

West Potomac Choral Department

Course Requirements

1. Class materials

1. All chorus members are required to bring pencil and music to each rehearsal.

- Markings must be made in pencil only, in each piece as indicated by the director;
- Pens, markers, highlighters may not be used to mark the music; doing so will result in being charged a replacement cost;
- Music is checked at the end of each term, and the markings comprise 50% of the student's daily grade.

What happens if I forget to bring my music to class?

A. Singers who forget to bring their music or lose it will be loaned a copy of each piece for the day (if extra copies are available), and must complete a "Rehearsal Observation" form, which is available on the website and in the choir room.

- Loaned music *must be returned* once the markings are placed in their own score.
- The singer must take notes on the entire class, indicating the measure numbers and areas of concentration in each piece rehearsed that day, as well as listing all markings, corrections, and other important aspects presented by the director.
- The singer must transfer these markings to their music, and turn in the rehearsal observation form along with their music showing all the markings at the next rehearsal.
- Failure to turn in the RO form will result in a zero for that day, plus points lost for that day's required markings at the end of the term.

B. All music must be returned at the end of each concert, or when requested.

- The music is the "textbook" of the class, and is on loan to the students. Students will be charged the replacement cost for lost or damaged music.

2. Attendance - Your attendance is required at all after school choral rehearsals and concerts

Attend all scheduled after-school rehearsals and performances as indicated on the choral calendar.

- It is each student's responsibility at the beginning of each school year to place all choral events in their planner, and on the family calendar, and update it as necessary.
- Conflicts must be announced and resolved in advance. (See "Attendance Policy.")

3. Classroom expectations:

A. Absolutely no gum allowed in choir room or auditorium.

- 1st offense: verbal warning
- 2nd offense: take home detention form
- 3rd offense – parent phone call: one letter grade drop; grade may be changed if student writes a 2-3 page paper on chewing gum, including its ingredients and the hazards of chewing gum when singing.

<p>Chewing gum during a dress rehearsal or concert will result in immediate dismissal from the stage and a "0" for the event.</p>

B. Ask permission before going to the restroom.

- **Do not leave the room without permission at any time. Get a pass!**

C. Place all backpacks, purses, books, and other items in the designated area upon entering the room. Take only your music folder to your seat. Any written work or reading material other than what is appropriate to the music rehearsal will be confiscated and returned to the student after school.

D. The use of ipods, cell phones, beepers, and other electronic devices are prohibited in rehearsals and concerts, and will result in the confiscation of the item, which in turn will be returned to a parent.

E. Students will limit talking and other distractions during the in-class and after-school rehearsals. Inappropriate behavior will be dealt with in the following manner:

- 1st offense: verbal warning
- 2nd offense: take home detention paper, parent phone call
- 3rd offense – parent phone call; conference with student to develop a plan for solving the problem; administrator notification;
- 4th offense—Administrative referral, parent phone call; Meeting with parent, counselor, & administrator; Possible exclusion from class activities and/or concert, and assigned an alternate activity

4. Rehearsal requirements

- **Give full attention to the director, peer leader, or guest conductor;**
- **Sit or stand with proper posture when singing;**
- **Respect the rehearsal process by remaining quiet unless asked to sing**
- **Mark music *in pencil* with all directives given by conductor; take note of your own errors, and areas needed for later practice.**

5. Practice requirement

- **Students in *Bella Voce*, *Colonial Singers*, and *Symphonic Women's Chorus* are expected and required to practice music AT HOME.**
- **Singers in the *Freshman Chorus* and *Bunchagize* are encouraged to practice at home to guarantee the best use of time in the rehearsal room, improve upon individual music skills and vocal techniques, and better prepare for the concert.**
- **If practice CDs are distributed, all students will be *required* to practice at home. Practice skills will be learned in class, and assignments given accordingly. All music must be memorized at home.**

**After school help is available by signing up on the sheet posted
on the choral director's office door.**

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE!