

NGHS Chorus Syllabus 2009-10

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Chorus Classes

1st/2nd period La Belle Musique is a non-auditioned women's chorus made up of mostly ninth grade girls and other beginning female students in grades 10-12. This choir has earned superior or excellent ratings at LGPE for the last 10 years. All ninth grade female students and first year chorus females must register for this course. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Intermediate Chorus student.

4th period Men's Chorus is a non-auditioned men's chorus made up of boys in grades 9-12 who are new to chorus at North Gwinnett. This choir sings two, three, and four part men's music in addition to combining with a women's choir to sing some mixed music. All ninth grade male students and first year chorus males must register for this course. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Intermediate Chorus student.

4th period Camerata Women is an auditioned women's choir made up of students in grades 10-12. This choir will combine with Adv. Men to sing mixed repertoire on occasion. Many of the students in the choir audition for All-State Chorus and attend Honor Chorus. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

4th period Advanced Men's Chorus is a highly selective auditioned men's ensemble made up of male students in grades 10-12. This choir was formed two years ago, and we continue to have high expectations for their performances in the future. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

5th period Chorale is a highly selective auditioned women's ensemble made up of female students in grades 10-12. This choir was chosen to perform at the 2002 GMEA conference in Savannah and has consistently received superior ratings at GMEA Choral LGPE. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

5th period Ensemble is the highest level of chorus at NGHS, made up of female students who have had at least one year in Chorale and male students who have had at least one year in Adv. Men or participated in All State Chorus. Previously an afterschool group, Ensemble will perform collegiate level music in addition to learning combined numbers. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Ensemble student.

7th period Advanced Women's Chorus is an auditioned large group chorus at NGHS. This group is made up of experienced singers from grades 10-12. Some students in this choir audition for All-State Chorus. Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills for the Advanced Chorus student.

COURSE CONTENT:

Instruction in this course will be based on the Academic Knowledge and Skills. These countywide standards range from performance skills to the knowledge of music theory concepts as presented through choral literature and other class instruction. **NOTE: Because performance skills are assessed in this course, each student will be graded on performance attendance.**

FOLDER/ MUSIC ASSIGNMENT:

Each choir member is required to keep a chorus notebook or folder. A numbered black folder will be assigned to each student. The student is responsible for keeping their **music, notebook paper, this copy of the syllabus, and two pencils** in the folder at all times. Folders are to be kept in the choral folio cabinet located in the chorus room. Periodically folders may be checked for theory work, pencils, etc. Students will be held accountable for missing or damaged folders and music (\$6 per folder/music).

GRADING:

The chorus grades will follow the adopted Gwinnett County grading scale.

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 74-79%
- D = 70-73%
- F = Below 70%

Grades will be figured as follows:

- 30%: Class Participation
- 25%: Performances/ Rehearsals
- 25%: Written and Performance Quizzes
- 20%: Final Exam

CLASS PARTICIPATION (30%): Every student will receive a participation grade every 4 ½ weeks (with every progress report). This grade will be determined by the number of points out of total possible points the student has earned for each daily rehearsal. Points will be assigned for each of the rehearsal guidelines already outlined on the first page (TGRTP).

- 1 point On **TIME** to rehearsal (in chair with music when the first bell rings—please see the tardy policy on page 3)
- 1 point No **GUM, CANDY, FOOD, DRINKS** (water bottles are acceptable)
- 1 point Being prepared with music, pencil, other materials (**RESPONSIBLE**)
- 1 point Being on task, focused, and attentive in rehearsal (no **TALKING**)
- 1 point Demonstrating good **POSTURE** when singing in rehearsal.

*****Students who are ill should notify the director before class begins, but are expected to participate mentally and mark their music.**

Bonus points: Students can earn bonus points for demonstrating exceptional rehearsal behavior or knowledge at the teacher’s discretion.

***The total points for the 4 ½ week grading period will always include 5 bonus points. (Total points= number of days X 5 points a day + 5 bonus points)

Students with an excused absence will have an opportunity to make up the 5 points they missed on an individual basis with Mrs. Wearne or Mrs. Varner.

Students with an unexcused absence will receive 0 points for the day.

PERFORMANCES/ REHEARSALS (25%): **Required out of class activities, as stipulated by the teacher, will determine a portion of the student’s grade.** Each student will be assigned a grade for each event based on his/her collective participation with the other members of the choir. Individual deductions may be made for violations of TGRTP. **Excused absences include personal illness and death in the family.** No deductions will be made for excused absences with an accompanying written excuse from a parent (received prior to the performance if possible) and a makeup assignment.

A “70” will be assigned to any student with an unexcused absence who completes make up work.

A “85” will be assigned to any student with an excused absence and no make up work.

A “0” will be assigned to any student with an unexcused absence and no make up work.

***The course guidelines for High School Performing Arts adopted by the Gwinnett County Board of Education state that “teachers may grade students on their attendance and work during out-of-class activities.”

WRITTEN AND PERFORMANCE QUIZZES (25%): During this semester students will complete written and performance quizzes in order to demonstrate their knowledge of the choral AKS. In addition, in order to support the schoolwide emphasis on literacy, students will also complete some reading/writing assignments throughout the year.

FINAL EXAM (20%): At the end of each semester, every student (excluding exempted seniors) must take a performance and written final examination in chorus. The performance and written portions will each count 10%.

Tardy Policy:

Students who are not *in their seat* when the instruction bell rings will be counted tardy to class. Warm up exercises begin immediately following the instruction bell, and students who come in late are missing participatory activities. Therefore, for each unexcused tardy (without a note from a teacher), students will lose one daily participation point. Student must sign the tardy log when they come into class and sit in the tardy seats until the directors permit them to join rehearsal. The tardy consequences will follow the school-wide policy for tardies.

Tardy 1: Warning and Sign the log

Tardy 2: Second warning and sign the log

Tardy 3: Student detention, parent contact, and sign the log

Tardy 4: Student detention, parent contact, and sign the log

Tardy 5+: Administrative referral, parent contact, and sign the log.

Restroom Policy:

Students will be permitted to leave rehearsal twice a semester to use the restroom. Students should sign out on the restroom log and take the chorus hall pass with them as they leave class. In emergency situations, students will be permitted to leave but will lose a participation point if they have already used their two restroom passes. Please email Mrs. Varner or Mrs. Wearne if your student has a condition that requires more restroom passes.