

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

## Course Description

Students in chorus will focus on the various aspects of performing music in an ensemble: music literacy (reading pitch and rhythm), vocal technique skills (diction, ear-training, and sight-singing), and harmonizing in polyphonic music. Most importantly, students will develop self-discipline and learn to work cooperatively as they work towards two and three-part music.

## Instructor:

Mr. Piel  
Room 127  
jonathan.piel@central301.net  
Phone: (847) 717-8128

## Course Materials Required:

- 1 Inch Three Ring Binder (Black)
- Pencil

## Learning Activities

- Small group rehearsal/performance
- Large ensemble rehearsal/performance
- Worksheets
- Vocal building

## Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to read and understand basic music notation appropriate for their level of performance (Music Literacy)
- Students will be able to sing with appropriate vocal technique in their individual vocal range (Instrument Technique/Aural Skills)
- Students will be able to sing on pitch and harmonize in two and three-part music. (Performing Music)

## Course Outline

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<b>Unit</b>	<b>Approximate Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Student Activities</b>
Performing Music	Yearlong	Intonation Tone Quality Expression Concert Etiquette	Large ensemble rehearsal Small group rehearsal
Music Literacy	Yearlong	Note Names Note Values/Rhythm Measures/Barline/Time Signatures Tempo/Dynamics Rhythm Diagramming Key Signatures	Worksheets Interactive practice tools
Instrument Technique/Aural Skills	Yearlong	Pitch Matching Solfege Ear Training	Large ensemble sight singing Individual sight singing assessments

## **Major Course Assignments/Assessments**

- Fall/Holiday Concert (Typically November/December)
- Individual Singing Assessment (1 per semester)
- Spring Concert (Typically March)
- Final Concert (May)

## **Grading Procedures:**

- Most of the grades for this class will come from daily participation points (breakdown can be found in the Appendices). The assessments for the course come in the form of evening performances (typically 3 per year).

**Grades will be determined by the following category weights:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Daily Participation	80%
Concerts/	20%

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Assessments	
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## Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Range
A	100-90
B	89.99-80
C	79.99-70
D	69.99-60
F	59.99-below

## Absences/Make-up Work:

Students who are absent from school will be allowed to make up work for equivalent academic credit. The time allowed to make up work will generally be one school day for every school day missed, starting with the first day the student returns to school. In extenuating circumstances, a student may ask his/her teacher for additional time to make up work. It is the responsibility of the student (and his/her parent/guardian), not the teachers, to get the assignments, complete them, and turn them in, and to arrange a time with the teacher to make up any missed quizzes or tests. Incomplete work or failure to do the work may result in a lowering of grades.

### Timeframe for makeup work:

Students have 1 week to complete and submit work starting date student returns from absence.

### Procedure to follow to receive and submit makeup work:

Students should come to see Mr. Piel to receive information/work from any days absent. Absent work will be submitted similarly to any regular work (see Appendices).

## Technology Policy

The District's electronic networks, including the Internet, are part of the District's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Use of all electronic devices allowed as part of the District's Bring Your Own Device ("BYOD") program and the District issued Chromebook must be consistent with District policies and procedures. Such electronic devices may be used during instructional time only for educational purposes

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as approved by the Administration or teacher. Personal devices may be used by students during non-instructional time, such as during passing periods, lunch, and before or after school. Students may not place or receive phone calls during school day hours (6:20am to 2:46pm). Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, accessed via the District's electronic networks. The District's rules for behavior and communications apply when using the electronic networks. Refer to the Chromebook Handbook issued by the district.

- Certain assignments will be assigned through Chromebooks. Students are expected to have their devices with them and charged every class.
- With each student being given a device that will be used for class work, personal devices will not be allowed in music appreciation. Exceptions may be made if students are using their personal device for school related activities, but these will be rare cases. If a student is found using a personal device during class Mr. Piel will hold it until the end of class.

## **Academic Integrity:**

Students engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores may be subject to disciplinary consequences as outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook.

## **Resources:**

Course Canvas Page

Music scores (provided by teacher)

## **Appendices:**

### **A. Classroom Expectations**

1. Be on time – on the risers with your folder/music/pencil by the time I am ready to start class.
2. Come prepared for class every day. Every day for class you will need your music, a pencil, and your attendance card. There will be occasional materials checks throughout the week resulting in a loss of points if not prepared.
3. Be respectful of everyone and everything around you. This includes listening when someone else is speaking, whether it is the teacher or a classmate. It also includes respect for materials – take care of your sheet music and music folders!

