**Norwalk St. Paul High School Choir**

**CHORAL MUSIC SYLLABUS**

**Christopher R. Clark, Director**

[cclark@ncsmail.org](mailto:cclark@ncsmail.org)

**Course Description**

Concert Choir is a non-audition vocal ensemble in which students focus on the fundamentals of

vocal technique, sight-singing, music history, the learning and performance of a diverse repertoire of music, and public performance. In addition to class, the choir will perform in concerts.

**Course Objectives**

1. Develop basic musical skills, including sight-singing, music theory, and

basic breathing/singing techniques.

2. Develop each singer’s vocal abilities to the fullest potential, focusing

specifically on ensemble singing.

3. Perform choral repertoire for the school and community.

4. Understand and demonstrate proper concert etiquette as a student and

performer.

5. Encourage musical growth to create a life-long love for making music.

**Conduct/Participation**

The following are the core values upon which we build the Choral Program:

1. Excellence

2. Teamwork

3. Individual Responsibility

Chorus members are expected to show respect for the director, fellow members, and

volunteers who assist with choral activities. Inappropriate behavior will affect the class

participation grades.

All singers are to participate fully at every rehearsal. There is never a reason to do any other

school work or reading while in rehearsal. Even if a singer is physically unable to sing, he or she

is expected to have his/her music open, pencil in hand, and participate the best he/she can.

**Concert Participation**

Electing to participate in a performing group includes consistent attendance in both class

rehearsal and concert events. Chorus students must understand and assume the full responsibility

of these requirements. An absence of any one person affects the entire group’s performance.

Concert performance dates are given well in advance of the event.

Students are also expected to arrive on time for concerts. Call times are given in advance, so

students can plan accordingly. Should a student need to stay after school in order to be on time,

he/she should plan to remain in the chorus room and work on homework. Students will not be

allowed to roam the halls or go to other areas of the school.

This policy exists to support a standard for a performing ensemble that seeks to be of the

highest possible caliber. Those who hold excellence as a goal for themselves, and this group,

will understand and value these standards

.

**Music**

All singers will be issued music for class. Each student must supply his/her own folder and pencil

for every rehearsal – NO PENS PLEASE. Students should have their folder, music, and pencil for each class.

If music is lost or stolen, a student must notify the director or group librarian so that music can be replaced immediately.

**Care of the Chorus Room**

We are very fortunate to have such a great facility. It is each student’s responsibility to take care

of it and keep it a point of pride for our program and school.

NO FOOD OR DRINKS are permitted in the chorus room (water excluded).

After rehearsal, students must pick up litter around their area and straighten chairs.

PIANOS AND KEYBOARDS: Students may not use the main rehearsal piano, keyboards, or any

other music equipment without permission. Students who are given permission to use classroom

equipment must do so with respect and maturity.

Students should place their coats on the back of their chair, book bag, purses, etc…under their

chair before the start of class.

**Grading**

Primary factors determining grades are:

1. Rehearsal and Performance Attendance

2. Individual growth and progress in choral discipline observed

3. Active, productive participation during rehearsals and performances observed

4. Positive self-disciplined rehearsal attitude

5. Although attitude and active participation are more subjective in nature, it is

important that students be held accountable for these areas. A grading system for

choral music and classroom rules are attached.

A = Superior

Exceptional Outstanding Contributions to Rehearsal

Positive Cooperative Rehearsal Effort and Attitude

Exceptional Individual Growth and Progress in Choral Discipline

B = Above Average

Consistent Above Average Contributions to Rehearsal

Consistent Above Average Effort and Attitude

Consistent Acceptable Growth and Progress in Choral Discipline

C = Average

Average, Developing Acceptable Rehearsal Contributions

Average, Developing Acceptable Rehearsal Attitude and Effort

Average, Developing Acceptable Growth and Progress in Choral Discipline

D = Below Average

Passive, Indifferent or Disruptive in Rehearsal

Indifferent Attitude Needing Encouragement for Participation

Slight or No Evidence of Growth and Progress in Choral Discipline

F = Failing

A Failing Grade is the result of obvious deficiencies, disruptions and

Indifference in areas of Rehearsal Discipline, Attitude, Growth and Progress

in Choral Discipline

“+” or “-“ attached to a letter grade (A-, B+, etc.) indicates that a student basically fits

into that letter grade category, but has exhibited tendencies toward the letter grade above

or below. This can be positive or negative depending on the grade and to whom it applies

to.

Please sign and return the bottom portion of this syllabus for a grade.

Due by August 30, 2016

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read and I understand the information regarding this music class.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student name

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