

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING GUIDELINES
2011-2012
MRS. MADDERN
MADRIGALS, BELLA VOCE, MEN'S ENSEMBLE AND CONCERT CHOIR

I. OVERALL OBJECTIVES

To develop an aesthetic sensitivity to choral music as an art form; to gain an understanding of musicianship and musical styles; to further develop the voice; to work as a cohesive unit, each individual contributing his/her talents. Performing is a major component of this class. The material covered and the literature studied are directly related to this end and attendance at all performances is mandatory.

II. TEXT AND MATERIALS

Each student will be assigned a numbered spot where they will place their needed black folder for the music. The student is responsible for each of these items. Binders will be labeled. Any book, folder, or music which is damaged or lost must be replaced at the student's expense. Students will be required to have a pencil in their folder at all times.

III. PARTICIPATION/PERFORMANCES

Madrigals is an advanced, audition-only group. Bella Voce and Men's Ensemble are intermediate/advanced, audition-only groups. Concert Choir is an entry level, non-audition group that, for this year, may include some of the Men's Ensemble. These are co-curricular classes, meaning that instruction occurs during the school day as well as on occasional nights and weekends. This is especially important in the area of performances. Only severe illness and school or religious conflicts will be considered for absence from a required or scheduled event. **Any exception MUST be worked out, in writing, with the director several weeks prior to the event.** The director will supply students with a comprehensive performance calendar the first week of school. Failure to attend a scheduled performance will be reflected in the student's grade and may jeopardize the student's future participation in the audition groups. The teacher would appreciate communication with parents regarding special medical situations which may affect either a student's attendance in performances or class.

IV. EXPECTATIONS

Because of the intense nature of these courses, students must have an extraordinarily high level of commitment and self-motivation. Students must also be well-disciplined and able to work in large, as well as small, groups with or without the benefit of an adult instructor. This is especially true with the auditioned groups. Parents are requested to contribute by volunteering with the Northgate Choral Music Boosters, as chaperones, acting as drivers for gigs, field trips and performances, and assisting in the coordination of costumes, performances, events and tours as necessary.

ATTENDANCE:

Arrive in class prepared to learn and to participate. Keep all music in your black binder. Be responsible. If you take the music home, be sure to bring it back. You must also have a pencil, which is permanently kept in your binder. **You will lose points if you do not have your music with you.**

Be in class...on time. Your presence is what makes the choir work – without you, an important part is missing. If the choir could afford to miss you, you would not have been chosen to begin with. If you come in late, be sure that **you write your name on my calendar with the time you arrived, so that I can update my attendance. You will lose 2 points a day for participation for every tardy.** It is your responsibility to check and correct any absences with the Attendance Office. You will be expected to actively participate. You must be in your seat by the beginning of class, to be counted as present. A student will be considered truant after 30 minutes. It is not acceptable to drop your things off in the room and then leave to go to the restroom. Because of an ongoing mouse problem, food is not allowed in the classroom. Water bottles are acceptable, but students are required to clean up after themselves. Absences and tardies will be calculated into grades. Most students who don't get the expected A will find that this simple fact is what made the difference. **Every student gets a one period "buy" per quarter if they are present but too ill to sing. After the one "buy," non-singers will sit in the front of the room with the scribe book and log everything we do during the period. More instructions will be forthcoming on what I expect to see.** If you have an excused absence, you can make up missing points during

study session. You cannot make up points lost for tardies or truant absences. Again, these points cannot be made up.

Absences. When you are absent, you are not here to participate. Again, absences are calculated into your grade. 80% of points missed due to an excused absence can be made up during study session for that quarter, as long as you sign in and diligently work. You will not be docked points if you are going on an approved field trip **but I must be notified at least a week in advance.** Be responsible. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check the scribe book for details on what was covered the day of the absence. I will hold you responsible for any music, information, notes or handouts in the book.

