singing is acapella 4-12 part. Vocalists must learn music from the 2nd century through the twentieth. These students read fluently, come prepared with their parts already learned, study voice privately weekly, and are prepared to perform outside of school on a regular basis. The choir performs literature at the VCDA grade 6 level. These students will perform with the Chorale, Womens, and Mens Choirs in concerts. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day will be required as part of this course. Students will be required to rehearse every Wednesday from 4-6pm, in addition to meeting with the teacher for before school sectionals on a regular basis. This is not a beginning or intermediate level class and is only offered to students who sing in the schools other choirs. ! (A one time exception at the discretion of the director may be made for the 2014-2015 school year due to the change in the meeting time of the class. Students with issues in scheduling should see Ms. Martin.)**SUMMER REHEARSALS BEGIN THE WEEK OF AUGUST 17TH! MUSIC PACKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING IN JULY**

Independent Study

Members of the Madrigal or Armonia class may elect to take an extra period of vocal music as an independent study class. This class will allow students to gain small group or individualized instruction to further their skills. Students wishing to receive credit for this class will be required to present a recital at the end of the school year consisting of 16-20 minutes of music.

Materials and Fees

Students will be assessed a one-time fee of \$150 for participation in the choral ensembles, please see the McLean Choral Society Financial Obligation Document for further information. Uniforms are provided, students must have their own black shoes. Madrigals and Armonia should have a tuning fork pitched to A, All students should have a folder, paper, and a pencil.

FCPS GRADING SCALE

A	(93-100) = 4.0	C+	(77-79) = 2.3
A-	(90-92) = 3.7	C	(73-76) = 2.0
B+	(87-89) = 3.3	C-	(70-72) = 1.7
B	(83-86) = 3.0	D+	(67-69) = 1.3
B-	(80-82) = 2.7	D	(64-66) = 1.0
		F	(below 64) = 0.0

GRADING POLICY AND GUIDELINES

Grades will be computed using a weighted system with standard MHS and FCPS percentages determining letter grades. Final grades will be determined by the average of all four quarters. The final exam counts as a Test or Performance grade included in the 4th quarter.

Grades will be weighted based on the following scale:

40% - Performances and Tests – some of these will be done outside of the school day, or videotaped, or recorded and emailed

30% - Quizzes and After School Rehearsal Preparation – written, aural, or performance quizzes done during rehearsal on assigned material.

30% - Rehearsal Techniques – correct positioning, posture, pencil, sheet music in class, rehearsal conduct, etc.

Test Re-Take Guidelines – ALL sightings and written tests and quizzes can be taken as many times as needed for a student to achieve the grade they desire. These must be done during the same quarter in which the grade occurred. Quartet tests may not be retaken. Highlander Time is also a great time to receive extra help or re-take tests.

McLean High School Honor Code –

As a community, we value honesty, respect and what is fair. We choose honor and integrity in everything we say and do. In cases of Honor Code Violation, FCPS grading and reporting policies will be followed.

Make-up Work Policy –

Excused Absence (*taken from FCPS Grading and Reporting to Parents, September 2013*)

Students are fully responsible for completing any missed assignments. Each day of absence affords one school day of makeup work opportunity. Students have a maximum of ten days to make up work missed during an excused period of absence. However, the period of time allowed to make up work may be extended at the discretion of the teacher.

Makeup work for excused absences is graded and recorded in the grade book by teachers without penalty to students. For approved prearranged absence, a student may request assignments in advance of the absence. Teachers will provide regular or alternative assignments in advance of the absence, when feasible. Following any absence, including a prearranged absence, students should make arrangements with individual teachers for makeup work.

Unexcused Absence

Unexcused absences do not mandate course failure. If students are absent and unexcused, they cannot earn credit for classroom activities or labs missed as a result. Students may choose to make up work following unexcused absences and teachers may help the student and parent or guardian to identify missed work, but teachers are not obligated to provide makeup work. Makeup work is encouraged so that students will profit from future instruction.

