

West Potomac High School Choirs

2011-2012

www.westpotomacchoirs.org

Instructor: Ernest Johnson

Classroom : 528

FCPS 24/7 (Blackboard)

Email: eljohanson1@fcps.edu

Office: (703)-718-2687



Course Overview

Singers in each choral ensemble will voices, increase their musical knowledge, become performances (both in school and in the community). Most often students have returned to take a chorus class each year. Whether they are entering advanced select ensemble, they will develop or improve upon their present skills as follows. (FOR 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)

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

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.

Fee:

Uniform - \$100. Includes : **Men** -Tuxedo, shirt, tie, cummerbund; **Women** – concert gown, pearls, shoes

Financial Assistance is given to students as needed. Those who qualify for free/reduced lunch receive assistance from the WP Choral Boosters. Others may participate in fundraising events to offset the cost of the uniform.

Student Progress

Mr. Johnson will be available most days after school, 2:30 – 4:00, for extra help as needed. Students must make an appointment in advance, and reserve a time by either speaking with him and signing up for a time to meet, or emailing him at eljohanson2@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

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 distributed at the beginning of the school year.** Extra copies are always available in the choir room, and can be found on the choral website: - www.westpotomacchoirs.org or on FCPS 24/7 - Blackboard.
- **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: eljohanson@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 .
- Death in family
- Family emergency

Unexcused Absences (may result in lower grade)

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

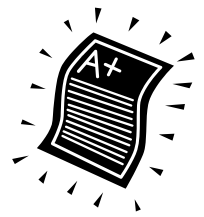
IMPORTANT !!

- **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

❖ 35% 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.

15% - Sight-reading quizzes– progress towards attainable goals each quarter.

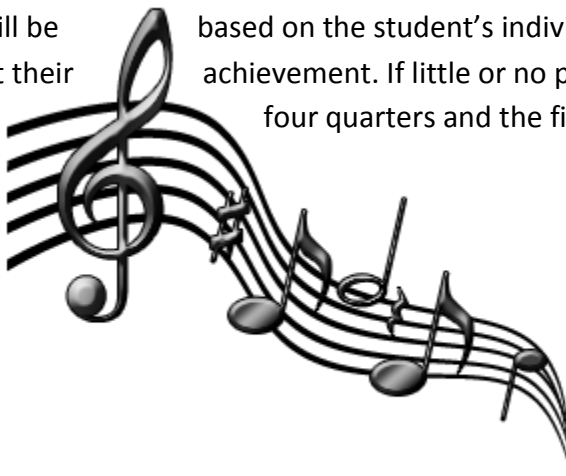
Singers perform examples in a variety of ways – digital recorder; privately for the director; with peers in small groups, or as part of their ensemble. Points are given for individual progress. Sight-reading benchmarks will be assigned point values that reflect the size and skill level of the activity. 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.

10% - Quizzes, tests on music fundamentals as they apply to music studied.

Final Exam and Final Grade

The Final Exam will be worth 200 points, and averaged in the Fourth Quarter grade .

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.





WPHS CHOIRS - Syllabus Signature Form

Return this completed page to Mr. Johnson for your first homework assignment worth 100 points by the end of the first week of school (Friday, September 9th).

- I have read and understand the syllabus and expectations for participation in the West Potomac Choral Program for the 2011-12 School Year.***
- I have read the WPHS choral calendar and noted all required events and placed them on our personal and family calendars.***
- I 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 _____

____ ***I am interested in being a parent volunteer with the West Potomac Choral Program***