**Easthampton High School Chorus Syllabus**

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This syllabus serves as a guide to help you have a successful and exciting year in the Easthampton High School choral program. Discussed below are several important pieces of information, including the chorus grading policy, student expectations, necessary materials, and concert attire. Although there are several expectations for members of the choral program, the fulfillment of these requirements will allow for a meaningful and rewarding experience. Please read through this syllabus and return the attached form by **Thursday, September 5th**. I look forward to working with you all!

**Grading:**

**Term Grading:**

* **70% - Class Participation/Attendance:** For each chorus rehearsal, you must bring several items: your music, folder, and pencil. I also expect you to be attentive and put in a solid effort at rehearsals. Lack of effort and/or preparation for rehearsals will result in the loss of points on your daily class participation grade. Because participation at the rehearsals is extremely important, it is also important that you are in attendance at the rehearsals. After TWO absences (excused or unexcused) occur during the semester, students will lose all class participation points for each absence (excused or unexcused) that follows. However, students are allowed to and highly encouraged to make up absences after school. Students may earn a total of 4 class participation points per rehearsal. Students may lose the following participation points for each rehearsal:
  + Forgetting music = loss of 2 participation points
  + Forgetting pencil = loss of 1 participation point
  + Disruptive, rude, or disrespectful behavior (includes excessive talking, tardiness to rehearsal, use of cell phone, headphones, or music playing device during rehearsal) = loss of 1 to 4 participation points
  + Absence = loss of 4 participation points per day AFTER the second absence in the semester
  + Tardiness = loss of 1 to 4 participation points
* **30% - Performance Attendance/Playing Assessments:** Students **must** attend and participate in the EHS Winter and Spring concerts. Concert dates will be announced several months in advance. **Failure to attend the Winter or Spring concert will result in a significantly lower grade for the semester.** The attendance policy for all other events will be determined by the teacher and will depend on the importance, length, and specific needs of the event. The teacher will provide ample notice about these events to students. Failure to attend these events may result in the loss of points to a student’s quarter or semester grade. Because performing music in an ensemble is considered teamwork, the requirement for concert attendance should be taken seriously. In rare instances, if students are unable to attend a performance, the following will occur:

1. The student will attempt to resolve the conflict **before** speaking with the instructor.
2. If the conflict cannot be resolved, a letter should be written and submitted to the instructor no later than **two** weeks prior to the event in question.
3. If the conflict involves issues of mortality or family leave, the instructor may allow the student to complete additional enrichment projects (approved by instructor) in order to compensate for the loss of credit for the missed performance.
4. If a student is absent from a performance without informing the instructor, as stated above, a complete loss of credit for that performance will occur.
5. If an absence is to occur on short notice, a phone call to the school or band director’s phone is expected.

* Individual singing assessments, which will be announced in advance, will be given at certain points during each term. Grading will be based on correct rhythm, pitches, dynamics, articulation, and tone quality.

**Semester Grading:**

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| --- | --- |
| * Quarter 1 = 40% of Semester 1 Grade | * Quarter 3 = 40% of Semester 2 Grade |
| * Quarter 2 = 40% of Semester 1 Grade | * Quarter 4 = 40% of Semester 2 Grade |
| * Semester 1 Final Exam = 20% of Semester 1 Grade | * Semester 2 Final Exam = 20% of Semester 2 Grade |

**Objectives:**

* Sing vocal parts using major and minor key signature solfege syllabus
* Sing a variety of contrasting vocal literature at a level of medium or higher
* Harmonize with at least two other parts
* Sing alone and with others
* Read basic notation in the treble and bass clef and identify common intervals, including the major 2nd, major 3rd, perfect 4th, perfect 5th, major 6th, and octave.
* Perform concerts for the public

**Student Expectations:**

* **BE RESPECTFUL –** You are expected to be respectful towards EVERYONE and EVERYTHING in the classroom. This will help to create a safe environment for everyone. Remember, a vocal ensemble is also a team; therefore, it is important for students to work together and cooperate with each other.
* **Treat facilities and equipment with care –** The equipment in the music room is very expensive and fragile. It is important to treat this equipment with care in order to avoid costly replacements. Let’s work together to keep the music room clean.
* **No food, chewing gum, or drinks, except water. –**You may carry a closed container of water with you. However, food, gum, and sugary drinks will hinder your vocal abilities during rehearsal. They may also spill and destroy expensive equipment in the classroom. Therefore, they are NOT allowed.
* **No cell phones allowed** – The EHS cell phone policy will be followed. If I see you using a cell phone, you will receive a warning on the first offense. On the second offense, a thirty minute after-school detention will be assigned. There may be a few class assignments and/or projects that allow for cell phone use. In these instances, I will give you permission to use your cell phone in class. Unless special permission is granted, cell phone use is not allowed during class.
* **Act appropriately at performances** – At performances, you will be watched by your peers, teachers, and parents. It is important that you are on your best behavior during performances.
* **Try your best and have fun!** – Don’t be afraid of making mistakes. This is a major part of the learning process.

**Discipline Policy:**

Areas of discipline may include, but are not limited to inappropriate use of classroom equipment or technology, cell phone use, tardiness to class, lack of preparation for class, and disrespectful behavior, such as excessive talking.

On the first offense, a warning will be issued. On the second offense, the student will be assigned an after-school detention. Please refer to the Easthampton High School Student Handbook for more information.

**Acceptable Use and Plagiarism:**

Be sure to carefully read through the Easthampton High School Acceptable Use Policy, found on p. 4-7 of the Easthampton High School Student Handbook.