Regardless of the type of absence McLean High School expects that ALL students learn and demonstrate mastery on all topics covered.

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

District 12 Choir Assessment occurs every year during March. This is by far the most important event that we will participate in over the course of the year. This is Virginia’s equivalent to our SOL. Our choirs will play for a panel of nationally-recognized adjudicators and will be given ratings based on their performance. Symphonic Choir and Wind Ensemble will perform on Saturday. Please consult the attached calendar and pay careful attention to the date for your Assessment performance. **This event is absolutely required!**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The McLean High School Attendance policy will be in effect for absences to all daily classes. Attendance at **ALL** after school rehearsals and performances of the McLean High School Choir is required as part of the course.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE CHOIR DIRECTOR IN WRITING FOR ALL ABSENCES.

APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION – NOTE/EMAIL FROM PARENT/GUARDIAN OR DOCTOR - IS DUE THE FIRST SCHOOL DAY FOLLOWING ANY ABSENCE THAT IS NOT PRE-APPROVED.

EXCUSED ABSENCES:

- Illness
- Family emergency
- Pre-Approved conflict – submitted in writing and **approved by director** (8 weeks in advance for Performance or 1 week in advance for rehearsal)

ALL STUDENTS ARE INTERGRAL MEMBERS OF EACH ENSEMBLE – THE GROUP PERFORMANCE IS REHEARSED AND PREPARED INTRICATELY – PERFORMANCES ARE GREATLY AFFECTED BY THE ABSENCE OF EVEN ONE STUDENT. FOR THIS REASON, EXCUSED PERFORMANCE ABSENCES ARE SELDOM GRANTED.

School Attendance – Students MUST be present in school in order to participate in after school activities. We will follow McLean’s Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular Policy.

****A PRE-APPROVED AND EXCUSED ABSENCE IS GRANTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHOIR DIRECTOR. ****

REHEARSAL CONDUCT

Cell Phones: There will be no cell phones allowed during rehearsals. Students who are using a cell phone for any reason will have it taken away and turned over to Security.

Tardiness: There are two ways to be tardy to choir class.

1. Students are not in the choir room by the time the bell rings.
2. Students are not in seats, setup, and ready to sing when the warm-up routine has begun.

Class Participation: All students receive daily rehearsal technique grades. Points will NOT be awarded for the following cases:

1. Sitting incorrectly while singing
2. Talking excessively during rehearsal
3. Disrupting others during rehearsal
4. Running, throwing things, or any other inappropriate behavior in the choir room.

Consequence:

1. First occurrence: Student will receive a zero in participation for the day.
2. Second occurrence: Student will be assigned an after school detention (cleaning choir room, sorting music, filing paperwork, etc.) Sports practices will not exempt you from serving detention time.

SPORTS POLICY

Choir is a CLASS. Sports are EXTRA-curricular.

Ms. Martin will try to be as flexible as we can to a certain point, but in here is a brief summary of conflicts and which activity you should plan to go to:

Choir rehearsal takes precedent over sports practice.

Sports games/matches take precedent over choir rehearsal.

Concerts take precedent over practices and games/matches.

Tournament play MAY take precedent over concerts. See Ms. Martin in this occurrence.

Fundraising activities may take precedent over practices and games/matches. See Ms. Martin in this occurrence.

That being said, efforts can be made to arrange compromises. This happens with appropriate and early COMMUNICATION with Ms. Martin.

Leniency will NOT be considered for day-of requests. Leniency will most likely not be considered for week-of requests.

The key to working out compromises in your schedule is EARLY COMMUNICATION!

SATURDAYS AND WEEKEND COMMITMENTS

Students are **expected** to be at the following Saturday and weekend commitments: (see attached calendar)

1. competitions – all day
2. dress rehearsals – a few hours
3. Sing-a-thon Day fundraiser – all day
4. Bulb fundraiser – 2 hour block of time
5. All-District Choir Auditions – 2 hours or more
6. District Assessment – times TBA – a few hours

Find these dates on the calendar and plan your schedules accordingly, including sports!

