

O'Brien STEM Academy
Intermediate and Advanced Choir Syllabus – Mrs. King
Spring 2020

Course Description:

In this class, students will continue their development in vocal music through rehearsal and performances. **Students are required to attend all events.** There will be cross-curricular assignments that may include writing, reading, and history.

Materials: Students will be responsible for the following:

-**Black 3-Ring Binder** – at least 1 inch thick.

-Students must keep this binder in good condition. **There should be no writing, artwork, or stickers on the outside.** They must look professional because we will be performing with them in front of others. I will be handing out name tags that can be placed on the *inside* of the binder. Loose papers are **not acceptable!**

-Mrs. King expects students to be able to find their music quickly for performances and rehearsals, so it is important to keep music organized and neat.

-**Notebook Paper** – for the occasional writing activity or assignment. Students may use a notebook, or simply put paper in their binders.

-**Pencil with a good eraser** – I will provide you with a pencil. However, if you lose this pencil, you will be responsible to bring your own. Music teachers are known to do pencil checks on occasion. **NO PENS.**

Goals:

- Develop proper tone and breathing fundamentals
- Prepare and perform for peers and parents at concerts and other district events
- Develop music and technical skills learned previously
- Develop strong sight-reading skills using solfege
- Develop leadership skills that will carry over into high school, college, and the workplace
- Increase musical knowledge involving music theory, world music, repertoire, music history, and terminology
- Develop a life-long love of music and the arts
- Develop team-building skills
- Have fun!

Expectations:

-Recognize and be able to use music terminology

-Participate *appropriately* every day

-Perform at ALL events

-Work diligently in rehearsals and show improvement throughout the year

-Make up work missed from absences (includes athletes who miss a rehearsal or performance due to another event)

Concert Dress:

- School provided music t-shirt
- Black slacks (NO JEANS)
 - No holes or frayed ends

OR

- Black skirt
 - Must be below the knee
 - Must wear black tights or nylons with skirt
- **NO SHORTS; NO SHORT SKIRTS**
- Black shoes and socks

Hair should be kept back and out of eyes. Jewelry/Earrings should be small (posts preferred), no large hoop earrings. We don't want jewelry that will distract the singers or the audience.

Students will be performing as a team, and we want our audience focused on our performance, not what someone is wearing.

Please remember that you are representing O'Brien STEM Academy while wearing your uniforms and attending out-of-school functions (festival). All students are expected to show integrity, perform to the best of their ability, and behave according to the school rules. Profanity, lewdness, defiance, and use of illegal substances will not be tolerated, and will be reported to the administration.

Fees: \$20.00

This covers the cost of the t-shirt, bussing, music, piano accompanist, and general music supplies. Please email Mrs. King if you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee.

Grading: Grades will be updated frequently on Infinite Campus.

- Attendance at Concerts (30%)
- Assessments (15%)
- Bell Work (15%)
- Participation and Preparation (30%)
 - Asking appropriate questions, helping others, **maintaining focus**, having all materials, and other actions can show effort and engagement in class.
- End of Quarter Assessment (10%)

Rhythm and Singing Tests: There will be a variety of assessments throughout the year in which the students will be required to sing. If a student does not wish to sing by themselves during class, they may arrange for an after school appointment with Mrs. King. This must be done before the due date of the test, otherwise **they will be required to sing in class.**

Citizenship/Work Ethic Grade: Each student will start out with 100 points each for behavior and work ethic. Students will lose 1 behavior point a day for not following directions and not following classroom procedures. Students could also lose 1 work ethic point a day for not bringing materials, chewing gum, or being tardy. Students can also lose their participation point for any action deemed unprofessional by Mrs. King, mainly not singing or talking while singing should occur.

Tardy Policy: There is a tardy tracker attached to a clipboard by the entrance. A student is allowed 2 tardies without consequence. If the student reaches their third tardy, they will be given a lunch detention. Should they choose not to serve said lunch detention, administration will be contacted and they will have a more severe consequence.

Bathroom Passes: Students are allowed three free passes to the restroom/water fountain per week, to use in any class. However, students are expected to use time between classes and during lunch whenever possible for restroom and water needs, as getting up and walking in front of other students during rehearsal is very distracting.

Food/Drink: Students can bring in unflavored water to their music class. Singers need to stay hydrated, and Mrs. King does not want to stop instruction every time a student needs to be excused to get a drink. Please, bring a water bottle!

A Note about Performances: Our performances are mandatory: Zone Concert, Winter Concert, A Salute to our Veteran's (Advanced only), Festival (during school hours, busing provided), and the Spring Concert. This is part of the responsibility of being in a musical ensemble. It is very important to have every student at those events. If we are missing a student, we do not sound the same! We grow as an ensemble, and we become accustomed to hearing each other in class every day. When someone is suddenly missing, it throws off our group dynamic.

WCSD POLICY: Students must notify Mrs. King **two weeks in advance** if there is a conflict with a performance. If it is a valid excuse (birthdays, weddings, and lack of transportation DO NOT COUNT), the student will be given an alternative performance based assessment. It is very inconsiderate to wait until the day before the concert, or not tell me at all.

