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Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome back! I am excited to hear our choirs this year. I have prepared this syllabus to help answer questions regarding the choir program at JHS. While there will be some changes from last year, many things will be very similar. Please read it carefully and be sure you understand the possible implications of the information it contains.

The last page is a statement of acknowledgement and must be **filled out and returned to me by Friday, September 12. This is a graded assignment**, so please be sure to turn it in on time. It simply says that you have read and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the syllabus. Please understand that by signing this statement, you are not only affirming that you have read and understand the information contained here-in, you are also agreeing to follow these policies and procedures or accept the consequences of your actions.

Please take special note of all performance dates for the choir(s) in which you sing. Scheduled performances are required!

You are welcome to keep the enclosed list of events for your reference. I would encourage you to copy these dates into your household planners or calendars. This will help to avoid one of the most common causes of lowered grades in choir (missing a performance).

If you ever have any questions regarding any aspect of the choir program, please contact me:

Work Phone: (541) 327-3337, ext. 335

E-mail: amy.nelke@jefferson.k12.or.us

All students and parents are encouraged to join the Jefferson HS Music page on Facebook. Important class and schedule information will be communicated on FB for both band and choir. You may also bookmark and regularly check the JHS Music Department website. It includes recordings and other information. The link is www.jhslionsmusic.weebly.com.

Again, I am looking forward to this year and I hope you are as well.

Sincerely,

Amy Hansen Nelke

Jefferson High School Music

Harmonix/Concert Choir Syllabus

Choir is an ensemble – every singer's contribution has value and impact, therefore participation is vital. Participation means being present in class on time, having a willing attitude, paying attention to and following instruction, and being physically able to sing. Students will learn vocal techniques, singing styles, ear training, and music theory. Various styles of music will be performed, including both secular and sacred. Attendance is required at all concerts and festivals.

Concert Expectations

Performance expectations for both performers and audience members are based on a basic respect for the hard work and hours of practice involved in the preparation of the performance.

Performers are expected to behave in a professional manner, which means:

- ♪ Do not talk or whisper during a performance, whether you are playing or not
- ♪ Focus all of your attention on the music, your fellow musicians and the conductor
- ♪ Don't do inappropriate things to draw attention to yourself
- ♪ Be considerate, have a great time, don't let your great time ruin someone else's

Audience members are expected to show respect and appreciation for the performers and their work

- ♪ Please do not talk or make noise during a performance
- ♪ Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
- ♪ Texting during a performance is just as disrespectful and inappropriate as talking.
- ♪ Please keep small children quiet and under control.
- ♪ Do not walk along the hallway next to the commons area during a performance.
- ♪ Do not leave after your student has performed.
- ♪ If you have to leave a performance, please wait until between pieces.

Music Room Expectations

- ♪ Always show respect for the people, the music, the tools, and the mission in choir
- ♪ Be ready when the bell rings
- ♪ Strive to make every rehearsal a quality investment of your time and energy
- ♪ Take responsibility for, and/or accept the consequences of your actions and choices
- ♪ Do not interfere with the learning or safety of your fellow musicians

With these goals in mind the following rules apply to the music room.

1. No food, gum or candy ANYWHERE; only water allowed, per JHS policy.
2. Do not leave your trash, clothing, or other items in the music room or music areas.
3. Do not play the percussion instruments unless you are a percussionist.
4. Do not play or borrow someone else's instrument or equipment without their permission.
5. Report all damage to school instruments ASAP, whether you caused it or not.
6. No cell phones or electronic devices unless specifically instructed by teacher.
6. All other school rules apply.

Singers are encouraged to have a bottle of water with them, the only beverage allowed in the music room, in a clear, plastic container; no food allowed, as per JHS policy.

Except in the case of an emergency or documented medical need, students will not be permitted to leave the classroom to use the restroom or get a drink of water. If an emergency need arises, permission should first be obtained from Mrs. Nelke.

In the music room, all cell phones and mp3 players are to be turned off and out of sight for the entirety of class, unless other instruction is given. The first offence will be a warning, after which the device will be confiscated and left in the main office.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in either the assignment of “music department service projects” or a disciplinary referral to your administrator.

Grading Policy

- 20% – Rehearsals
- 10% – Written work
- 25% – Individual performance tests
- 20% – LEAs & Concessions
- 25% – Performances

The quarterly choir grade will be based on rehearsals, written work, individual performance tests, performances, LEAs and concessions. Occasional extra credit opportunities will be made available.

Rehearsals are our daily work. Students need to be present AND participating. If a student is sick, they may not be able to sing their best but usually can still warm up and sing lightly. If they truly cannot sing, they can still participate by following along in their music, marking instructions. If they are so sick they cannot follow class, they should not be in school.

We will use written work and individual performance tests to assess mastery of the music concepts and repertoire we study in class.

Class Material

The JHS Music Department strives to build class curriculum based on the National Core Arts Standards (revised and released June 2014), which are:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Create | 1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
3. Refine and complete artistic work. |
| Perform | 4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation.
5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work. |
| Respond | 7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. |
| Connect | 10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding. |

LEAs

All music students will be required to attend and/or report about at least one LEA per semester. A variety of qualifying activities are available. Please see the LEA Suggestions section of this syllabus.

