**Gibbs High School Choral Department**

 **2016 2nd Block Room 310**

**Ensemble**

**Mr. William Brimer, Choral Director**

**Course Description**

Choral Ensemble consists of students with previous choral experience selected by audition. Emphasis is placed on an advanced degree of musicianship, increased harmonic and rhythmic reading skills, and increased performance skills. Opportunities are provided for performance in school and community.

**Objectives:**

Instruction will focus on the following National standards,

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Reading and notating music.
3. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
4. Evaluating music and music performances.
5. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
6. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

**Materials Needed:**

Black 1-inch 3-ring binder

Pencil

Sight-singing Packet

Concert attire (see below for details)

**Fees:**

There is a **$20** fee for this class. The fee will help provide the music to be purchased for performance.

**Concert Attire:**

WOMEN: All Female ensemble members will be fitted and ordered a black “Serenity” dress which costs **$89**. Further, all women MUST have closed-toed black dress shoes with no higher than a 2” heel in order to perform.

MEN:

All men must purchase a black tuxedo consisting of tux pants, tux jacket, white tux shirt, and a black bow tie. You can purchase the above items from **Savvi Formal Wear** in the Knoxville Center (East Town Mall) Please tell the salesperson that you are from Gibbs HS. The tuxes will cost approximately **$125 – 130** and they will be yours to keep and wear to prom, etc. Men will also need black dress socks, black dress shoes, and a plain white undershirt.

**The deadline for being fitted for, ordering, and paying for your concert attire is Sept. 20th.**

**Resources Used:**

*Florida Vocal Association* sight-reading materials

Christian hymnals for Sight reading and folk tune discussions.

Instruction may include the following films:

*South Pacific, Les Miserables, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Brigadoon, Sound of Music, The King and I, Oklahoma, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Fiddler on the Roof, Annie, Bye Bye Birdie, My Fair Lady, Phantom of the Opera, The Music Man, Newsies, Footloose, West Side Story, Singin’ in the Rain, Oliver, Sister Act, Sister Act II, Perfect Harmony, Young at Heart, and Alive inside.*

**Assessment:**

Grading in Ensemble will be based on the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 30% | Singing/Participating (standard 1) – earned through attending EVERY rehearsal, having class materials, showing a positive work ethic by staying on-task in class, having a positive attitude, being punctual to rehearsals, showing positive communication skills to both director and fellow singers, and by participating in all activities. 1 infraction to the above will result in a 10point deduction from your weekly grade.  |
| 15% | Written assignments/quizzes/vocal part tests – earned by completing all written assignments by the date they are due, successfully completing all part tests |
| 30% | Performances – students can earn one grade for each outside of regular class event listed on the calendar (see below) and for being on time to it. Being late to a performance call time results in a 10 point deduction from the concert grade.  |
| 25% | Final Exam –A summative written and performance assessment which measures the students growth over the course of the semester. The final consists of three sections 1) written section, 2) sight reading, and 3) vocal test. Each section will be averaged together to determine the student’s final grade.  |

**Any unexcused performance absence will result in a 0 for the concert grade. Excuses for missed performances must be submitted in writing and signed by a parent or guardian. The only excused absences are extreme illness or a death in the family. Examples of unexcused absences would be not having a ride or having to work. If the excuse is acceptable, the student will be given a written assignment to make up the grade. If the assignment is not turned in by 2 weeks after the concert date, the absence is then considered unexcused.**

Songs of a religious nature are performed in all choirs; however, Mr. Brimer only uses songs of with religious content to fulfill course objectives, specifically objectives 5 and 6 as stated on the previous page of this syllabus.

**General Expectations for…**

**STUDENTS:**

**Attendance Policy**

It is absolutely essential that every choir student make every effort to be at every rehearsal every day. If a student must miss class, the student must inquire as to what was covered while they were absent.

**Honor Code**

Be respectful of everyone and everything (Say yes sir, no sir, please and thank you even if you

feel you've been wronged). Please practice extreme kindness at all times. Tell the truth. Strive

for excellence of character.

**Daily expectations for student behavior**

1. **Be in assigned seat** with binder and pencil *BEFORE* the bell rings.

2. **Finish snacks outside of the room** before entering. **Do NOT bring gum, food or drink** into the chorus room. The only exception is bottled water. Stay hydrated!

3. **Turn off your phone** and put it away. Absolutely NO CELL PHONE USAGE OF ANY KIND in chorus room. It MUST be OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT AT ALL TIMES. This includes checking the time**! If Mr. Brimer sees it, he will take it and you may have it after class.**

4. **Stay focused and on task** at all times during rehearsal. Please do not work on other classwork or homework during chorus class. Please do your best work hard on the task at hand.

5. **Sing at every rehearsal**. We all have days when we are tired or having a bad day. You WILL feel better by deep breathing and singing! If you are sick and vocally not able to sing, then you will be expected to have your music out and follow along with the rehearsal.

6. **Students must get permission to use the restroom**. Trips to the restroom interrupt valuable

 rehearsal time and distract students from tasks at hand. Mr. Brimer suggests that students

 Take care of business before or after and not during class.

7. **Show maturity and respect at all times.** If Mr. Brimer is talking, you do not. If you have a

 question, raise your hand. If you like/dislike a song or activity, keep your comments to

 yourself (*The song or activity you dislike may be someone else’s favorite and every piece that*

 *Mr. Brimer selects has a purpose*). If you need to assist your classmate with something chorus

 related please do so without interrupting Mr. Brimer and disrupting rehearsal, and without

 disrespecting your classmate. We all have to learn and work together so strive for excellence

 in music, for a healthy singing community, and for musical growth.

8. **Concert etiquette:** Stay for the entire event. Turn your phone off and put it away. Do not

 Talk. Applaud at appropriate times without screaming. Do not enter or exit an auditorium

 while a song is being performed. Stay silent when backstage.

9. **Take care of your things.** Mr. Brimer loans the music to you with the expectation that it will

 be returned. Sheet music is expensive so please keep it in your folder and keep your folder

 in your locker or in the chorus room folder cubby. Furthermore, **Mr. Brimer is not**

 **responsible for your belongings.** If you lose something it is your fault. This is a classroom,

 not your locker.

**TEACHER:**

Mr. Brimer is available every day from 7:30-8:30 a.m., and during 1st block. You may call and leave a voicemail and I will get back to you promptly. However, the best way to reach me is via email, as I will check that on a regular basis during school hours.

Chorus Room Phone: 865-689-9130, ext. 1310

Email: William.brimer@knoxschools.org

Please sign up for REMIND by texting: @mrbrimer to 81010

Parents can sign up for reminders by texting: @28ce1 to 81010

**Ensemble Contract**

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand the fees, grading policies, and performance obligations of the Ensemble Chorus class. **Please return by Tuesday, August 16th.**

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Student Name (PRINTED) Class Period

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Student Signature

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Parent/Guardian Name (PRINTED)

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Parent Signature