

Concord High School Choral Department

Student Contract 2007-2008

Philosophy: The Concord Choral Department is dedicated to educating its members, student body and community of the professional, musical and performance aspects of a choral ensemble. The students of the Choral Department must be devoted to learning professionalism (attitude, attendance, and cooperation), musicianship (music literacy, ensemble participation) and performance practices (showmanship, style, and possible choreographic execution). The Concord Choirs are to be excellent representatives of the department, school and community. The stature of an ensemble is determined by the behavior of its members. Therefore, the expectation of upstanding behavior is extremely high.

Attendance: Because participation is such a large part of the choir grade, it is obviously important for the student to attend class on a regular basis. Each class is worth 10 points. If a student is absent, he or she will need to make up that absence. This is done by either:

- typing a one page report on any musician or musical topic of their choice
- taking a tape from the music library and recording themselves singing two songs that we are working on in class

All make-up assignments must be completed by the end of the 11th week of a trimester.

Performances and Rehearsals: Due to choir being a performance-based class, concerts and rehearsals are vital to the quality of the course. Enclosed is a list of mandatory performances and rehearsals for this school year. Please review the dates given and mark them on your calendar! Students will not be excused from these dates without a written excuse from their parent (illness, death in the family). If the director excuses the absence, a make-up assignment will be given. Athletes must inform the director of any conflicting events (IN WRITING) 3 weeks before the conflict. If the director is not notified the absence WILL NOT be excused. Conflict forms are available at the entrance to the classroom.

* Missing a mandatory rehearsal, without an excused absence, will result in a 10% deduction of the student's trimester grade. Missing a mandatory performance will result in a 20% grade deduction.

Grading: Letter grades will be given to each choir student at the end of each trimester. Grades will be determined by the following:

- 70% -- Daily Participation
- 20% -- Written work and Exams (including vocal, oral and written)
- 10% -- Final Exam

Attendance and participation at rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. Concert etiquette is required including not leaving a concert until its conclusion. Absentees receive a 10% grade deduction for an unexcused rehearsal and a 20% deduction for an unexcused performance. Students with an **excused** absence (illness, emergency) who have followed the proper procedure may make up their grade in the following way:

Within one week following the absence, submit a two page typed report on a composer of the student's choice. Reference materials on composers may be checked out through the choir department.

Rehearsal Procedures: Singing is a "hands on" activity. One must be a participant, not a spectator, in order to really understand it. Participation is part of the grading procedure. **Active participation** in all aspects of the daily rehearsal includes:

- Being ready to start class with folder in hand **before** the bell rings
- Getting rid of all food, gum, etc. before rehearsal
- Focusing on the person who is speaking or singing
- Demonstrating good singing posture
- Not talking when the director stops or when a song finishes
- Bringing a pencil to every rehearsal in order to mark cues and phrasing
- Following directions from all staff members in a timely fashion
- Leaving personal problems outside the choir room

These factors are basic to the formation of a good choir. They are not what is necessary to be an 'A' student—they are the minimum expectation of any choir member, anywhere. Grade points are assigned for each of the above rehearsal skills.

Every voice is different. Some have fine voices, but little skill knowledge or reading ability. Some understand concepts and have high skill levels, but our voices are not yet developed. All of us can improve! We can work hard on the areas in which we are weak, and help others in areas where we are strong. This will build unity and help us to be a better choir.

Concert Uniform: All members enrolled in any of the Concord Choirs will be required to have the following clothing items:

- Solid colored collared shirt or blouse for Fall concert
- Black dress pants or black skirt
- Black closed-toe dress shoes
- Red or green collared shirt or blouse
- Black panty hose (Women only!)

Attitude: Each member of the ensemble is responsible for maintaining a positive attitude and work ethic. If one doesn't, the purpose of the choir is lost. Each singer must show maturity, dedication, and a sense of cooperation. There will plenty of "fun time". There is a lot of work too. Know the difference. Stay focused and have fun!