Of the many ways students might earn their LEA credit, this year Mrs. Nelke and Ms. Kramer will be organizing field trips to concerts and events: students will be given a monthly opportunity to attend an outside performance! Transportation will be provided, but ticket costs will not be covered. These events will be announced in advance and a sign up sheet will be posted in the music room.

Attendance

Students are expected to be in class and ready to work when the bell rings. As per JHS policy, a student will receive a disciplinary referral on the 4th tardy of the quarter, and for every tardy thereafter. This count resets each quarter.

Likewise, attendance in class is vital both to the individual and the ensemble. Absences, whether excused or unexcused, have a significant impact on the student's ability to participate in their choral ensemble which in turn affects their grade (Rehearsals 20%). Successful performances take many weeks to prepare and each member of the ensemble is reliant on those around them. Attendance is a matter of respect to those around you and to the ensemble as a whole. Likewise, **students are expected to attend and be on time for all performances.**

Performance Policy

PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED ACTIVITIES IN CHOIR! Choir is a performing art. Each performing group spends many hours of group rehearsal and each student practices on their own. The performance not only acts as the summative assessment for all of that work and learning, the act of performing is itself an integral part of the learning process in a performing arts class. The unique circumstance of performing in a concert with an audience is not an activity that can be duplicated or made up with a different kind of activity. Because successful performances take many weeks to prepare and each member of the ensemble is so very reliant on those around them, performance at concerts is not simply a matter of an individual student's grade, it is a matter of respect to those around you and to the ensemble as a whole. It is upon these principles that the choir performance policy is based.

All students are expected to arrive by their assigned call time, in concert dress, ready to sing, and **stay until the end of the concert.** **Tardiness to, or leaving early from, performances will adversely affect students' grades.** Violation of concert dress will result in a lowered performance grade, and could result in a student not performing.

An unexcused absence from a performance will lower your grade substantially. Late work is not accepted so you WILL NOT be allowed to make up those points.

Musicians use a "call time" for performances. This is the time an individual must be present, dressed appropriately for the event, (with sheet music if necessary) and ready to sing.

To avoid this, if you must miss a performance, you will need to fill out and have your parent sign a Missed Performance Form (available in the music room) **at least ONE MONTH prior to the performance date**. The note must give the specific reason for missing the performance. This will make your absence from that performance excused and therefore you will have the right to submit a Performance Make-up Assignment. The only exception to this rule is in case of extreme family emergencies or severe illness. If you have a family emergency or if you become seriously ill, you will need to fill out a Missed Performance Form (available in the music room) and bring it to me on the day you return to school. Your absence will then be counted as excused and you will be allowed to submit a Performance Make-up Assignment.

If you do miss a performance and you are excused, you must satisfactorily complete the Performance Make-up Assignment, explained below. Make-up assignments are due by the end of the current quarter. It is your responsibility to remember to get your Missed Performance Form and Performance Make-up Assignment in on time. I may not remind you. Failure to make up an excused absence will result in a 0 (no credit) for that performance and will lower your grade.

Performance Make-up Assignment:

- 1) A performance of selected parts from the concert for the teacher. Your performance will be evaluated using the same rubric as an individual performance test. This make-up test must be done outside of class time.
- 2) Listen to a recording of the entire concert and complete a Performance Adjudication form for each of the ensembles that performed.

Concert Dress

Students are expected to arrive for concerts ready to perform. This includes appropriately complying with the class code of dress. This year, the choirs are moving to a standard dress for all Women, to be determined by September 26th. The dress likely will be worn with closed-toe black dress shoes. For Men, likely a vest or tie with shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes. We are hoping to stay within a \$50 budget per student and scholarships will be available.

OSU Concessions

The majority of our budget comes from fundraising, most of which is the result of the OSU Concessions program. We staff a concessions stand at all Oregon State University home football games, in addition to two other events later in the year. In order to fairly distribute this commitment and maintain the necessary number of volunteers, **all students will be required to volunteer at one event this school year.** *If this poses a serious conflict for your family, please contact Ms. Kramer ASAP.* Students will earn class credit. The dates are included in the Calendar of Events. Transportation to and from JHS is provided, and workers are given a meal allowance. Parents are welcome!

If you (student or parent/guardian) ever have any concern whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact me. The preferred methods are email and phone, but appointments can also be made. I look forward to a great year working with these wonderful, dedicated young musicians!

Mrs. Amy Nelke, Choir Director
amy.nelke@jefferson.k12.or.us

Jefferson High School, Room 301
(541) 327-3337, ext. 335

Below are some examples of the activities you can do to earn LEA points.

Performance Activities

- Perform a solo or in a small ensemble for a community group, church service, or public event
- Being a regular member of a worship band
- Perform at District Solo/Ensemble contest
- Perform at State Solo/Ensemble
- Audition for All-State or All-Northwest
- Auditions for College admissions and scholarships
- Participate in All-State or All-Northwest

Research Activities

- Research and write a report about your instrument, a famous musician, ensemble, composer, piece of classical or jazz music or musical time period
Reports must be at least two typed pages and follow the MLA Documentations standards which include 12pt times new roman, double-spaced. All references must be cited.

- Weekly private lessons on voice or piano (1 LEA credit per year. Lesson journal required.)

Listening Activities

Performance adjudication forms need to accompany proof of attendance.

- Attend an outside of school concert (any genre)
- Attend a school concert in which you are not performing