



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview High School Chorus – Level II

Course Description:

High School Chorus connects the study of music composition, vocal technique, rehearsal processes, and music history. The course is divided into 3 levels. The courses examine vocal techniques, music theory, ear training and sight-singing, ensemble skills and performance, music literature, musical analysis, interdisciplinary activity, technology, and music careers and applications. Performance and evaluation are an integral part of the course especially as they relate to the Standards of Learning. Since performances are a natural and vital extension of this course, participation is *strongly* recommended.

Essential Skills/Processes: Students will—

Vocal Technique:

- Expanded command of vocal production
- Expanded study of vowels and consonants
- Advanced breathing techniques
- Expanded vocal range and control
- Tonal attack
- Equalization of vowel sounds
- Extending vocal ranges (high and low)
- Extreme tempo changes

Music Theory/Pitch/Rhythm:

- Further emphasis on intonation
- Develop accurate intonation
- Major, minor, and perfect intervals
- Sight-singing in 2, 3, and 4 parts
- Acappella singing
- Advanced conducting patterns
- Sight-singing: simple patterns
- Variety of meters
- Regular and syncopated rhythm
- Complex rhythmic patterns
- Monophonic, homophonic, and polyphonic textures
- Musical forms – ABA, AB, signs, symbols, and terms
- Contrasting periods and styles
- Expanded study of styles and literature
- Critique musical events, recordings, and recitals of varied cultural origins

Ear Training and Sight-Singing:

- Wider intervals such as 6th's, 7th's
- Use bass clef

- 8th and 16th note combinations, use of dot, 6/8 time
- Add chromatic alternations
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Ensemble Skills/Performance:

- Sing simple harmonic and polyphonic choral music with expression and technical accuracy
- Respond to changing meters and expressive signals

Music Literature:

- Sing and perform examples from at least 3 historical periods
- Sing selected choral works in foreign texts

Musical Analysis:

- Identify simple structural forms with emphasis on phrases, sections, and 2 and 3-part forms
- Critique-teacher approved musical performance focusing on tone, blend, balance of parts, intonation, etc.

Interdisciplinary Activity:

- Use of media center, technology, and the internet to seek information from various cultures
- Emphasis foreign texts

Technology:

- Use of multi-media equipment for exploratory purposes and creativity
- Provide basic training on the use of MIDI instruments as learning tools to increase musical knowledge

Essential Knowledge:

The goals are to provide a more advanced understanding of music in our society; to appreciate different cultures and customs; acquire stage presence and decorum; experience enrichment through participation; encourage creative experimentation; share the talents of others; foster a spirit of cooperation, and expand career awareness.

Resources:

Curriculum Connections:

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/>