

FHS Chorus



Handbook
2016-2017

"I don't sing because I'm happy; I'm happy because I sing." ~Williams James

FAYETTE R-III HIGH SCHOOL
VOCAL MUSIC HANDBOOK
2016-2017

INSTRUCTOR: Mrs. Miner

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Fayette High School Course Description

This choir is a non-auditioned choir and is open to all students in grades 9-12. This is performance-based course, which prepares students to perform at concerts and contests during the school year. Classroom work will include part singing, sight singing, music theory, tonal memory and different choral styles ranging from easy to medium-difficult works. The student will gain an understanding of choral techniques, musical terminology, and interpretation of line and text. Some rehearsals outside the classroom may be necessary. Students will receive advance notice for these rehearsals and are required to attend.

Classroom Objectives

1. Perform with the proper posture and breath support.
2. Recognize the vocal mechanism (lips, tongue, diaphragm, abdominal muscles) and demonstrate proper use for choral production.
3. Demonstrate the skill and application of correct tonal placement, using different types of vocal placement in performance.
4. Recognize the musical intervals visually, aurally, and reproduce them vocally.
5. Listen to the other harmonies and blend with them.
6. Identify difference between melodic and harmonic lines and how the two combine.
7. Follow his/her line of music and blend with the other parts (follow music notation).
8. Demonstrate proper etiquette for concert appearances.
9. Recognize and understand music notation and symbols.
10. Demonstrate the ability to sing in proper style as it pertains to each song, through correct rehearsal and performance techniques.
11. Use vocal energy to create motion within the musical line.

Classroom Goal

A classroom setting that helps each individual develop musically, socially, and personally. We are performance-oriented groups, and as such, we strive to be the best we can be in all respects.

Classroom Rules

The success of a choir depends on how it rehearses. How it rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the student. The fewer the mistakes and the less individual distractions, the greater your contribution is to the choir. Be patient, attentive, careful, and cooperative in observing these rehearsal expectations. Good behavior, attitude and self-discipline are essential to producing a GREAT CHOIR. If **you** are successful, the **Choir** is successful.

1. Be on time to all rehearsals (school or extra) and performances. During rehearsals, you are to be in your place with your choir folder, pencil with eraser, and book. All visiting stops when the rehearsal begins. Expect to work on music the whole class.
2. Follow directions the first time they are given. Be cooperative and attentive.
3. Keep the room orderly and clean. Do not bring food, candy or drinks in the music room unless given permission by the director.
4. All backpacks, coats, hats, etc. are to be left at the table at the front of the classroom.
5. Take a mature toward correction. Don't be a "know it all".
6. Stay involved in the rehearsal from start to finish. Rehearsals are not for personal grooming, catching up on the latest gossip, or doing homework.
7. Approach rehearsals as well as performances with sincere and cheerful participation.

Consequences

1. Warning and conference with teacher.
2. Detention, parent contact, lowered grade.
3. Detention, parent contact, lowered grade and office referral.
4. GUM or FOOD/ DRINK in class = AUTOMATIC DETENTION

If a student fails to report to detention, his/her time will be doubled unless he/she has an excused absence. Major offenses will be immediately referred to the office.

Policies

All choir members are expected to attend all performances. Students with an unexcused absence will receive no points for the performance, resulting in a significantly lowered grade for the quarter. If you cannot be at a concert for a good reason, you need to submit a written excuse from home at least one week before the concert. Obviously, sometimes illness or family emergencies happen at the last minute. In that case, a note immediately after the concert is acceptable. You are important to the success of our concerts. You are expected to be on time, properly dressed, and ready to sing at concert time.

Grading

Student's grades are based on three areas.

