

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING GUIDELINES

2015.2016

MRS. MADDERN

## MADRIGALS, BELLA VOCE, II CORO, CANTIAMO 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 is 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 and Bella Voce are advanced, audition-only groups. Il Coro and Cantiamo are intermediate, audition-only groups. Concert Choir is an entry level, non-audition group. 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 in the first two weeks of school.** The director will supply students with a comprehensive performance calendar the first day 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. In addition to the handout received during the first week of class, the calendar and syllabus will be posted on the Northgate Choral Music Boosters website <http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com/ncmb.html>

### 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. Please contact the president, Erin McGregor at [Erin@EmmasFoundation.org](mailto:Erin@EmmasFoundation.org) if there are questions. Parents, please make sure that the Boosters have a correct email address for contact. The teacher will be sending a mass email during the first week of school and, on occasion, the email address in the school program is wrong.

#### ATTENDANCE:

**Arrive in class prepared to learn and to participate.** Immediately upon arrival, all students will get their binder and music out of their assigned cubbie or backpack. Students will keep all music in their black binder. Be responsible. If a student takes the music home, be sure to bring it back. Students must also have a pencil, which is permanently kept in their binder. **Students will lose points if they do not have their music with them.**

**Be in class...on time.** Every student's presence is what makes the choir work – without everyone, an important part is missing. If the choir could afford to miss a specific student, they would not have been chosen to begin with. Students who arrive late will **sign in with the TA or the class secretary. It is a student's responsibility to make sure the tardy is documented. Do not assume the teacher caught the late entrance. Students will lose two points a day for participation for every tardy.** It is a student's responsibility to check and correct any absences with the Attendance Office. Students will be expected to actively participate. Students must be in their 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. **Gum is absolutely not allowed in class at any time!** 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. **Students who are unable to sing, due to illness, must make sure that the teacher is aware of this before class starts. If you are unable to sing, you must still actively participate by following in the music and giving feedback. This is not a time to do homework.**

**Absences.** When a student is absent, they are not here to participate, which impacts the choir and the individual. Again, absences are calculated into a student's grade. Students will not be docked points if they are going on an approved field trip or religious observance **but the teacher must be notified at least a week in advance.** Students will be responsible. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to check with the class secretary for details on what was covered the day of the absence. The teacher will hold students responsible for any music, information, notes or handouts.

**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 there is a conflict with a sport event, it is imperative that the student be in at the choral event. Any conflicts between another class and a rehearsal or performance must be worked out with both teachers as soon as the conflict is announced in the other class. **All students will share their calendar with their work or coaches when they try out for the team. If a dress rehearsal is missed, the student will not be allowed to participate in the performance.** If a performance is missed during a quarter, the student's grade goes down by a minimum of two letter grades if the teacher is notified in advance; three letter grades if the teacher is 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 the student's importance to the ensemble. A parental phone call is required before the performance in cases of illness **for all students.** It is not acceptable to have another student tell the teacher, nor will it count as an excuse to miss the concert.

#### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**

For the time the student is in this class, they contribute or take away from the community of students the choir is forming. Expectations are simple: a student's 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. **GUM IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM.** Anyone who breaks this rule will not be given a warning: they will simply be issued a detention to be served in the class, scraping gum from desks. Cell phones are not to be used in class, unless directed otherwise by the teacher.

#### **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. A student's poor behavior reflects on this choir, the music program, the school, and the teacher. When the choir participates in concerts, tour or festivals, the teacher's expectations of the student's 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 the student has checked out with their crew head.** The teacher will be overseeing all assignments and the student's effectiveness is factored into their grade. How responsible students are with their 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, eating or drinking during class, tardiness, talking, rudeness, inattentiveness, etc.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offence – warning, loss of points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> offence – work detail, loss of points, contact parents
  - 6<sup>th</sup> offence – Director initiated detention, work detail, loss of points, letter home to parents
  - 9<sup>th</sup> offence – Referral written to VP, work detail, loss of points, letter home to parents
 Gum in class: Every offence (no warning) detention to be served in class scraping gum from desks.
- C. Excessive Absences or Tardies – **Whether Madrigals, Bella Voce, Il Coro, Cantiamo or Concert Choir, class always starts on time. Madrigals not in their seat, with music ready at 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, Cantiamo or Concert Choir will be lent to the appropriate students. Madrigal women will purchase their dress, due the heavy use they receive. We will be ordering any needed dresses during the first week of school. Girls are asked to purchase black, closed toe, character shoes with no higher than 2-inch heels. Madrigal or Concert Choir men and Il Coro need a tuxedo, white tux shirt, black dress shoes, choir specific cummerbund and bow tie that, if they do not currently have one, should be purchased or rented at a local tuxedo place. Our former location went out of business. We are in the process of choosing a new location and will advise you as soon as one is found. Due dates for costume check will be announced in plenty of time before a concert. 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 required. It is highly recommended that parents pay the donation which covers the sweatshirt, the Musical America T-shirt and a donation toward the cost of music. Sweatshirts will not be ordered for students who have not paid for it by the due date.

During tour, Madrigals, Bella Voce, Il Coro and Cantiamo will wear designed polo shirts (\$20 last year, but the price will be determined when we order), designated tour khaki pant and simple white tennis shoes. The pants and shoes must match, as required by Disneyland. As a result, you will need to order the pants and shoes the approved company. Information on ordering the pants will be on the Northgate Choral Music Boosters website. We will be collecting all costumes for tour about a month before tour.

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) will 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 will not be allowed to perform if they do not meet the stated standards. Costumes for Musical America, once approved, must be worn at every performance without any changes or they will not be allowed to go onstage.

**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. Students who have to be reminded will lose a point for that day.
- 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. Students who neglect to bring their music will lose points for the day.**

**GRADES**

**The teacher will be posting grades periodically. Grades can be viewed from Homelink. More information will be coming regarding this, as information becomes available. Students will please e-mail the teacher today with their home e-mail address so that the teacher can keep in touch with them. Each choir has a Facebook page. More information will be given as needed.**

**GRADES**

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

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.