

Course: Vocal III (Chamber Choir)
Location: Room 301
Instructor: Dr. Mary Beth Taylor
School Phone: 256.837.0331
Email: mtaylor@madison.k12.al.us
Website: www.sparkmanhschoirs.weebly.com

Course Description/Goals/Objectives:

- You will learn and apply the basics of good singing technique through a series of stretching, breathing, and vocal exercises designed to develop muscular responses for proper vocal function and freedom in singing.
- You will learn and experience various types of choral singing, and explore choral singing in society and culture.
- You will learn and apply techniques for sight-reading music including the Kodaly-based rhythm and solfege systems with Curwen hand signs.
- You will learn and apply basic music theory concepts including the musical elements of rhythm, pitch, form, harmony, texture, timbre (tone color), and expressive qualities.
- You will improvise and compose using standard and contemporary compositional techniques.
- You will learn the basics of music history including the following style periods.
- You will apply critical thinking skills, to observe, analyze, reflect on, and evaluate musical performances and audience behavior, and to relate music to other disciplines within and outside the arts.
- You will develop a sense of teamwork, professionalism, and responsibility through all aspects of preparation and performance.

Required Materials

- Performance attire (see Performance Attire below)
- 1" 3-ring black (non-shiny) binder
- Four dividers labeled: Sight-reading, Music, Assignments, Handouts/Notes
- Loose leaf paper
- Pencils (preferably mechanical)
- 3-ring bag for binder in which to keep pencils (optional, but recommended)

Fees

- \$25 course fee per semester **due by Friday, August 30, 2013.**
- \$25 Boosters fee per semester **due by Friday, August 30, 2013** (includes up to two adult voting memberships in Choral Boosters Club).
- All fees must be paid before any other payments may be accepted (field trip, performance attire, etc.).

Forms

- Choir Participation Agreement
- Extracurricular Participation Permission/Waiver
- Out-of-County/Overnight Field Trip Medical Release
- Alabama Student Health Assessment
- Fundraising Permission

Payments

- Cash as well as checks are accepted for any payments that are due for this class.
- Checks should be payable to 'SHS' and must include a current *physical* address and phone number.
- Include the name of the student and the purpose of the payment in the memo section.
- Cash payments should be submitted in an envelope with the name of the student on the front.

Communication

- Reminders about deadlines and events will be sent to both students and parents through Remind101.
- To join the Concert Choir group, send the text "@chchoir" (without quotes) to 256-792-3416.
- You will receive a text requesting your name. Please enter your first and last name.
- Please complete this as soon as possible to ensure you receive all notices, reminders, and updates.

Expectations for Behavior

- BE RESPECTFUL... of the teacher, fellow students, all faculty, staff, and visitors.
- BE RESPONSIBLE... for your words, behavior, attitude, belongings, and your progress.
- DO YOUR BEST... ALWAYS!

It is the intention of the Director that the Choir Room will be a respectful, accepting, and supportive environment for students to learn, make mistakes, and take risks. Therefore, it is expected that students will *listen with respect and respond encouragingly* to classmates. Laughing, mocking, negative or sarcastic comments, teasing, and other harassing behavior toward another student will not be tolerated and will be cause for intervention for off-task behavior or dismissal from the Choral Program.

Bullying of *any* SHS student by member of any choir will not be tolerated and may be subject to dismissal from the Choral Program. This includes, but is not limited to, interactions in or outside the choir room, on social networking sights, and through instant messaging applications.

Interventions for Off-Task Behavior

Students who do not meet the Expectations for Behavior may receive one or more of the following interventions:

- student will lose participation points
- student will be asked to correct the behavior and/or apologize
- student will be given a time out
- student/teacher conference
- student will call the parent in the presence of the teacher
- coaches of extra-curricular activities will be notified, if applicable
- student will be referred to an administrator
- dismissal from the choral program

As a member of the Sparkman Choral Program, it is expected that you will conduct yourself appropriately at all times. Suspensions, repeated referrals to AAP, or discipline referrals are grounds for being removed from the Choral Program.

Classroom Procedures

- Follow procedures outlined in the SHS Student Handbook.
- Deposit ALL drinks, food, and gum in the trash upon entering the room (water only is permitted).
- Leave ALL personal belongings in the designated areas on your way into class.
- Retrieve your folder and pencil (sharpen if necessary BEFORE class).
- Be in your seat when the bell rings, and begin the bell ringer activity immediately.
- Students must leave phones with their personal belongings OR in their pockets. Any student seen using a phone FOR ANY REASON will be asked to surrender said phone until the end of class, at which time, the student will be asked to contact the parent and explain why their phone was taken. Subsequent incidents will be referred to an administrator for discipline.
- Listen when the Director or others are speaking, and pay attention in rehearsal at all times. Just because you are not singing does not mean it doesn't also apply to you or your section.
- Raise your hand if you wish to speak, and then do so in a positive, mature, and dignified manner.
- Students will not be allowed to leave class once it has begun except in case of an emergency (refer to SHS Student Handbook, p. 22). Should you have an emergency, you may sign out the pass (include your name, the time, and destination) BEFORE leaving class, and sign back in (correct time) when you return. THIS IS FOR YOUR PROTECTION as well as school procedure.
- Students who repeatedly leave class for 'emergencies' may lose this privilege.
- If you are absent, it is up to YOU to find out what you missed in class. You will be expected to make up any missed assignments or tests upon your return.
- In accordance with school policy, students who are not in the choir room WHEN THE BELL RINGS must go to the attendance office for a tardy pass.

Performance Attire

- Students are expected to purchase, alter, and maintain performance attire to be used for the duration of their choir experience.
- All performance attire must be purchased at the students/parents expense.
- Performance hairstyle and color should be conservative and neat (nothing that would call attention to you on stage). Hair should be pulled back away from your face.