Concerts/Performances: Concerts and other performances are not extra-curricular: they are co-curricular and therefore are not on the level as sports. All concerts and performances are mandatory. **If a dress rehearsal is missed, the student may not be allowed to participate in the performance.** If a performance is missed during a quarter, your grade goes down by a minimum of two letter grades if I am notified in advance; three letter grades if I am not. If more than one performance is missed during a quarter, the grade is an F. There is an assignment for a missed performance, but nothing can replace your importance to the ensemble. A parental phone call is required before the performance in cases of illness **for all students.** Do not simply have another student tell me.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

For the time you are in this class, you contribute or take away from the community of students we are forming. Expectations are simple: your actions and speech will be appropriate, courteous, kind and supportive to others. Good humor is desired; sarcasm and put-downs have no place in this class. As a matter of respect, hats are to be removed before entering the classroom. One warning will be given, after which the hat will be confiscated and returned the last day of school. Students will be respectful to each other, the teacher and themselves. This includes, but is not limited to, no talking when another section is working, taking turns talking when appropriate, exhibiting integrity at all times and being cooperative.

COMMUNITY BEHAVIOR

All students must realize that eyes are on them, both on school grounds and in the outside community. Choir members will always behave in an appropriate fashion, keep up on their schoolwork, and be responsible. Your poor behavior reflects on this choir, the music program, the school, and me. When we participate in concerts, tour or festivals, my expectations of your behavior will rise. Students who break school rules, especially in these situations, will be either removed from choir immediately or will not be invited back for the following year.

OFFICER/COMMITTEE HEADS

Every choir member will have **assignments for concerts, both before and after.** Seniors will be assigned as crew heads. **Expectations for crew work will be posted in advance. No one leaves the theatre until after all jobs are completed and you have checked out with your crew head.** I will be overseeing all assignments and your effectiveness is factored into your grade. How responsible you are with your assignment directly effects how well the choir performances go.

V. GRADING GUIDELINES

- A. How well do you know the music?
- B. How seriously did you complete the assignments such as memorization?
- C. Do you have any missing tests; either memorization or theory?
- D. How diligently have you worked on the sight singing assignments?
- E. Did you meet deadlines and complete your assignments in the timeframe in which they were due?
Late work is not accepted.
- F. Since you receive the majority of dates at the beginning of the school year, it will be expected that you will attend. If there is a conflict, you will notify me **by the end of the second week of school.**
- G. You are graded on your skills, improvement, participation, cooperation, attitude and attendance.
- H. Once Study Sessions have started, you may make up excused absences by coming to the choir room during that Study Session. It is your responsibility to sign in and to keep busy in reviewing or learning your choir music. Students who are repeatedly reprimanded about not being on task will not be able to get a study session pass from me.

- I. It is expected that all choir members will do extra work, as needed, for such things as publicity, decorations, programs, car washes, fund-raisers, refreshments and stage crew. Please do your share.
- J. Every semester, choir members will be required, on their own time, to attend an outside performance. This could be a concert or a musical. Whenever you are aware of performances in the community, (it is not necessary that there be a charge for these performances), please bring in flyers to share with the class. A turned in synopsis and program are required before the last day of each quarter. The details for this report are on a separate page

VI. STUDENT BEHAVIORS WHICH AFFECT EARNED GRADE

- A. Concert Attendance – Any exception MUST be worked out, in writing, with the director several weeks prior to the event. If a student fails to attend a scheduled performance, the earned grade will drop a whole letter grade. Only severe illness and school or religious conflicts will be considered for absence from a required or scheduled event. Concerts include major performances, festivals, competitions and tours. If a student misses a dress rehearsal, they may not participate in the performance, but will be required to be in attendance and help out back stage or in the house.
- B. Discipline Plan for Unacceptable Behavior – Includes gum chewing, eating or drinking during class, tardiness, talking, rudeness, inattentiveness, etc.
 - 1st offence – warning, loss of points
 - 2nd through 5th offence – work detail, loss of points, contact parents
 - 6th offence – Director initiated detention, work detail, loss of points, letter home to parents
 - 9th offence – Referral written to VP, work detail, loss of points, letter home to parents
- C. Excessive Absences or Tardies – **Whether Madrigals, Bella Voce, Men’s Ensemble or Concert Choir, class always starts on time. Madrigals who walk in after 7 a.m. are tardy.** A student’s participation grade is based on his/her presence in class. If a student is not present, he/she does not earn participation points. Truancies and tardies will be handled through the guidelines set down in the handbook.
- D. Uniforms/Grooming – A dress for Bella Voce or Concert Choir will be lent to the appropriate students. Girls are asked to purchase black, closed toe, character shoes with no higher than 2-inch heels. Concert men and Men’s Ensemble are asked to purchase a simple black bow tie, a white tux shirt and black dress shoes. The Concert Choir men and Men’s Ensemble will be renting a tux, which will be coordinated by a parent from the choir. Each year, the choirs like to design a sweatshirt for their particular group. Donations for the sweatshirt were collected during Walk Through Registration and, although suggested, the sweatshirt is not require.