Rules/Norms:

- 1. Students will help set up the classroom by grabbing a chair and placing it in a row.**
- 2. Students should go to the front of the class to grab their bell work assignment.**
- 3. No phones allowed. Place backpacks underneath the chair.**
- 4. Be respectful to others.**
- 5. Absolutely no food or drink in the classroom (outside of water, unflavored).**
- 6. Raise your hand to speak in rehearsals.**
- 7. Take care of your music. Should your 3 inch binder fall apart, please purchase a new one.**
- 8. Students should be in their seats working on their bell work when the bell rings.**
- 9. Every student has the right to feel comfortable when singing in our class. We will not do or say anything to make another person feel unsafe or uncomfortable while performing.**
- 10. Take pride in your own performance, take the rehearsals seriously, and perform to best of your ability always.**
- 11. Students will be dismissed by rows to stack chairs. Any person leaving without permission will lose a behavior point.**
- 12. Students will help put chairs away in stacks of 4 (blue chairs can be stacked by 5).**

Procedures: Students will come to rehearsal every day and do the following:

1. Students will walk into the choir room **quietly**, grab a chair, and place them in rows. If they are not in their seat when the bell rings, they will be marked tardy.
2. Students must always have a pencil with them and begin their bell work when seated.
3. Students should be raising their hand and volunteering in class often. If students do not participate, they will lose their daily participation points.
4. Students will rehearse appropriately during class and pay attention to instruction.
5. Students may not talk to each other during rehearsal unless instructed by the teacher. If a student has a question, they may raise their hand and ask the teacher, not another student, unless directed by the teacher to work with peers.
6. If a student is not able to rehearse that day due to illness, they still must follow along. Failure to do so will result in loss of their daily participation point, and possibly a behavior point if they are talking and being disruptive. They are required to still get out their materials.
7. If a student is out sick, it is their responsibility to get missing work. They may need to make up an assessment or fill out an absence practice form and get it signed by a parent or guardian.
8. At the end, students will grab a chair and stack in the back of the room and clean up any trash found on the floor.
9. Please do not touch the piano, risers, or any other equipment.
10. Students may not leave class until the bell rings and the teacher dismisses them. If a student would like extra help, or would like to retake a test, they should schedule time with Mrs. King.
11. Students are responsible for their own materials. Students should not rely on other students for music and pencils. Students will lose their work ethic point for the day if they do not come prepared.
12. If a student needs a copy of a piece of music, please let Mrs. King know and she will get it to you the next day.
13. Do not laugh at mistakes (we're human, everyone makes them!), and make students feel uncomfortable when they are rehearsing or taking a test. Everyone has the right to feel safe in this class!

Honor Choir

Students are encouraged to audition for the WCSD Honor Choir, which is a choir made up of the most talented 7th and 8th graders across the district. This is an excellent opportunity for our students, especially those that feel they are ahead of the class and need an extra challenge to stay motivated. *Parents must provide transportation for the rehearsals and concert, so please figure out if this is doable for your family before auditioning.*

Performance Dates

- Friday, February 21, 2020: WCSD Choir Festival @ Spanish Springs High School
 - This is a field trip during the school day where students perform for judges.
 - We will take a bus and should be back in time for students to catch their buses home.
 - I will need some parent chaperones to help.
 - NOTE: Any student who has misbehaved and requires a phone call home will lose their privilege to go on the field trip (this includes tardies)!**
- Friday, April 2-4, 2020: All-State in Las Vegas
 - Students will have to pay their way if they attend. 7th and 8th grade only may audition.
- Thursday, May 14, 2020 @ 6:30 PM: Spring Concert
 - O'Brien Large Gymnasium
 - Call time 6 PM

Contact Info: Mrs. King

Remind App for Parents: Text 81010 and message @osachoir or get the app and enter @osachoir

Remind App for students:

-Advanced Chorus: @osaadv

-Intermediate Chorus: @osaint

Email: Karleen.king@washoeschools.net

School Phone: (775) 677-5420 ext. 41570

Website: www.washoeschools.net/karleen-king

Acknowledgment of Understanding

By signing below, I agree to the following:

- I have read the rules and procedures.
- I understand the importance of following the procedures and expectations, and I understand what it means to be a part of the O'Brien Music Department.
- I understand that failure to comply with the rules will result in disciplinary action and may affect grades.
- I understand that my child is expected to attend all mandatory events
- I understand that students need to practice and come to class prepared with materials.

This must be signed and turned in by *January 17, 2020*.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Circle one:

Intermediate Chorus / Advanced Chorus

Parent Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date: _____

_____ Check here if you are interested in being a parent chaperone for the February 21st field trip. Parents will have to do a WCSD fingerprinting and background check to be eligible.

If a student still has yet to pay their fees, please do so as that is the only way they can get their shirt for performances. Students who do not have their performance shirt must wear their Black O'Brien polo

Please note that this document is also on the choir website for later perusal if needed
www.washoeschools.net/karleen-king