STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview
Sixth Grade Chorus

Course Description:
This course introduces students to the study of vocal technique, vocal pedagogy, proper vocal production, correct abdominal breathing, intonation, posture and conducting patterns. Music theory, ear training, sight-singing, music repertoire development; music history, analysis, and technology are also components of this course. Students will also develop their abilities to perform as an ensemble. Additional goals for the course focus on assisting students in understanding the role of music in our society, appreciating different cultures and customs, acquiring stage presence and decorum, and fostering positive attitudes for further choral study.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will—

Vocal Techniques
- Sing with proper posture
- Learn to breathe diaphragmatically
- Tone quality
- Proper diction – beginning and ending sounds
- Discover personal vocal range
- Incorporate elements of articulation and style
- Listen, perform, and contrast various cultures, musical periods, and musical styles.

Music Theory (Pitch and Rhythm)
- Basic rhythmic notation to include: \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\), \(\)
- Basic pitch notation – treble clef
- Sight-singing
- Basic melodic dictation
- Meter signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

Expression and Structure
- Respond to and learn conducting patterns: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
- Dynamics
- Tempo
- Phrasing
- Recognize Musical form
- Musical terms and symbols

Choral Skills and Literature
- Cooperative learning and behavior
- Rehearsal technique and etiquette
- Public performance
- Concert etiquette
- Sing 2 and 3 part songs
- Explore available music technology
- Positive critique of performances

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Vocabulary

- Glossary of musical terms and symbols listed in the Music School Curriculum.

Enrichment Activities:
The following activities are designed to reinforce basic skills and to expand students’ interest and abilities.

- All County Chorus
- Community Theatre Camps
- Summer Music Camps
- Musicals
- Theatre IV
- Choral Festivals
- Guest Artists
- Private Lessons
- Virginia Opera

Essential Knowledge:
The goals of the course are to educate the student using the Choral Curriculum checklist, to increase an understanding of the role of music in our society; to appreciate different cultures and customs; acquire stage presence and decorum, and foster positive attitudes for further choral study.

Resources:

Curriculum Connections:

- Language Arts: musical terms
- Foreign Language: musical terms in various languages
- Health and Physical Education: aerobic activity is required for performance of an instrument.
- Mathematics: rhythmic counting and various meters (fractions)
- Science: acoustics and physical properties of sound.
- Social Studies: music history in relationship to general historical events.

Stafford County Public Schools:
https://www.staffordschools.net/

VA Standards of Learning:
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml

School Report Card (VA Department of Education):
http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/