



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Seventh Grade Chorus

Course Description:


Seventh grade chorus extends students' skills and understanding of musical compositions, basic theory structure, music history, vocal pedagogy, proper vocal production and technique. The goals of the course are based on the Virginia Standards of Learning and set higher expectations of a student's knowledge and understanding of vocal technique, music theory, ear training, sight-singing, music history, and analysis. Development of the student's ability to perform as an ensemble is a strong focus for the course. Students study the role of music in our society, different cultures and customs, stage presence, and decorum. Since performances are a natural and vital extension of this course, participation is strongly recommended.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will—

Vocal Techniques

- Sing with proper posture
- Learn to breathe diaphragmatically
- Free and open tone quality
- Proper diction – vowel sounds beginning and ending
- Discover and extend vocal range
- Incorporate elements of articulation and style
- Listen, perform, and contrast music representing various cultures, musical periods, and musical styles
- Blend and balance

Music Theory (Pitch and Rhythm)

- Rhythmic notation to include: 
- Pitch notation – treble clef and bass clef
- Sights-singing
- Basic melodic dictation
- Basic rhythmic dictation
- Meter signatures: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, cut time

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
- Classroom participation
- Public performance
- Concert etiquette
- Sing 2 and 3 part songs
- Explore available music technology
- Positive critique of performances

Vocabulary

- Glossary of musical terms and symbols listed in the Middle 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 Groups
- Summer Music Camps
- Musicals & Field Trips
- Choral Assessment
- Guest Artists
- Private Lessons
- Concerts

Essential Knowledge:

The goals of the course are to educate the student using the Choral Curriculum checklist, to expand the 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/>

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