

Chorus Syllabus 2020

Course Title: Chorus **Credits:** .5 credit per semester

Department: Unified Arts

Teacher Contact Information: Rebecca Elgood, relgoshs@buusd.org (preferred) 476-4811 ext. 2015

Department Chair Contact Information: Rebecca Elgood (see contact info above)

Brendan Eaton, breatshs@buusd.org, 476-4811 ext. 2012

Course Description:

This is a 2 semester long, performance-based course that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique and sight-reading/singing. Music theory and music history will be addressed within the context of the repertoire (songs that we sing.)

Due to the safety considerations related to COVID-19, at least to begin with, students will not be singing during class time. Practice resources and materials will be provided so that students can continue to develop their vocal skills individually outside of class. Students will have the option of preparing solo and small group virtual performances.

This year we will cover some additional topics of interest within the world of vocal music (new topics indicated below with*).

At this time we do not anticipate having any live performances, but we hope to organize virtual sharing of our music. If this guidance should change we will notify students and families.

Assessed Standards

1. **Performance:** Students evaluate, refine, and perform expressively, with appropriate interpretation and technical accuracy.

Units of study include:

Fundamentals of Vocal Technique

Sight reading/singing

Path to Performance (semi-professional and professional opportunities)*

2. **Respond & Critique:** Students analyze, interpret, and evaluate music.

Units of study include:

Broadway Musicals*

Acapella Choirs*

3. **Create:** Students develop, evaluate, refine, and perform musical ideas that convey intent, demonstrate craftsmanship, and exhibit originality.

Units of study include:

Elements of Music

Music notation

Composition

4. **Connect:** Students will relate artistic ideas and works to societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding. Students will relate knowledge and personal experience to make art.

This standard is considered to be embedded in the processes of Creating, Performing, and Responding.

Materials/Texts:

Sheet Music (Replacement cost: \$1.95-\$2.95 PER piece of music.)

Chorus folder (Replacement cost: \$9.75)

Singers are expected to maintain a binder OR a chorus folder to organize music and course materials.
A pencil!

Opportunities for Skill Practice:

We will use in-class and remote time to practice skills and explore various topics having to do with vocal music. Each student will have access to a MusicFirst account to support their practice and learning.

Assessment/Reassessment:

Singing performance assessments will be done through recordings (audio and/or video.) Students will be able to opt out of these types of assessments.

Non-singing performance assessments will be done in person or using MusicFirst.

Written work will be used to assess student achievement in the Create and Reflect & Critique standards. This might include written reflections, music compositions, essays, or presentations.

Any student wishing to receive embedded honors credit is required to reach proficiency in all assessed standards. More details will be provided in the grading rubric.

Accessing support:

The best way to get support is attending class on your in-person days!

If you are fully remote or you need support outside of class, email Ms. Elgood at relgoshs@buusd.org. Expect a reply between 7:30-3:30 within 24 hours from when your email is received.

Virtual Office Hours are Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30

Safety protocols (these may change over the course of the year):

- Covid-19 Handbook [LINK](#)
- Specifically for in-classroom:
 - Wear your mask over your nose and mouth at all times
 - Do not move chairs. They are placed to adhere to safe distancing guidelines.
 - Wipe down your desk/chair/materials before leaving
 - No food in the classroom. Water bottles are ok.
 - Don't leave any possessions in classrooms. Unlike in years past, singers will not be able to keep their folder or any personal belongings in the chorus room.

General Expectations:

- Work outside of the classroom is expected. Expect to have about an hour of work each day.
- Your growth and enjoyment will be equal to the effort put forth!
- Google classroom and email will be our primary forms of communication. Be sure to check both of these regularly.
- [School-wide Student Expectations](#)