McLean High School Choral Program

Finance Information and Policies For School Year 2014-2015

The McLean High School Choral Society Association (MHSCS) will collect required Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) materials fees and fees for FCPS sponsored optional activities.

FCPS will not charge students a fee for any mandatory aspect of the Choral program except for musical instrument and consumable fees permitted by Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) regulations. No individual school or booster organization may require a student to pay fees for musical instruments and consumables in excess of the amount approved by the School Board in Notice 5922, Revenue, Tuition, and Fees – Student Fees.

As a result of these policies, we have restructured the types and manner of payments collected. The new fee structure is as follows beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and starts now with the collection of Choral fees.

Fee Structure

The new structure includes required Course Materials Fees and FCPS sponsored optional Activity Fees. Course materials fees cover consumable materials associated with a course and are a required element of that course. Activity fees are fees charged in connection with a particular activity and cover some or all of the actual costs of that activity. Participation in the particular activity is optional but if a student decides to participate in the activity, payment of the activity fee is required.

Choral Course Materials Fee (\$150 due by October 15, 2014): This fee is similar to required fees that you pay for certain other FCPS classes. It covers consumable materials related to the course. Examples of the consumable materials eligible to be covered by this fee include: uniform purchases and maintenance, music/choreography for the shows, accompanist, Choral t-shirt, costume accessories, equipment repairs, and food during instructional activities. **If fees collected exceed the costs incurred for all consumable materials, any excess fees will be set aside in an FCPS reserve account to fund future purchases of choral uniforms.**

Trip Activity Fee (Actual cost TBD – refund policy TBD): This optional activity fee covers the cost of trips taken by the choirs. All choirs generally go on one overnight trip to perform in a competition during the Spring. There have also been additional overnight trips in certain years. For example, the Madrigal Choir has travelled to VMEA Conference in Virginia Beach, VA and to the Anaheim Choral invitational in California, Armonia has travelled to Williamsburg to perform at their candlelit festival. While these overnight trips are not a required component of any course, most students generally choose to participate. Trip fees are determined and assessed based on the estimated costs of the trip (transportation, hotel, certain meals, etc.). If fees collected exceed the actual cost of the trip, any excess fees will be refunded.

Individual Performance Opportunities (amount varies – due date TBD): There are opportunities throughout the school year for individual students to choose to audition and/or participate in other choral organizations. Examples include the All-District or All-State Chorus and Honors Choir. Audition or participation fees are often assessed for these opportunities by the sponsoring organization. Such fees are not established by MHSCS, but MHSCS often assists in the collection of these fees from individuals who elect to participate and the submission of one group payment to the respective third party. These fees are communicated at the time other information about these opportunities is communicated.

Payment Policies

All payments are processed through Charms. Students and parents may login to their student account at any time to view fees and balances due. Payments may be made via credit card, cash, or check as described below.

Credit Card payments are made through Charms. After making your payment, please log back into Charms to ensure that your payment appears within your student account.

Payments made by check should be placed in Ms. Martins box in the main office. If paying by check, please make the check payable as instructed for the particular payment and write the name of the student and the name of the fee being paid in the memo line of the check. Please note that a fee will be assessed for any returned checks. Such fee will be the actual amount charged by the bank related to the returned check, not to exceed \$50.

Paying by cash is discouraged. If paying by cash, please put the money in an envelope and write the name of the student and the name of the fee being paid (I e. Jane Doe, Spring trip fee) and take the envelope to the front office of the school and give it to the MHS staff responsible for collecting such cash payments. A receipt will be given to you acknowledging the cash payment.

NO CASH PAYMENTS SHOULD BE DEPOSITED IN MS MARTINS MAILBOX OR LEFT IN HER ROOM>

Refunds

Typically fees paid are non-refundable once commitments and purchases have been made. These refund policies will be communicated separately as they relate to individual activities.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for those in need of such assistance. Requests for financial assistance should be made directly to the Choir Director prior to the due date for the related fee using the FinancialAssistance Request Form available in Charms.