* Cheating and plagiarism is strictly prohibited in all EHS music courses. Refer to the Academic Integrity and Honesty section of the EHS handbook for information related to cheating and plagiarism.
* Students MUST use all electronic devices appropriately. Any attempt to damage, modify or alter the device or information contained on the device or internet will result in disciplinary procedures per the EHS handbook.
* All information and music presented in class assignments or projects MUST be relevant and appropriate. Any information presented that is offensive, racist, disparaging, or disrespectful towards others will result in disciplinary procedures.
* Swearing and profanity is prohibited when presenting music. I realize many songs contain inappropriate words; however, they are not allowed in the classroom. With special permission from the teacher, you may use a clean version of the song.

**Communication:**

* If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to talk to me before or after class. Also, feel free to contact me by e-mail at [suliasz@epsd.us](mailto:suliasz@epsd.us). I typically respond to e-mail within 24 hours.
* Music often involves sensitive topics. If you have any doubt about sharing a particular song or feel uncomfortable listening to a particular song, please notify me immediately. Please also notify me if you feel uncomfortable presenting any topics in class or are uncomfortable with any topics discussed in class. I will do my best to provide notification if any potentially sensitive topics are to be covered in class.

**After School Help:**

After school help is available on various days of the week. Feel free to stop by for questions or extra help. You do not need to schedule an appointment with me; however, you are encouraged to do so, especially since there will be many rehearsals and activities occurring in the music room after school.

**Materials:**

For each rehearsal, you must bring your folder, music, and a pencil.

**Concert Attire:**

In order to have a professional appearance at each concert, you must follow the dress code below:

* **Boys**
  + White dress shirt
  + Black pants
  + Black dress shoes
* **Girls**
  + White dress shirt
  + Black skirt or black dress pants
  + Black dress shoes

**Important Dates**

**Event Date Time**

* **Senior District Auditions Saturday, November 2, 2019 TBA**
* **Junior District Auditions Saturday, December 7, 2019 TBA**
* **EHS Winter Concert Thursday, December 12, 2019 7 PM**
* **EHS Winter Concert Snow Date Tuesday, December 17, 2019 7 PM**
* **Senior District Rehearsal #1 Saturday, January 4, 2020 9 AM**
* **Senior District Rehearsal #2 Saturday, January 11, 2020 9 AM**
* **Senior District Concert Saturday, January 11, 2020 3 PM**
* **All State Auditions Saturday, January 25, 2020 TBA**
* **Junior District Rehearsal #1 Saturday, March 14, 2020 9 AM**
* **Junior District Rehearsal #2 Saturday, March 21, 2020 9 AM**
* **Junior District Concert Saturday, March 21, 2020 3 PM**
* **EHS Spring Concert TBA 7 PM**
* **EHS Graduation TBA TBA**

\*Please note that these dates and times are subject to change AND that other performances may be added as the school year progresses.

**EHS Core Values and Learning Expectations**

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| --- | --- |
| **Nurture** | **Value: Nurturing a Safe Inclusive and accepting Environment (social)**  ***EHS community believes…***  Students learn best when they feel safe, both physically and emotionally, in a supportive, positive and affirming environment.  Diversity and equality are valued and all are embraced through collective responsibility. |
| **Encourage** | **Value: Encourage Complex Learning with a Growth Mindset (academic)**  ***EHS community believes…***  All students can engage in complex learning when given high expectations, appropriate supports and the opportunity to engage in relevant 21st century learning.  Perseverance, risk-taking, self-assessment and academic integrity are skills necessary for developing a growth mindset.  Students learn best when they are in an environment that models, encourages and practices growth mindset and can take an active role in their learning, discipline and future goals. |
| **Support** | **Value: Supporting School and Community Engagement (civic)**  ***EHS community believes…***  Students will feel included, safe and valued when they take an active role in the classroom, school, and community. |
| **Together** | **Value: Together we Teach and Learn with Respect and Effective Practices**  ***EHS community believes…***  Students learn best when faculty and staff engage in research-based, reflective, inclusive, and collaborative practices around teaching and learning.  Students learn best when respect is embedded in school culture. |

**Engaged Collaborative, Reflective and Flexible Learner**

Students in band will consistently evaluate and assess the quality of their rehearsals and performances. Students will work with the students and instructor within the classroom community in order to seek ways to improve their work, as well as collaborate with outside experts in an effort to enhance their skills.

**Active and Complex Thinker**

Students will actively assess pitch, intonation, rhythm, diction, articulation, and tone during rehearsals and performances. Students will seek ways to improve these skills through rehearsal and performance.

**Growth Mindset Learner**

Students will consistently revise their performances and be encouraged to take risks. Students will perform music that is challenging, yet attainable.

**Logical, Effective and Creative Communicator**

Students will utilize effective musical practices and develop skills necessary in order to perform effectively in front of various audiences.

**Empathetic Community Member**

Students will perform within the classroom, school, and local communities. Students will also be provided opportunities to perform beyond the Easthampton community.

**Skilled Consumer/Processor of Information**

Students will utilize technology to listen to and/or watch performance exemplars. Students will also be recorded occasionally in order to be able to listen to their work and assess the quality of their performance.

**Easthampton High School Chorus Syllabus Sign-off Form**

Please sign and return this attachment to Mr. Uliasz by **Friday, September 6, 2019**.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read through the Chorus syllabus in its entirety and agree to its terms and conditions.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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