Hawthorne Middle School

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Choir Syllabus

**Contact Information:**

Mrs. Jessica Johnson

Room 214

208-237-1680

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**Course Description**

Hawthorne Middle School students are required to take either band, choir, or orchestra in sixth grade. In General Choir, students will be introduced to: basic music theory, a variety of choral literature, proper vocal technique, and performance opportunities. **Concerts are mandatory.** Students who have an unexcused absence for a concert will receive a zero. Legitimate, excused absences can be made up on a case-by-case basis at the director’s discretion. Concert dates are to be determined and I will post those dates ASAP.

**Course Goals**

1. Students will be able to identify and notate the pitches on a grand staff through standard music notation.
2. Students will be able to accurately count and notate the following rhythms: whole note, dotted half note, half note, dotted quarter note, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and their corresponding rest values.
3. Students will be able to apply and recognize the following elements in a choral setting: expression, dynamic contrast, phrasing, tone quality, timbre, major/minor textures/ form, articulation, proper vocal technique, balance and blend in a choral context.
4. Students will be able to accurately sing their assign parts; alone and in a group.
5. Students will be able to name the major key signatures and identify the tonic note.
6. Students will be able to explain and apply the properties of select time signatures.
7. Students will be able to visually, and aurally recognize various genres through identifiable characteristics of each genres’ cultural origin, authentic instrumentation, and physical performance.
8. Students will participate in multiple performance opportunities and practice proper performance etiquette; both as a performer and as an audience member.
9. Students will discover connections between the arts and other subject areas through exploration, collaboration, and classroom discussion.
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**Materials Needed**

* One section in your binder for choir (with paper) or a notebook
* Pencil
* 1 inch binder (optional)
* Box of Kleenex (optional-for classroom use)
* Hand sanitizer (optional, for classroom use)

**Concert Attire:**

Students will need to wear dress-up clothing. Boys need a shirt and tie. Girls have the option of nice slacks or dress/skirt. Please follow the school dress code. If you need any assistance with this, please let me know.

**Expectations for students:**

* Listens attentively
* Concentrates on work and does not disrupt others
* Participates in classroom activities and discussions
* Respects peers, teacher, and school property—this includes returning ALL music in the same condition in which it was issued. **Students will be charged to replace damaged or lost music.**
* Follows classroom expectations.
* Completes both classroom assignment and online assignments on time.
* Manages time wisely.
* Displays a positive attitude and works cooperatively with others.
* Treat others with respect. Bullying is not tolerated. Hawthorne Middle School does not tolerate any form of bullying. Students who are caught participating in any form of bullying with be subject to disciplinary action.

**Grading:**

* General performance: 40% (Concert Participation)
* Quizzes and projects: 40% (In-class written quizzes, projects, singing quizzes)
* Assignments: 20% Graded, in-class practice assignments, but not a final assessment.

Please sign and have your parent/guardian sign below that you have read and understand these policies and guidelines. Please return the bottom portion to Mrs. Johnson

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I have read the choir syllabus for the 2020-2021 school year and understand my responsibilities:

Student Name(please print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_