Formal Attire

Only students who have previously purchased performance attire for band MAY be exempt provided their attire is properly fitted, altered, and in good condition.

Dresses should be hemmed to 1" off the floor when wearing shoes chosen for performance. Women must wear black, closed-toe dress shoes (no athletic shoes or boots). Small, post earrings may be worn as well as a favorite ring. No watches or other jewelry or accessories may be worn except plain headbands or barrettes for keeping hair away from face.

Men will wear the following tux combination: tux pants (adjustable), shirt (lay-down collar), long, black tie, vest, and jacket. In addition, all men should wear black dress shoes and black socks (no athletic boots or shoes). Class rings and small post-type earrings may be worn, but no watches or other jewelry or accessories.

All formal attire will be ordered from Southeastern Performance Apparel, and must be purchased through the school. The Performance Attire Order form may be found under Performance Attire on the SHS Choir website (www.sparkmanhschoirs.weebly.com).

Casual Performance Attire

Each student is expected to purchase a choir oxford shirt for casual performances to be worn with NICE jeans (no rips, holes or excessive wear or fading). Use the Performance Attire Order form.

All forms and money must be turned in by Friday, August 30, 2013.

Students who do not conform to these performance attire requirements may have up to 100 points deducted from the rehearsal/concert grade OR may not be allowed to participate in the concert.

Grading

- *Daily Participation (20% of grade)*: Students who meet Student Expectations and follow Classroom Procedures (as outlined in this syllabus) and participate FULLY in class and rehearsal will receive a full 5 points daily.
- *Written Theory Assignments (20% of grade)*: includes worksheets, composition assignments and any other written work completed in class, up to 10 points each.
- *Quizzes, Tests, Mid-Term Exam, and Concert/Rehearsal Performance (60% of grade)*: includes all quizzes, tests, mid-term exam, and the semester rehearsal/concert (which includes being in attendance, on time, in proper uniform, at all required rehearsals and performances, and assisting with set-up and clean-up as necessary).
- **Students who score less than 80% on any test may be allowed to re-take the test.**

Grading (continued)

- Students who have an EXCUSED absence or wish to re-take a test must schedule a time to re-take the test before or after school WITHIN three weeks of the original test.
- It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the instructor, not the other way around.

How TERM grades are averaged:

Daily Participation (20%)

Written Assignments (20%)

Major Evaluations and Concert Rehearsal/Performance (60%)

How COURSE grades are averaged:

Term 1 (40%)

Term 2 (40%)

Final Exam (20%)

Rehearsals and Performances

Each singer contributes to the choir in his/her own unique way. Because of this, it is imperative that each member participate fully, and full participation requires attendance at each class, all outside rehearsals, and all performances and programs in which the organization is involved.

- Your performance/dress rehearsal serves as a significant part of your grade in this class and is, therefore, **mandatory**.
- **Illness or extreme family emergency are the *only* excused absences. The Director must be notified by a parent prior to the event in order for it to be excused.**
- **Work is NOT an excused absence** for a rehearsal or performance, so be sure you communicate your rehearsal/performance schedule to your employer as early as possible.
- **Lack of transportation is also NOT an excuse** for missing a dress rehearsal or performance. You have ample time to prepare. Do not wait until the last minute.
- **Conflicts which arise due to involvement in an extracurricular school activity are also NOT an excuse.** Every effort will be made to avoid scheduling rehearsals or concerts which may conflict with other activities. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student or parent to notify the Director as soon as possible so that resolution (IF possible) may be worked out. **It should be understood that, just as there is no way to 'make-up' a missed ball game, there is no way to 'make-up' a performance once it is over.**
- **Other events/instances in which your absence WILL NOT be excused include but are not limited to the following:**
 - Voice/instrument lessons
 - Community choir/theatre rehearsals/performances/auditions
 - ACT/SAT prep classes
- If a student is absent from a performance WITH prior approval from the director, he/she may complete a make-up assignment to recover lost points. In the event of an *unexcused* absence from a concert, whether the teacher knows in advance or not, the student will receive a zero.

Rehearsals and Performances (continued)

- Students are not allowed to loiter on the SHS campus or performance space after a rehearsal or performance. If a student does not drive, an adult is responsible for arranging transportation. No student will be allowed to leave with a student driver WITHOUT WRITTEN PARENT PERMISSION. All students must be picked up ON TIME.
- Neither the Director, nor any employee of the MCBOE, accepts responsibility for any student left after the rehearsal/performance has ended.

Alabama Course of Study

See the SHS Choir Handbook or the website (www.sparkmanhschoir.weebly.com) for additional information.

Field Trips

See the SHS Choir Handbook for additional information about field trips and procedures.

Fundraising

See the SHS Choir Handbook for additional information.

Choir Department Calendar

- All events, including performances, field trips, fundraisers, and deadlines, are posted on the Choral Department Calendar. A list version of this calendar is included in this syllabus. However, students and parents are strongly encouraged to make use of the online (Google) version found on the Choral Department website (www.sparkmanhschoirs.weebly.com) which is automatically updated and always displays the most current information available.
- Changes to the calendar will also be announced in class and on the Events page of the website. Students and parents may use the RSS feed option to receive the latest updates directly to their computers or hand-held devices through a reader such as Google Reader.
- Announcements will also be made on Facebook through the Sparkman High School Choirs page. There is a link on the website, or you can search Facebook for: sparkmanhschoirs.
- Every attempt has been made to streamline communication and make it as easy as possible. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to communicate information to parents.

The Madison County School District does not discriminate in admission, treatment, or access to programs or activities on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, sex, religious belief, national origin, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status.

Madison County School District Contact Person for Title IX and Section 504

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