

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to another school year! My name is Julia Brummel and I am very excited to continue as the Edison choir director! I am a graduate of Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio and am beginning my 4th year of teaching here at Edison. I have been involved with music since I started playing piano at age 5 and have grown in my love for it ever since then. My main instrument is saxophone and I have participated in a variety of ensembles including symphonic band, jazz band, pep band, saxophone quartet and orchestra for nearly 13 years. I have also been involved with singing and participating in vocal ensembles over the years. I am greatly looking forward to continuing alongside the Edison music department as we improve and grow the current program.

As I look towards but this year has in store I'm so excited to start another year of growth in the music department. I look forward to giving students even more opportunities to develop their musical taste and talent throughout the year. I am eager to bring in some great clinicians this year as well as expose students to multiple outside musical performances. My goal is to see the students not only learn about music, but to individually advance to a level they are proud of and that pushes the ensembles to the point of excellence. Students will learn and progress a lot this year, but they will also have an equal amount of fun. Afterall, music was meant to be enjoyed! At the end of the year I hope each student will be able to look back and be filled with great memories of the year as well as excitement for their return again in the fall.

I am sure there will be many questions as we begin the year and I will do my best to answer them. You can email me or call me at any time and I will get back to you promptly! I so look forward to meeting you all throughout the year and building a relationship with the wonderful people I know are in this music department!

Sincerely,

Miss Julia Brummel
Band and Choir Director
Thomas A. Edison Jr. Sr. High School
3304 Parkside Ave.
Lake Station, IN 46405
219.962.8531 ext 3041
jbrummel@lakes.k12.in.us



Course Description

This course is designed to give each student a well-rounded and enriched music education. Students will learn things like proper vocal technique, music terminology, general music theory, confidence in performing, as well as many other musically related topics. There is no need for previous music experience or “natural talent” to do well in choir. All I ask is that students work hard and do their very best to make sure they are learning their parts and participating in the ensemble. Students who come with a sincere commitment to singing and learning new things will do well.

Personal practice is **extremely** important to the success of a music student. Unlike other classes, this class does not often have homework. Their “homework” is the time they spend outside of class practicing and learning their part. Practice outside of class is expected of all students so that class time can be spent on teaching technique and putting all of the parts together.

Students will have various performance opportunities throughout the year. These performances are considered the pinnacle of what we are learning in class and are a great opportunity for the students to show off what they have been working on.

Classroom Policies

1. Act in a manner that is beneficial to the group and does not hinder the band from reaching its fullest potential. You are expected to conduct yourself as a role model and respect each member of the choir. No bullying will be tolerated.
2. Be prepared! Bring your necessary materials (agenda book, folder, music, pencils, etc) to class every day! If materials are not brought, you will lose all participation points for that day.
3. Be responsible! Rehearsal time is important. Be in your seat with your necessary materials by 2 minutes after the bell has rung.
4. Be respectful of one another and one another's property. If it is not yours, leave it alone.
5. Be safe! Do not let your actions endanger anyone else.
6. Sing/talk only when instructed to do so. This means NO talking while the director is teaching or rehearsing another section.
7. Leave the choir room in the same condition as you found it. Pick up after yourself, which means putting away materials and picking up trash.
8. Take care of your own folder and its contents. If you are going to take your folder home you must sign it out on the folder sign out sheet.
9. Gum, candy, food, soft drinks and the like are to be left outside of the choir room. **If you**

bring them in, they will be thrown away. However, WATER is encouraged. Continued violation of this policy will result in a lunch detention.

10. If you are ill and cannot sing, you must talk to the director BEFORE class. Failure to do so will result in zero participation points for the day.

11. Cell phones, headphones and portable music players are to be put away and used only before and after class. Violation of this will result in **zero** participation points for the day, a write up, and the phone being taken away.

*I reserve the right to dismiss any student who chooses not to follow the policies stated above.

Grading Procedure:

Below is the grading procedure with the appropriate description of requirements and expectations for each element.

35% Performances: There will be several performance opportunities throughout the year. We will spend the majority of class time preparing for these concerts and events. Students will be graded on punctuality, participation and concert etiquette. Concerts are the equivalent of tests for a music class and are therefore mandatory. (See attendance policy)

30% Singing tests: Students will be assigned portions of their music to sing for a grade. The grading rubric is available upon request.

20% Participation: Students will receive up to 10 points weekly for effort and interaction. Students shouldn't have a problem receiving all points on a daily basis if they are engaged, come prepared to learn and are making every effort to improve. I reserve the right to remove any student from choir who is continually being disruptive or detrimental to the learning environment.

15% Class assessments: Written tests and quizzes will be assigned throughout the year on musical terminology and theory. There will be a written final administered at the end of each semester covering content taught in class.

***Extra Credit:** Students will have opportunities throughout the school year to earn extra points to boost their grade. I will inform the students of such opportunities as they arise.

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: 59 or below

Attendance policy

All performances are **mandatory**. Exceptions to this (family emergency and sickness) will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be submitted in writing to Miss Brummel by a parent/guardian. Work, lack of transportation, or athletics are not reasons for an excused absence. Students with an approved excused absence will complete a make-up assignment given to them by Miss Brummel. Unexcused absences will result in a **zero** for that performance grade and will not be made up. All students are expected to be on time to all events. Tardiness will result in a 50% point deduction from the student's concert grade. **Students must also plan to attend the entire concert.** Any student found to have left the concert early without a pre-approved excuse will receive a 50% point deduction from their concert grade.

Mandatory Concert Dates

Date	Report Time	Start Time	Location
Wednesday, October 9th	6:30	7:00 pm	Edison Auditorium
Wednesday, December 11th	6:30	7:00 pm	Edison Auditorium
Wednesday, March 11th	6:30	7:00 pm	Edison Auditorium
Sunday, May 17th	1:30	2:00 pm	Edison Auditorium

Concert Attire

All students must follow the concert attire policy outlined below. Failure to do so will result in an automatic 50% point deduction from their concert grade.

Ladies: White shirt/blouse, black dress pants or skirt, black shoes with black socks or nude nylons.

Gentlemen: White dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes.

Choir Chairs and Folders

Our choir chairs are designed to be durable. Chairs help improve students posture while singing. If any student is seen writing on, stepping on, knocking over, kicking or otherwise damaging the chairs, they will meet the director after school to clean the item. They will also be held financially responsible for any damage that occurs. Each chair costs about \$70. A choir folder will be issued to every choir student. Improper care of a students folder resulting in it being damaged or misplaced will result in a \$20 fee to replace the lost or damaged folder.

Choir Syllabus Contract

I _____ have read and understand the information given about
(Student name)
choir expectations and requirements. I certify that I am able to abide by the guidelines above. I
commit to attend all mandatory events and will give Miss Brummel notice if I am unable to
attend for any reason. I understand that failure to abide by the policies outlined in this syllabus
will result in removal from the choir department.

Student signature: _____

I _____ have read and understand the information given about
(Parent/Guardian Name)
choir expectations and requirements. I will make sure that my student is at all mandatory events
and give Miss Brummel notice if they are unable to attend for any reason. I understand that if
my
student fails to abide by the policies outlined in this syllabus, it will result in their removal from
the choir department.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____