



North Gwinnett High School

MASTERY VOCAL ENSEMBLE COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE.....Chorale
TEACHERAmanda Varner

TERMFall, 2011
COURSE NUMBER53.0733001

Email Address	Amanda_Varner@gwinnett.k12.ga.us
Teacher Web Page	
Teacher Support (Help sessions etc.)	Mrs. Varner is available at 6:45am every day, as well as 2:10-3:00 Monday through Thursday. Mrs. Varner also has 4 th and 5 th lunch by appointment only.

COURSE DESCRIPTION *(Published in the Choice Book)*

This course stresses the development of advanced vocal techniques. Both *a cappella* and accompanied literature for the ensemble are studied. Students explore composition and improvisation techniques and analysis of choral music.

Prerequisites: This is our highest level ensemble at North Gwinnett High School. Student must have completed one year of high school choir, and pass an audition for placement in this class. Students must demonstrate a mastery of basic sight reading concepts. Students must also have a refined ear, and demonstrate intonation, blend, and balance within an ensemble.

COURSE CURRICULUM CONTENT

The entire list of Academic, Knowledge and Skills for each of the following curriculum strands in this course can be accessed through the district web address at www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

AKS STRANDS	UNITS/TOPICS
A. Skills and Techniques/Performance	1. Warm Up Chorales and Vocalises
B. Creation	2. Scales and Rhythmic Studies
C. Critical Analysis/Investigation	3. Concert Rehearsal/ Performance
D. Cultural and Historical Context	4. Music Reading and Notation
	5. Listening and Analysis
	6. Performance Evaluations
	7. Historical and Musical Context

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Published Materials	Instructional Supplies
Experiencing Choral Music- Advanced Treble and Mixed Experiencing Choral Music- Advanced Sight Reading Choral Literature – Various Composers and Arrangers	1) Music, Pencil (with an eraser), Notebook Paper 2) Pitch Pipe (optional)

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Assignments	Grade Weights	Grading Scale
Sight Reading and Scale Tests	Daily Rehearsal Grades <u>30%</u>	A: 90 and above
Rehearsal and Performance Attendance	Performances and Rehearsals <u>25%</u>	B: 80 – 89
Music Theory Quizzes	Written Quizzes <u>25%</u>	C: 74 – 79
Daily Rehearsal Grades	Written Final Exam <u>10%</u>	D: 70 – 73
Exams	Performance Final <u>10%</u>	F: 69 or below

Daily Rehearsal Grades (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 (TGRTaP).

- AKS VMAE 22 1 point On **TIME** to rehearsal (in chair with music when the first bell rings, being in the classroom does not count)
- AKS VMAE 6 1 point No **GUM, CANDY, FOOD, DRINKS** (water bottles are acceptable)
- AKS VMAE 9,13 1 point Being prepared with music, pencil, other materials (**RESPONSIBLE**)
- AKS VMAE 9,22 1 point Being on task, focused, and attentive in rehearsal (no **TALKING**)
- AKS VMAE 5 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. Varner.

Students with an absence will receive 0 points for the day. Spending 10 minutes with Mrs. Varner before or after school will make up the 5 points that the students missed in rehearsal. The students have 5 days from the day they return to school to make up their absences before the daily grade becomes permanent.

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 TGRtAP.

Excused absences

Personal illness, or 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. The students will earn a score of “0” percent until a make-up assignment has been submitted at which time the students has an opportunity to earn up to “100” on the test grade.

Varsity Region game or match/ Region Tournament game or match No deductions will be made for excused absences. Students must submit a written excused two weeks prior to the event. The student will receive a score of a “0” percent until a make-up assignment has been submitted at which time the student has an opportunity to earn up to “100” on the test grade.

Unexcused absences

Lack of a ride, working, and any other excuses not outlined above. Students who are unexcused from concerts will receive a “0” percent on their test grade. These students will be given the opportunity to earn a maximum of a “70” percent if a make-up assignment is completed.

Tardies to Concerts and Dress Rehearsal Early is on time, and on time is late. Students are required to check in with their attendance keeper and be inside the performance space by the time designated on the syllabus. Grading for timeliness will be determined by the following chart:

0-10 minutes late -5 points, 11-20 minutes late -10 points, 21-30 minutes late -15 points, 31-40 minutes late -20 points

41-50 minutes late -25 points, 51-60 minutes late -30 points

*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. Examples include vocabulary quizzes, music theory assessments, music history quizzes, and ear training exercises. 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 in the spring semester) must take a performance and written final examination in chorus. The performance and written portions will each count 10%. Performance exams include one-on-a-part ensemble test, scales testing, major and minor sight reading, as well as music literacy assessments. Written exams will include all material covered in the students quizzes throughout the semester. Both the performance exam, and written exam are based on the county-wide AKS.

OTHER INFORMATION

Expectations for Academic Success	Additional Requirements/Resources
1) Daily Individual Practice 2) Small Ensemble Practice 3) Professional Choral Etiquette at Concerts and Rehearsals 4) Music Theory and Ear Training 5) Preparation at home for Written Assessments 6) Daily Participation during class time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 Italian Songs and Arias (for All Staters) • Private Instruction is always recommended • NGHS Choral Music Library is available to all students with Mrs. Varner’s supervision

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 director permit them to join rehearsal. The tardy consequences will follow the school-wide policy for tardies.

Tardy 1: Warning, recorded by student aid.

Tardy 2: Second warning, recorded by student aid.

Tardy 3: Student detention, parent contact, and recorded

Tardy 4: Student detention, parent contact, and recorded

Tardy 5+: Administrative referral, parent contact, and recorded.

Restroom Policy:

Students will be permitted to leave rehearsal three times a semester to use the restroom. Students will sign out with the student aid and take the chorus hall pass with them as they leave class. In emergency situations in excess to their 3 passes, students will be permitted to leave but will lose a participation point if they have already used their three restroom passes. Please email Mrs. Varner if your student has a condition that requires more restroom passes. Restroom breaks cannot be taken in the first 10 minutes, or the last 10 minutes of the rehearsal time period. Only one student is permitted to use the restroom. Mrs. Varner reserves the right to revoke restroom passes from any student who abuses the privilege.

In the rare event that a student misses an afterschool rehearsal or concert the following assignment is in place. Please read the policy carefully, students are expected to turn in this assignment within 10 days of the missed event or the grade will remain a zero.

Make –up Assignment

Missing ONE dress rehearsal or concert

The student will be required to record themselves singing their voice part on each of the songs that their choir is performing. The students individual performances will be graded on the following elements: breathing, pitch accuracy, rhythm accuracy, attacks and releases, vowels, consonants, tone quality, phrasing, dynamic interpretation, concentration, memorization.

The recorded make-up assignment is due **no more than 2 weeks following the absence** from the event.

Missing BOTH the dress rehearsal and the concert

On the RARE occasion that a student misses both the Dress Rehearsal and the Concert a secondary make-up assignment is available.

The student will be required to read an article and write a 2 page paper on a musical topic. The topic needs to be on a research based article and not popular culture. The paper is to be 10 pt font, double spaced, 1 inch margins. Mrs. Varner and Mrs. Wearne have an abundance of articles in their music library. The students can feel free to come and borrow a magazine.

_____ *Teacher Signature*

_____ *Student Signature*

_____ *Parent Signature*

The syllabus may be updated as needed throughout the semester.