Madrigals will be purchasing their outfits, due to the heavy use they receive. Dresses and tuxes will be ordered within the first two weeks. Boys are asked to purchase their own tux shirt (unless it is included in the package) and black dress shoes. Girls are asked to purchase black, closed toe, character shoes with no higher than 2-inch heels. During tour, Madrigals, Men’s Ensemble and Bella Voce will wear designed polo shirts (\$13 last year, but the price will be determined when we order), Docker-style khaki cotton long pants and simple white tennis shoes.

Students are expected to be neatly groomed at all performances with uniforms neatly pressed. Girls’ long hair must be pulled back or pinned up with fly-away ends sprayed or pinned down. Make-up should be used tastefully. Necklaces, bracelets, thumb rings, facial jewelry and tongue studs (girls and boys) should not be worn. Small, post-style earrings are acceptable: Chandelier earrings are not. Boys should be clean-shaven with hair combed and not in their eyes. Students will receive assigned points for their uniform and grooming at all concerts and may not be allowed to perform if they do not meet the stated standards.

VII. REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES & PROCEDURES

- A. An effective rehearsal requires total involvement – mentally and physically. As a member of Northgate Choirs, the student must accept any challenge set before them and give 100% for the group every day. Participation in rehearsal and performances is expected to be:
 - 1) positive 4) willing to please 7) attentive
 - 2) enthusiastic 5) polite 8) supportive
 - 3) cheerful 6) accepting of new ideas 9) hard-working
- B. Students are expected to use good singing posture at all times during rehearsal.
- C. Absolutely **NO** gum, food, or sodas are allowed in class. Bottled water is permitted.

- D. Warm-up time must not be taken lightly. This time is extremely important in developing pitch awareness, blend, range, vowel formation, and especially in focusing the rehearsal.
- E. Students must sit in their assigned seats and sing their assigned parts unless the director grants permission otherwise.
- F. Students are urged to ask any questions of a personal nature before or after rehearsal, **NOT** during announcements, discussion, or rehearsal time.
- G. If, for any reason, a student cannot sing on a given day, he/she must let the director know **BEFORE** class.
- H. All grooming (i.e. make-up, hairspray, lotion, etc.) should take place at home or in the restroom and **NOT** in class.
- I. Treat **EVERYONE** in the classroom (i.e. students, teacher, accompanist, choreographer, and substitutes) with courtesy and respect. Likewise, treat our room, furnishings, and equipment with respect.
- J. Students will get their binders from their cubbies before they sit down in the morning.

GRADES

I will be posting grades periodically. Grades can be viewed from the school gradebook program. More information will be coming regarding this, as information becomes available. Please e-mail me today with your home e-mail address so that I can keep in touch with you.

GRADES

Performances	100/50 points
Dress Rehearsal	50 points
Evening/After School Rehearsals	25 points
Participation	5 points per day, maximum
Concert Report	40 points
Tests	15/25 points
Participation during class/on time	5 points/per day
Participation during class/late	3 points/per day
Participation during class/no music	3 points/per day

Participation is a major part of your grade. Participation is your attitude, cooperation, helpfulness, behavior, self-discipline and leadership. If you aren't here, you cannot receive those points.