**BETHLEHEM HIGH SCHOOL**

**CHORAL 90, 10, 20, 30**

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**EVALUATION, FOUNDATIONAL & LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:**

***30% Aural Skills & Musical Literacy***

 ***Aural Skills***

* Demonstrate aural perception through text, timbre, dynamics, articulation, pulse, tempo, meter, rhythm, pitch, texture, form, combining expressive and structural elements within historical and cultural context.
* Active inner hearing : internally hear a written musical line and refine ability to feel internally written rhythmic patterns; recall known sounds and musical ideas, imagine new ones, and translate thoughts, emotions and/or experiences into musical ideas.

These skills will be evaluated through Ear Training, Intervals, Scales, Sight Reading, and Sing Backs.

 ***Musical Literacy***

* Develop an understanding of the fundamentals of music theory and their application and use musical notation to interpret and express musical ideas: pitch, duration, scales, harmonic structures, intervals, form, dynamics, note names, key signatures, time signatures, other musical terms and signs, pronunciation, sight reading skills

Students will be learning musical theory and vocabulary throughout the course. Students will have to apply this knowledge on a day to day basis as they learn new repertoire and will be tested periodically throughout the course on the learned theory and vocabulary.

***30% Vocal Technique***

* Vocal tone: posture, breathing, relaxed open throat, voice placement, phonation, resonance, tone quality and the aural concept of a desirable vocal tone
* Expressive intent should be encouraged as students explore vocal colours and shading
* Technical accuracy and fluency through Warms ups, exercises and vocalizes which will help extend vocal range, refine diction
* Singing in tune: develop singing and listening habits that will develop an ever-increasing sensitivity to and aware of tone production, rhythmic and pitch accuracy, balance, and blend (vowel matching).
* Apply technical abilities as a means of musical expression (a synthesis of previous three foundational objectives.

Students will complete **a minimum of** **two voice exams** throughout the course. These exams will be sung in a group format to replicate the learning and performing environment of the class. The test material will include repertoire from the semester and vocal exercises from class. The course objectives that will be evaluated are: tone quality, pitch, rhythm, dynamics, phrasing, expression, breath support, diction, posture. Students will receive a scheduled voice exam time. It is their responsibility to be there on time. If a student misses their voice exam for any reason other than illness that day, the student will not receive a mark and will not be permitted to make up the exam.

***10% Interpretation/Appreciation/Decision Making***

* Understand, appreciate and interpret musical expressions and works by: singing or listening to a broad spectrum of styles, world music, historical musical; stylistic and interpretative differences of music; analyzing , discuss and interpret a variety of musical expressions.
* Formulate a greater understanding of the role of music in contemporary societies and become discerning consumer and producers of music by using reflective thinking when analyzing and evaluation musical performances

In order to further musical appreciation and the skills being learned within the class, students are required to complete a concert review. The majority of the concert review opportunities will be provided to the students during class time, whether they are live performances or recordings, though concerts in the broader community may be used as well. Students are to use the form provided and complete it as thoroughly as possible, using appropriate choral terminology learned in class. Students who use concerts outside of the ones experienced during class time must provide an original ticket stub and program from the concert in the community. If the assignment is handed in after the assigned due date, no mark will be given. Masses do not count as a choral concert.

***30% Attitudes/Values***

**Commitment (15%)**

* Demonstrate a commitment to their own musical education and growth by participating in class activities in a positive manner, actively concentrating and maintaining attention, attending classes, rehearsals, performances and other choral activities, completing all assignments, responding to constructive criticism by taking steps to improve.

Students are expected to attend class regularly. “A possible consequence of poor attendance may include requiring the student to drop the course.” (12, Bethlehem High School Handbook). “As music is a performing art, choral classes allow student to experience the art of music directly” (14, Choral 10, 20, 30 Curriculum Requirements). Every absence is a learning opportunity lost. To evaluate this, each class day is worth a possible two marks. One mark is deducted for a cleared absence unless it is due to illness for the full day or half day; two marks are deducted for an uncleared absence. When clearing absences, please make sure that a reason is given, especially is the student is absent for this class only.

Commitment will be evaluated through attendance (absence & lates), being on task during class, coming prepared to class with all music and a pencil, self assessment.

**Concerts (15%)**

* Recognize the value of music as a lifelong source of enjoyment by seeking opportunities to participate in musical activities, hear music performances in the choral area, demonstrate an interest in improving musical abilities.

“Performances should be a natural outgrowth of rehearsal and classroom activities. As such, performances should provide an immediate focus and application for class activities and an opportunity to communicate acquired learnings to parents, administrators and the public. The performance is an integral part of the education process rather than the ultimate product…” (14, Choral 10, 20, 30 Curriculum Requirements). Concert dates are provided at the beginning of the school year. Additional concerts or changes will be given with as much advanced notice as possible. Attendance at all is required as part of this course. Acceptable reasons for missing a concert are student illness, family distress emergency, the death or serious sudden illness of an immediate family member. Work is not an acceptable reason for being absent. Absences must be cleared via a singed note from a parent in advance of the performance date when possible. The student can then make up a portion of the mark by completing an extra concert review by the concert review deadlines.

A detailed concert schedule will be handed out at the earliest possible time. Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Evening of Song, Graduation Mass and all school masses are the basic concerts students must attend.