1. Participation: You must follow the classroom rules, be prepared, and put forth a **high degree of effort** during rehearsals to receive a high grade.
2. Performance: Students are required to participate in all performances and will receive a grade based on their participation. To receive a high grade you must follow the concert rules and perform to the standards set in rehearsals. Students earn a high performance grade by singing well, being appropriately dressed, and by being prompt and prepared.
3. Tests and quizzes: Students will take performance tests individually and in small groups as well as written tests over music fundamentals.

Concert Rules

1. Remember to use good posture at all times.
2. If you make a mistake, never let it be known by giggling, grinning, etc. If you let it go, no one will ever know.
3. Between songs, look at the director and no movement. Look Professional!
4. Your number one job is to watch the director.
5. Be reasonably quiet and very courteous-ready for business-in the warm up room. **THIS IS A MUST.**
6. If you are late, you have missed the performance. Do not join the group in the middle of the performance.

Chorus Letters

Students participating in extra activities throughout the year earn chorus letters. A student must earn and maintain a 95% all four quarters, attend all performances, and obtain 6 points to earn a letter.

District Choir Audition 1

District Choir Participation 1

State Choir Audition 1

State Choir Participation 2

Conference Choir 1

Solos (CMU, District, State) 1/festival

Small Ensembles 1/festival

Choir Officer Position 1 – 2 points

Section Leader 1 point

Outside Concert Attendance .5

Extra Duty TBA

ALL students must prepare a solo from a set or prescribed solo books, be prepared for sightsinging, and know all major key signatures to audition for All-District Choir. Auditions are held at Battle High School. **(Students that are ineligible are required to perform the solo in class for a grade).** Students that make the All-District Choir will rehearse and give a performance at Moberly High School. Any student making the All-District Choir can audition for the Missouri **All-State Choir**. The audition consists of preparing a piece of sheet

music that has been chosen, singing the part with a CD performance. This performance is judged and then added to the results from the solo, sightreading, and key signature points that were earned at the All-District Choir audition. All-State auditions occur during the All District Choir rehearsal in November. The All-State Choir rehearses several times during the winter months and rehearses and performs at the Missouri Music Educators conference at the Tan-Tar-A resort in January.

ALL students must prepare a solo from a set or prescribed solo books, be prepared for sightsinging, and know all major key signatures to audition for **All-District Choir**. Auditions are held at Battle High School. **(Students that are ineligible are required to perform the solo in class for a grade)**. Students that make the All-District Choir will rehearse and give a performance for friends and family.

Any student making the All-District Choir can audition for the Missouri **All-State Choir**. The audition consists of preparing a piece of sheet music that has been chosen, singing the part with a CD performance. This performance is judged and then added to the results from the solo, sightreading, and key signature points that were earned at the All-District Choir audition. All-State auditions occur during the All District Choir rehearsal in November. The All-State Choir rehearses several times during the winter months and rehearses and performs at the Missouri Music Educators conference at the Tan-Tar-A resort in January.

The schools in our conference sponsor an **All-Conference Choir**. Students rehearse the full day and then give a concert that is open to family and friends. All choral students that are academically eligible are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Every student in the chorus has the opportunity to excel as a **soloist** or within a **small ensemble**. Students have the opportunity to participate at the CMU Music Festival, District Music Festival and, if they qualify, at the State Music Festival. All music for these events will be rehearsed outside of regular class time. Vocal soloists and vocal ensembles must prepare two contrasting pieces of music from memory. These pieces of music must be from the prescribed music list. To participate in the State Music Festival, a solo or ensemble must earn a I rating at the District Music Festival.

Managers

Robe Managers will assist in keeping the choir robe closet organized. These students will not be responsible for putting away all of the robes, but for helping choral members be fitted and hang and store the robe properly.

Library Managers will be responsible for organizing the music files, passing out music, and making necessary copies. Any students needing choral music should speak to the Librarians.

Choir Folder Manager will make sure every student has a folder with appropriate music and an assigned folder slot. The manager will take attendance at the beginning of class based on choir folders that have been picked up. At the end of class, folder managers will organize the folder cabinet. Choir members are expected to hand their folder to the manager and wait until it is put in the correct spot.

