

Deposit High School

Choral Music Syllabus (2017-2018)

Contact Information

Please, never hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have regarding the choral/music program.

Mr. Thomas Curry, Pk-12 General Music/Choral Teacher
Deposit Central School
171 Second St.
Deposit, NY 13754

Phone: (607) 467-2197
Email: tcurry@deposit.stier.org

Objectives

The Choral Music Department at Deposit strives to exceed the goals of both the state and national standards for music education. We will be focusing primarily on vocal technique, musical genres, theory, and performance practices. Students will learn both music and life skills that will aid them through their high school, college, and professional careers.

National Core Arts Standards

Creating

1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
3. Refine and complete artistic work

Performing

4. Analyze, interpret and select artistic work for presentation
5. Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Responding

7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Connecting

10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
11. Relate artistic ideas and works to societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding.

Grades

Students will earn grades for involvement in chorus from professionalism / participation, lessons, concert attendance, and quizzes / tests (written or performance based). These assessments are placed into two categories: Formative and Summative.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (30%)

Professionalism / Participation (10%): This grade is purely based on the student's readiness to learn and conduct in the class. It is expected and encouraged that all students arrive on time, with required materials (pencil, music, etc.). The most important portion of this grade is to help create a positive learning environment for each individual in order to obtain the highest result.

Lessons (20%): Lessons are a helpful way to grow artistically on a more individualized basis. Grades are based on attendance, readiness, participation and the application of musical skills from previous lessons.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENTS (70%)

Concert Attendance (40%): This is the final product of all our hard work and preparation! 'I forgot,' or 'I couldn't get there,' or just not showing up are not acceptable reasons for missing a concert. All mandatory concert dates will be communicated *at least* one month in advance so that plans can be made. If a conflict arises, students must notify the director **no later than two weeks** prior to the concert date explaining the situation. An alternative assignment will be assigned to take the place of the concert. Only EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES will be considered for an excused absence and will require a signed written notice from home.

Quizzes or Tests (30%): will be given at the discretion of the director during *lessons or in chorus*. These assessments will most often be an evaluation of the student's ability to sing their concert music, solo music or identify important musical concepts discussed in class.

Lessons

Students will be required to attend voice lessons once per six-day cycle. Excused absences will be considered for a test in another class, make-up work, or an excused absence from school. The student must notify me **before** the lesson of any known absences, not after-the-fact. Make-ups will be offered at the discretion of the **student** (i.e. if a student would like to make up a lesson, they should come to me and I would be happy to work around their schedule). Lesson times rotate each cycle so that students do not have their voice lesson during the same class each week. I will be talking with the faculty and students in order to create the most convenient schedule possible. Lesson schedules are posted in the chorus room, sent to all classroom teachers, and given directly to all students.

Concerts

Dress: Individual expression and diversity is welcomed and encouraged **EXCEPT** at a concert performance. Concerts showcase the entire ensemble rather than particular individuals. Therefore, all students must adhere to the guidelines below (unless otherwise told by Mr. Curry):

Male: White dress shirt, black dress pants (no jeans), black dress shoes (no sneakers). Ties are welcomed but not mandatory.

Female: White blouse, black dress pants OR black skirt (draping over the knees **WHILE SITTING!!!!**), black dress shoes.

*** If you are unable to obtain these clothing items you must notify the director **immediately** to figure out a possible solution. Students will not be permitted to perform unless wearing 'concert dress' as per the guidelines above. In any case, accessories should be kept to a bare minimum. NO cologne, perfume, or jewelry that can be seen from off stage. School dress code is still in effect at all performances. Any student not adhering to acceptable dress code as stated in the student code of conduct will be asked to change. Those that are unable or refuse to comply **will not be permitted to perform and will receive a '0' for a concert grade.**

Arrival Time: All students that are performing on the night of a concert are required to arrive at least THIRTY MINUTES prior to the designated start time. Students may not have access to changing facilities and are therefore asked to show up in concert dress.

General Chorus Room Rules

- Be on time, in your seat, and ready to sing with all of your required materials at the sound of the bell.
- No food or drink is permitted in the chorus room. The **ONLY** exception to this rule is water.
- Leave all personal belongings by the front door (not with you at your seat).
- **NO GUM NO GUM NO GUM NO GUM**
- At the conclusion of lessons and rehearsals be sure to put away all folders, pencils and other used materials / items. Leave the chorus room in **better** condition than when you entered.
- All school rules expressed in the student code of conduct apply at all times. Those not complying will be issued appropriate disciplinary action.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, we are here to have fun and make music... leave any troubles or stresses at the door and be ready for a positive learning experience!

Important Events

Listed below are some of the events the choral music department will be involved in throughout the year. This is not an exhaustive list and additional events **will** arise as the year progresses. I am still getting accustomed to the area and will be producing more performances throughout the year. Mandatory events are in **bold** and enclosed in asterisks (***) . As a reminder, all events requiring mandatory attendance will be announced with one-month notice so that travel arrangements can be made and conflicts avoided.

***** December 12th – MS/HS Winter Concert *****

December 19th – Elementary Winter Concert

***** May 8th – MS / HS Spring Concert *****

May 15th – Elementary Spring Concert

SIGNATURES AND AUTHORIZATIONS

** In the event that the student's emergency contacts listed above cannot be reached in an emergency, I give Mr. Curry (and/or any other teacher, faculty, staff, or supervising adult) permission to make necessary medical decisions **

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____

Check this box only if you do NOT want your child to be photographed or videotaped for use on the music webpage, inclusion in educational portfolios, or other forms of publicity for the Deposit music department.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Interested in being a volunteer to help the Deposit music department? Yes / No
If yes, which of the following would you be interested in (circle all that apply)?

Chaperoning (Short --- Long --- Both)

Fundraising (Planning --- Organizing)

Other (list below any other skills you would be willing to offer)

NEWSLETTER / ELECTRONIC CONTACT

If you would be interested in receiving the music newsletter and other important information electronically, please provide your e-mail address below:

E-mail: _____

FINAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read the attached syllabus and understand what is required and expected of you and your child for this course.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____