



Instructor Name: Dr. Allison Baccala

Email: allison.baccala@cherokeek12.net

Course Title: All Mastery, Advanced, and Intermediate Chorus Courses

Description of courses: Chorus is a performance-based co-curricular class that is designed to further a student's vocal abilities. Students will explore a variety of choral repertoire, as well as further their understanding of the musical, historical, and relative aspects of each piece. Students will also learn self-discipline and teamwork throughout this course.

Prerequisites:

Beginning Chorus – There are no prerequisites for this class.

Intermediate Chorus – Students should have completed a beginning level chorus class.

Advanced Chorus – Students should have had prior choral experience in beginning or intermediate chorus and proficient sight-reading skills.

Mastery Chorus – Students should have had prior choral experience in intermediate or advanced chorus and proficient sight-reading skills. Audition is required.

Canvas Expectations-

http://cherokeek12.net/learningtools/canvas_parent_account_instructions_updated-july-2017/

*All class assignments and information will be posted on Canvas. Please check it regularly.

Rules and Expectations:

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones will be kept in the student's chorus cubby or the student's backpack/school bag. Cell phones should not be at the seat with the student unless it is requested by the director for a BYLD activity. Daily activities in chorus class do not include cell phone usage.

1. BYLD devices will be used when appropriate to course content. Director has discretion.
2. Ear buds should not be worn during chorus class.
3. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please do not copy and paste answers from the internet into assignments. Use your own words.
4. Food and Drink is not allowed in the chorus room at any time. Water is allowed in closed containers.
5. No gum allowed in the chorus room at any time.
6. Be on time – to class, turning in assignments, to performances, to rehearsals. We have a lot to do every day and each minute counts!!

7. Any behavior that impedes the learning process will not be tolerated. This includes talking while another group is singing, leaving your seat/going to the bathroom without permission, disrupting the class, etc... Take care of personal business in between classes to avoid disrupting class. Passes to leave class will be very limited. Begin early to budget your time and breaks.
8. Students are not allowed to go to vending machines during class. They must go in between classes or at lunch.
9. Students will not use chorus class time to makeup missed work for other classes.
10. All students, teacher, materials, and classroom should be treated with respect. Damaged materials are subject to replacement cost at the student/parents' expense.
11. When writing in music, you will only use a pencil. No pens, crayons, markers, sharpies, or other writing utensils.
12. You will be expected to practice on your own time. Any musical activity progresses with practice. There will be practice assignments throughout each concert cycle.
13. Do not enter the office, music library, or storage room without permission.
14. Give 100% every day. Excellence is a habit, not an accident.
15. All policies outlined in the Cherokee County and RRHS Student Handbook will be observed.

Goals for the course:

1. To develop proficiency in reading choral music, both rhythm, and melody (MHSC3)
2. To develop an understanding of musical notation symbols and vocabulary (MHSC3).
3. To demonstrate correct posture, breath control techniques, and vowel formation for healthy vocal production (MHSC1).
4. To develop skill in evaluating choral performance and demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette as a performer and audience member (MHSC7).
5. Understanding music in relation to history and culture (MHSC9).
6. Perform and listen to music of various styles, cultures, and time periods (MHSC6).
7. To use various rhythm gestures/instruments to enhance music learning (MHSC2).
8. To develop simple improvisation techniques (MHSC4).
9. To explore musical possibilities by making creative decisions (MHSC5).
10. To understand the relationships between music, other arts and disciplines outside the arts (MHSC8).

Link to all GADOE Music Standards: <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards/Documents/K-12-Music-Georgia-Standards.pdf>

General Course Outline

Course Materials:

Required Text: Music and all supplemental materials will be provided.

Supplies: 1-inch BLACK, 3-ring binder, 25+ sheet protectors, pencils with erasers, erasable colored pencils

Discipline Procedures:

Failure to follow the above classroom rules and expectations results in a teacher managed infraction. This means that the teacher will assign private detention to the student and will call the parent(s)/guardian(s) and notify them about the infraction. This will happen the first three times that a student commits an infraction. On the fourth infraction, the teacher will complete an administrative referral and a member of the administrative team will handle disciplinary actions from there. NOTE: Failure to serve a detention will result in an immediate administrative referral.

School Tardy Policy:

Tardy Consequences

- 1st -2nd tardy - verbal warning
- 3rd unexcused tardy = lunch detention
- 6th unexcused tardy = 1 day ISS (Drivers = parking permit suspended for rest of semester)
- 11th unexcused tardy = 2 days ISS
- 16th unexcused tardy = 3 days ISS
- 21st unexcused tardy = 5 days ISS
- 26th unexcused tardy = 9 days ALT school
- Students late to school during 1st period or any class will report to the closest tardy station for a tardy clip.
- Student drivers – After 6th unexcused tardy to 1st period, you will lose your parking pass for the remainder of the current semester.