Section Leaders will be selected for sections in which an appropriate leader exists. Sections Leaders will aid in the organization of the section by helping others with music, running sectionals, setting an example for expected behavior, and leading the section in keeping their area neat and clean.

School Issued Equipment

Robes

Music

Robes

The school will provide a black choir robe with stole for each student. These will be stored in the high school music room. Each student must provide black pants, black socks, black dress shoes and a white shirt to be worn with the uniform.

Music

Students will be responsible for various music throughout the year. Any lost or damaged music will result in a \$2 replacement charge.

FHS CHORUS

Choir is unlike most classes, sports, or group activities, in that we rely on every player to participate in every event. There are no ‘benchwarmers’ in the choir. We work together and rely on each other to perform at the highest level possible. One missing person makes a huge difference. In that light, please make note of the following dates and do everything in your power not to schedule over these performances.

Students are required to attend all concerts and performances. Listed below is a tentative list of activities for this year. Those that are mandatory are marked with an (*). All others are considered optional. As with most performing groups, sometimes performance opportunities come about during the course the year on an unexpected basis. The director will use all means possible to keep these to a minimum and to give students as much advance notice as possible if it is to be a required activity.

*District Choir Auditions		Saturday, September 17
Rehearsal and Performance	required for selected students	Saturday, November 5
*Veteran’s Day Assembly	Program during school day	Friday, November 11
*Conference Choir	All Day/Evening@ Salisbury	Tuesday, November 15
*The Freddie’s	Setup, Performance, Clean Up	Saturday, November 19
*Christmas Concert	7:00 PM	Friday, December 9
*Music Trivia Night	7:00 PM	Saturday, January 21
*CMU Music Festival	All Day	Friday, March 3
*Music Boosters Pie Auction	TBA	Saturday, March 4
District Music Festival		
*Large Ensembles	All Day	Friday, March 24
(Solos/small ensembles)	All Day	Saturday, March 25
State Music Festival	TBA	Thursday, April 27
*Spring Concert	7:00 PM	Friday, May 5
*Graduation	7:00 PM	Friday, May 12

Performances other than concerts and graduation will be influenced by student eligibility. In order to perform at District Choir, Conference Choir, CMU Music Festival, or the District Music Festival, you must meet local and/or state eligibility requirements. State eligibility says you must pass 6 classes per semester to remain eligible.

FAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS
INFORMATION SHEET

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

PARENT(S) NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

EMERGENCY NAME _____ PHONE# _____

Please list any pertinent medical information.

Dear Parent,

Fayette High School requires parental permission for students to travel on school sponsored trips. Since the choir makes several different trips, we are using one permission slip to cover all trips, as well as any trip for an honor groups such as District Choir, Conference Choir, etc. Following is the permission section of the Missouri State High School Activities Association participation form. Please read it carefully and sign in the proper place. Thanks for your cooperation.

We hereby give our consent for the above student to represent his/her school in all choir activities. We also give our consent for him/her to accompany the choir on trips and will not hold the school responsible in case of accident or injury whether it be enroute to or from another school or during practice, or an interscholastic event, and we hereby agree to hold the school district of which this school is a part, its employees, agents, representatives, coaches, and volunteers harmless from any and all liability, actions, causes of action, debts, claims, or demands of every kind and nature whatsoever which may arise by or in connection with participation by my child/ward in any activities related to the interscholastic program of his/her school.

If we cannot be reached and in the event of an emergency, we also give consent for the school to obtain, through a physician or hospital of its choice, such medical care as is reasonably necessary for the welfare of the student, if he/she is injured in the course of school choir activities.

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

(Signature of parents or guardians)

Please sign and return this form by Wednesday, August 24.

I have read and understand all of the information in this handbook. Our signatures indicate our commitment to take responsibility for being a member or parent of the Fayette High School Chorus.

Student

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date