



# STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Curriculum Overview Eighth Grade Chorus

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### **Course Description:**

This course establishes a high expectation level for a student's development and refinement of skills and understanding of musical compositions, basic theory structure, music history, vocal pedagogy, proper vocal production, and technique. These goals target increasing and deepening a student's knowledge and understanding of vocal technique, music theory, ear training, sight-singing, music history, analysis, and technology. The development of ensemble performance skills is a strong focus for the course. Students extend their understanding of music through interdisciplinary activities and exploration of career opportunities in the field of music. Students increase their understanding of 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.

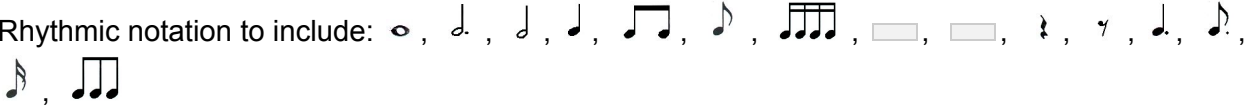
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**Essential Skills/Processes:** Students will—

### **Vocal Techniques**

- Sing with proper posture
- Breathe diaphragmatically
- Open, free rounded tone
- Accurate intonation
- Proper diction – vowel sounds, beginning and ending consonants
- Proper posture
- Blend and balance

### **Music Theory (Pitch and Rhythm)**

- Pitch notation – treble and bass clefs; ledger lines
- Rhythmic notation to include: 
- Sight-singing
- Major, minor, and perfect intervals
- Simple melodic dictation
- Simple rhythmic dictation
- Meter signatures – 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8

### **Expression and Structure**

- Respond to and learn conducting patterns including meter changes
- Dynamics
- Tempo
- Style – identifying, homophonic, monophonic, polyphonic
- Phrasing
- Identify structural form
- Musical terms and symbols

## **Choral Skills and Literature**

- Cooperation learning and behavior
- Classroom participation
- Public performance
- Rehearsal and etiquette technique
- Sing songs containing 3 or more parts
- Improvisational skills introduced
- Positive critique of performances
- Expand career opportunities

## **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
- Choral Festivals
- 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 in high school.

## **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](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml)

School Report Card (VA Department of Education):

<http://schoolquality.virginia.gov/>

*Stafford County Public Schools 2018*