Student responsibilities:

Late work and missing assignment information:

- Due dates for every assignment are provided in Canvas. Unless otherwise stated, assignments are due on those dates/times. Assignments will be accepted after the due date with a 5% daily deduction. The maximum deduction after the assignment has been graded will not exceed 30%. Late assignments will only be accepted within the unit that it was assigned and must be received before the unit test. After the test, assignments from that unit will no longer be accepted. Deductions for late submissions will be applied after the assignment is graded.
- Excused absences have 5 days to make up work including tests/quizzes. Any long-term assignments (i.e. projects) are due on the date due. If work is not made up, a grade of zero will be given. It is the responsibility of the student to ask for make-up work.
- The following codes will be marked in Canvas so students are aware.
 - EX - Excused, assignment does not need to be completed.
 - 0 - Student turned in the assignment and demonstrated no evidence of learning or mastery of standards
 - 1 - Student was present but did not submit the assignment. It is late but can still be turned in for a grade.
 - 2 - The assignment is incomplete and cannot be graded as is. It needs to be completed and resubmitted.
 - 3 - Student was absent and will get full credit when the assignment is turned in.

Remediation and Recovery Policy:

Rehearsals and concerts: Excused absences are death in family, emergency hospital visit, surgery close to concert that doesn't allow student participation, military family member returning from service. Unexcused absences are transportation issues, work, forgetfulness. See Concert Weights and Description below.

Sight-reading/Sight-singing: These will be practiced in class and/or with online software up until the date of the quiz. At that point, no additional remediation will be available for that assignment.

Canvas assignments: These assignments are on-going throughout each unit(s) of study (music per concert). Assignments should be completed by the due date, however assignments turned in after the concert it applies to will not be accepted.

Grading Policy: Students will have 5 days to make-up work after an absence (per Cherokee County policy). Those missing mandatory rehearsals and performances – see concert policy.

Concert and Rehearsal Attendance Policy

- a. Concert and rehearsal attendance are of the utmost importance to the success of the choral program. Being a member of the River Ridge High School Chorus is like being on a team. The team requires every individual to be successful. When one member is missing, the whole team suffers.
- b. Chorus is a co-curricular activity, meaning that some requirements for the class are held outside of the school day. The concert performance is equivalent to a unit exam and is the culminating experience from the work that is done in the classroom. Students are expected to attend all rehearsals assigned for concerts (2 the day of the concert, all concerts (4) and LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation).
- c. Electing to participate in a performing group includes consistent attendance in both class rehearsal and concert events. Chorus students must understand and assume the responsibility of these requirements. Talk to your coach or employer now so that there are no conflicts on these days.
- d. Excused absences from rehearsals/concerts are death in the family or extreme illness.
 - o Only excused absences will be given a make-up assignment
 - o Extreme illness is excused with a doctor's note only.Unexcused absences are conflicts such as failure to arrange transportation, work, entertainment, other school activities, etc...
- e. Any conflicts with a rehearsal or concert need to be addressed no later than 2 weeks prior to the date of the rehearsal or concert. Last minute emergencies are understood and arrangements can be made at the discretion of the director. Failure to communicate conflicts results in multiple problems the day of the concert or rehearsal. Please be respectful of your classmates and director/coach.
- f. While this policy may seem strict, it is necessary to protect the integrity of the choral program.

Class Attendance Policy

- Students absent from class multiple days during the week leading up to a concert are subject to not performing.
- Students not present in class on the day of the concert are subject to not performing.
- This will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Content Weights and Description:

Summative - 60%

This section usually consists of assignments directly related to the concert performance. We will continue to operate as if there will be a culminating concert. However, given the nature of this school year and the uncertainty of this, these assignments may vary. These assignments can include the following:

1. Playing/singing pass-offs of concert music to be completed in person or online
2. Research assignments related to the composer, history, meaning of the piece, etc...
3. Performance evaluation at concert
4. Written concert reflection - to be completed within 2 calendar days of the concert
5. Other assignments as deemed necessary by instructor
6. Final Exam/Mid-Term at end of semester

*If a student misses a concert, a maximum overall grade of 60% will be what is earned based on the above assignments, granted he/she has completed the concert grades leading up to the actual concert. Any concert grades missed need to be made up/recovered before the concert. A recovery assignment will be given for the missed concert in which a maximum of 20% can be earned and added to the concert grade. The concert recovery grade will be due within 5 school days of the concert.

