

## 6th Grade Choir Syllabus 2011-2012

### Instructor

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### Course Description

This course is designed to teach vocal skills and technique through warm-up exercises and excellent choral repertoire. Students will also be taught sight singing and music theory. Sixth grade will most learn treble repertoire in two and three parts. As the boys' voices begin to change, tenor parts will be added to their music.

### Learning Objectives and Benchmarks

Students will become comfortable with their changing voices through vocally appropriate vocalizes. They will grow their musicianship by singing choral music developmentally arranged for adolescent voices. Benchmarks are in place to assist students in learning to follow their own voice part on a page of music, to notice and actualize musical indications on the page, and to hold their own part against other voices. Proper performance etiquette will be taught and used in the two major performances in the Walter Art Center in November and May.

### Preparation for Class/ Course Materials

The vocal music classes are one of the few middle school courses which require no outside work. All the music will be in individual folders. Students will be led in vocal warm-ups, sight-singing exercises and general music theory. Musical terminologies such as clefs, tempo, key and time signatures, dynamics and note names will be taught and used throughout the course. Parts for each song will be carefully taught and rehearsed. Texts of the songs will be discussed as well as both musical interpretations. Additional books used in class include *Essential Musicianship*, *Sing at First Sight*, and *Choral Skills #1*.

### Methods of Instruction

Students will retrieve their own folder of music for each rehearsal. They will also note on the white board which theory or sight-singing book to pick up. Vocal and sight-singing exercises will be used at the beginning of each rehearsal. The balance of class time will be spent learning the notes and parts to the pieces selected for the program at the end of the semester. As important as each page of vocal music is, eventually the students will begin to memorize their scores and then the class will be able to literally make the best music together. Learning to blend voices, sing in head tone and master the many vocal changes which occur in this stage of life are key to making each class successful. Students will be engaged in the class through the discussion of the essential questions about choral music. The young men will learn to sing through their vocal changes, with care and respect given for vocal maintenance. All students will be able to broaden their vocal ranges both high and low through warm-ups and good breath support. In choir, literally, everyone needs to be together on the same page, so learning to listen to each singer, developing confidence in vocal production, and working toward the common goal of an outstanding choir will be the ultimate goal of each class.

### Assessments

Vocal music students will be assessed based on class benchmarks. All vocal music students are required to participate in the two music programs at the end of each semester with the proper performance attire which will be listed at the beginning of the school year. In addition to benchmarks, students will be expected to comply with school skills expectations.

### Projected Course Schedule

Students will meet every other day on the A/B schedule for 45 minutes. Concerts and opportunities for participation will be listed in the Holland Hall calendar and via email.