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4. Do not start packing up or moving around to leave when rehearsal time is almost up. I will not make you stay late but I will be the one to dismiss you, not the clock!
5. NO GUM/FOOD/DRINKS in the choir room. Eat it or throw it out before you come to rehearsal. However, you may bring water to rehearsal.

## B. Tardy Policy

It is critical for students to be on time to chorus to ensure that we make the best use of our limited rehearsal time. The disciplinary guidelines for students who are consistently tardy to class within 1 week are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tardy: Loss of daily participation points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy: Lunch detention with Mr. Piel

## C. Task

Students are expected to be present and participating in band and chorus every day. Students will not be allowed to visit other teachers or complete other assignments on these days.

The only exception to this policy will be if a student has a quiz or test that was started earlier that day that they need to finish. Their teacher must e-mail Mr. Piel or Ms. Siegel before the student will be allowed to leave class.

If students have other work that needs to be completed, whether it is individual or group work, it is up to the student and/or the teacher to make arrangements to complete their assignments outside of Task time.

## D. Attendance

Choir is a performing art form that relies on many individuals to make a quality artistic product. For a performance or rehearsal to be successful, it is important that every member be present.

- o **Performances** (Concerts, Contests, Festivals, etc.) –\_Illness, family emergencies, or a death in the family are among the few permitted excuses for these **mandatory** performances.
  - If a student knows ahead of time that they must have a parent fill out the Concert Absence Form. This form may be obtained from Mr. Piel.
  - Any performance missed due to a family vacation will be made up through a performance-based assessment

## E. Sheet Music/Folders

Music is expensive! Each student will have a choral folder **they are responsible for bringing to class every day.** Each member is responsible for his or her own chorus materials and music. Loss of, or damage to, school owned materials (including music) must be replaced.

## F. Concert Make-Ups

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Students who miss concerts, whether it's excused or unexcused will be required to schedule a time to meet with Mr. Piel and sing excerpts of all of their concert pieces to show their mastery of the concepts worked on in class.

## **G. Instrumental Chorus Students**

Students may be in both band and choir. Students are responsible for keeping up with the work and assignments in both classes. Time will be split equally allowing students to participate in both ensembles. As concerts near, teachers may alter schedules slightly to prepare for performances.

## **H. Concert Attire**

Looking your best at a performance actually makes you sound better, and shows our audience that we are a team.. Therefore, the dress code for all choir concerts is as follows:

- PKMS Music Polo\*
- Black dress pants
- Black socks
- Black dress shoes (no gym shoes!)/Closed-toe flats

## **Music Polo**

Each music student will be required to purchase a music polo to be worn at all concerts and music functions. This polo will be worn in both sixth and seventh grade, so please take sizing into consideration.

We understand that this is an additional cost to families, and if there are any concerns please contact Mr. Piel or Ms Siegel.

## **I. Adds/Drops**

Students will be able to add chorus to their schedule at two times throughout the school year: The beginning of the school year, and the beginning of the second semester. Students will have one week to add chorus to their schedule.

Students who sign up for chorus are expected to commit for one full year. Drops will only be permitted during the first week of school.

To add or drop chorus, students must obtain and fill out an Add/Drop form from Mr. Piel.

## **J. Repertoire**

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## Religious Music

It is the position of the United States Supreme Court and MENC: The National Association for Music Education that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience. [For more information, review the following cases: *Florey v. Sioux Falls School District 49-5*, *Bauchman v. West High School*.]

Any work of art studied or performed will be selected for its inherent beauty of structure and form. Its purpose in study will be learning for the sake of developing artistic understanding and responsiveness. Often artworks are related to a specific religious/cultural tradition. The study of such works of art can enhance one's understanding and appreciation of the cultural product a particular tradition has fostered.

In no way will music be selected for study and performance for the purpose of advancing or perpetuating a particular religious belief system. Rather, music will be selected first, on its own merits as an art form and second, as a cultural object for study which enhances the understanding of the cultural development of a particular movement in human civilization.

To exclude from our curriculum all choral music with a religious meaning associated with the text is to limit severely the possibilities of teaching for artistic understanding and responsiveness. Such exclusion has as its parallel the study of art excluding paintings related to the various religions of the world, the study of literature without mention of the Bible, or the study of architecture without reference to the great temples and cathedrals of the world.

Care will be taken to ensure that the PKMS choruses perform a balanced program of works with sacred and secular texts whenever possible.