Formative - 40%

This section will consist of all other grades not specified as concert grades but directly related to the music education of the student.

These grades can include the following:

1. Playing/singing pass-offs of scales, etudes, solos, concert music, etc...
2. Sight-reading assignments/quizzes
3. Theory assignments/quizzes
4. Written music assignments/quizzes
5. Participation during class
 1. Following teacher instructions to play or sing their part in section or whole group
 2. Having class materials ready (i.e. music in hand, pencil, instrument parts)
 3. Phones are put away unless BYLD is being utilized in class
 4. Talking is reserved for asking music questions to neighbors or section leaders

*Information attached is considered part of this syllabus.

** This syllabus is subject to change without notice.

2023-2024 – Concert Dates and After School Rehearsals for All Chorus Students

Thursday, October 5 - Fall Concert @River Ridge - 7:00pm
Thursday, December 7 - Winter Concert @River Ridge - 7:00pm
Thursday, February 8 - Pre-LGPE Concert @River Ridge - 7:00pm
February 13 or 14 – LGPE Week – Exact Date/Time TBD
Tuesday, April 30 – Spring Concert - 7:00pm

*Arriving on time and staying through the duration of the rehearsal or concert are part of the expectation and could affect the concert evaluation and reflection portion of the concert grade.

Chorus Fees

Consistent with other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities at River Ridge High School, all chorus students pay a class fee each year.

Chorus is minimally funded and relies on class fees and fundraising to run efficiently. These fees cover the following items that are not funded but county, state or federal monies: Transportation to events, accompanist fees, Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE) registration fees, social events, membership fees to music education organizations, financial systems, basic needs of the choral program.

*All fees must be paid in full before students are allowed to participate in any honor choirs, choral days, or chorus field trips of any type.

2022-2023 Fees

Fall Semester = \$40 Due Friday, September 1
Spring Semester = \$40 Due Friday, January 19

Uniform Fee– Formal Concert Attire

New members will need to purchase a chorus performance uniform through the RRHS Choral Boosters and are specific dresses and tuxes. This cost is NOT included in the chorus fee mentioned above. Other dresses or tux items will not be permitted.

- New Dress - approx. \$70 (dresses must be hemmed)
 - Students will provide closed-toe black shoes (no boots, sandals, or sneaker type shoes will be allowed)
 - Please wear minimal jewelry to concerts (i.e. small necklace or earrings); no bracelets
- New Tux Ensemble – approx. \$80 (tux pants must be hemmed)
 - Includes – black pants, black long-sleeve shirt, vest/tie rental
 - Students will provide black socks and solid black dress shoes (no white socks)

Payments

• All payments for fees and uniforms will be made via links provided via email. Cash or check to River Ridge Choral Boosters will also be accepted and should follow the following instructions.

Check/Cash policy:

- Secure check or cash inside an envelope with the student's name and what the payment is for – we do not supply envelopes.
- Place in lock box in chorus room.
- Never leave payments with a substitute or other teacher.

Fundraisers

Students are expected to participate in fundraisers as part of being a member of the chorus program and is required to earn their letter. Examples: Jeep raffle tickets, SNAP, Krispy Kreme donuts, spirit wear, and more. Please see Chorus Handbook for more details about lettering and fundraising.

Communication

All communication will be via email and Canvas Announcements.

- Questions regarding finances should be directed to our Chorus Booster Treasurer, Didi Pratz at finance@riverridgechorus.org
- Questions regarding chorus/class related things should be directed to me at allison.baccala@cherokeek12.net

Remind Accounts to Join (students and parents)– for all accounts send a text message to 81010 and put the following code in the message OR “Join a New Class” and use the code below.

For all chorus members and parents, please join the following REMIND.
RRHSChorus2023-24 – @rrhschoru

For all chorus students, please join your class REMIND below.

Mastery Treble Chorus only – @masterytre
Intermediate Treble Chorus only – @intermtreb
Tenor/Bass Chorus only - @tenbasscho

Charms

We are not using Charms this year. We will be using Quickbooks for all finances.

Other notes:

- Extra-curricular chorus activities that are open to all students, although some may require an audition for the director and/or judges depending on the nature of the activity.
 - District 9 Honor Chorus
 - All-State Honor Chorus
 - Bacappella (acappella choir) - Wednesday rehearsals
 - Literary Meet (Trio, Quartet, Solos)
 - National Anthem performances at sporting events

*Please see the Chorus Handbook for detailed information about extra-curricular chorus events, fundraising, sponsorships, etc...

**The information in this syllabus is subject to change and relates to the River Ridge Chorus and Chorus Boosters as of 7/28/2023.