



MEAD
High School

302 West Hastings Rd
Spokane, WA 99218
MeadHS.Mead354.org
@MeadHighSchool
Facebook.com/MeadHS
509.465.7000

Concert Choir

Period 1, Fall Semester 2018-2019

Michael Saccomanno
Director of Choral Activities
Mike.Sacomanno@Mead354.org
509.465.7046
www.TheChoirRoom.org

Welcome to Concert Choir! This class will focus on building healthy singing habits, individual appreciation for choral ensemble membership and technique, and service-minded performances.

We will have the following landmarks this semester:

- Fall Retreat
- Christmas Festival

Communication

Concert Choir students will be expected to communicate with Mr. Saccomanno through appropriate channels [in person, email (address listed above), telephone (number listed above), or REMIND] about course related questions, concerns, and comments. All students and parents should be in our REMIND class for infrequent, but important, announcements, reminders, and updates. To join the REMIND class, simply navigate to **<https://www.remind.com/join/7hd676>**

Grading Policy

It is my belief that although we learn and perform as an ensemble, students must be evaluated individually in order for grading to be authentic and meaningful for each member of the department. Student learning will be assessed using a variety of methods including (1) student self-evaluation; (2) individual recording; (3) teacher observation; and (4) student work.

Grades are not given; they are earned based on a specific set of criteria. It is imperative that students be involved throughout the grading period in providing honest and accurate feedback about their individual learning in class.

Assessment Methods

1. Individual Recording – This is the primary means for assessing individual student achievement in choir. Once the ensemble has learned a song selection, the whole group will sing the music while students individually record their singing for a specified section of the song. Students will use their own or a borrowed device (phone, iPad, etc) to record, which does not amplify the sound. Recordings may be submitted through e-mail, text, or Dropbox. Recordings may be redone at any time during the semester for full credit.
2. Student Self-Evaluation – Throughout the rehearsal process students may complete one of several forms providing feedback on their individual learning and giving the opportunity for comments about the ensemble’s progress on the music. Each form is short, usually taking less than two minutes to complete. However, students should be specific about their learning and areas in which they need additional assistance. This feedback not only allows for the student to reflect on their progress but will also provide the instructor the opportunity to make the learning process as efficient as possible.
3. Observation - Every day, Mr. Saccomanno expects each member of the ensemble to be contributing to improving the group. Students who remain on task throughout the rehearsal will earn maximum points each day. Furthermore, students will be required to branch out their listening and observation skills by **attending at least one (1) high school choral performances before January 25, 2019**. Students will turn in a copy of the performance program and complete a brief reflection worksheet to earn full credit.
4. Student Work – Although there are very few assignments given, students are expected to keep pace with the learning and memorization of notes, rhythms, and lyrics for every song the ensemble undertakes. Student work also includes being fully prepared for each class with assigned music and a pencil; participation and maintaining a positive attitude at rehearsals, workshops, retreats, and performances; arriving on time for all scheduled events (class, bus departure, concerts, performances etc); having a complete uniform for all performances; and adhering to all district, school, and classroom rules, regulations, and expectations at all times.

Statement on Achievement

Teamwork and healthy communication are essential to the success of our class. Every person has something valuable to contribute to this ensemble, and each member is expected to offer his/her best on a daily basis. Your grade this semester will be based on your individual growth over the course of the grading period.

Requirements

- Audition and instructor approval.
- Current membership in ASB (note: the ASB fee is NOT reflected in your choir fees).
- Yearlong ensemble commitment.
- All course fees paid according to payment schedule. Please contact the Performing Arts Administrative Assistant or the Business Office with questions or to make payments.

Attendance Policy (from Student Handbook)

A well-planned class provides a learning opportunity for students every day. If a student is absent, he/she is losing educational benefits. Many times it is impossible to make up the "missed" experience - at least in its entirety - and to gain from this learning experience to the same degree that the student would through the group involvement in the regular class.

All absences in accordance with District Policy 3122 require a written excuse from a parent or guardian or other documentation that verifies the reason for the absence. Absences will be classified excused or unexcused.

The decision as to what is required for make-up and the time and place of make-up will be the responsibility of the teacher working in conjunction with the student.

It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher and to complete the required make-up within the allowable make-up period following the student's return to school: (1 day absence = 1 day make-up period, 2 day absence = 2 day make-up period, etc.). Major projects and major exams [sic: concerts, travel performances, etc] with due dates known well in advance are exempt from this make-up time allowance.

Notice on Attendance

Students will receive a schedule of choral events at the beginning of each semester, and are expected to make every possible effort to be in attendance at every event. I understand, however, that students are very busy with other school-related activities, work, and family life. While sporting events are an important social opportunity for students, sports are extra-curricular activities and performance arts are part of the graded curriculum.

I do not believe in docking student grades for schedule conflicts, assuming that students have actively worked to avoid the conflict and been timely in their communication. Students must be proactive in both avoiding conflicts and alerting Mr. Saccomanno to any unavoidable conflicts that arise during the semester. It is a learning standard in this class for students to be responsible for their schedule, and missing any scheduled choral event will result in a loss of points. Points may be made up by completing an alternate assignment, at Mr. Saccomanno's discretion and direction.

*** I strongly encourage all students trying out for sports teams, theatre productions, other choral ensembles, etc. to speak with me BEFORE committing to ensure both they and I are aware of the potential conflicts.*

Tardy Policy [from Student Handbook]

It is expected that students will be to class on time. Habitual tardiness creates a disruption to the educational process in the classroom. Notes from home do not excuse tardies. Tardiness to class of more than ten minutes is treated as an absence as students miss essential instruction and objectives. Teachers will record tardies. Tardiness will be dealt with by teachers according to the following procedure:

Step One: Tardies 1 through 5 per semester. Teacher will handle the situation individually with the student. Teacher will initiate, no later than the third tardy, some disciplinary action, including scheduling a 15-minute time outside of class to serve the choral program in some way (cleaning, filing music, etc).

Step Two - 6th and following tardies each semester. Teacher will refer to the administration to follow the same procedures as truancies.

Classroom Expectations

1. Always do your best. Your personal best will change from moment to moment, but under any circumstance do your best and find a way to add to the ensemble in some way.
2. Respect your peers. Teamwork is essential to the success of our class, and we all must take on the responsibility of creating and maintaining a healthy, safe environment for each person in our community. Remember, we are all doing our best!
3. Take pride in your efforts. Be aware of the entire process, and remember that every day is an opportunity to improve. Quality performances are the result of quality rehearsals.
4. Set personal goals for improvement. Work to develop your individual musical skills to the best of your ability, and to share your talents in a collective process.

Rules and Routines

1. Please have your music and a pencil at each rehearsal.
2. Be set up in your assigned position when the tardy bell rings.
3. There will be no eating during rehearsal.
4. So that we can utilize our time well, please refrain from side conversations or any talking during rehearsal when someone else has the floor.
5. Do your part to make each rehearsal musically satisfying for every member of our ensemble. Be engaged and positive. Give effort-filled attempts each time we sing a selection or passage.

Technology [from Student Handbook]

Using the technology (i.e. laptops, cameras, network tools, myMead, and other items) is a privilege and a fundamental part of this course. You may also be asked to access myMead throughout the course. Failure to comply with the technology agreement from the school will result in the removal of this privilege. Your grade will be affected by the choices you make.

Travel Policy

Throughout the year, Concert Choir will have the opportunity to travel away from school for festivals, competitions, performance tours, workshops, or recruiting trips. All students enrolled in Concert Choir are expected to participate in these opportunities, as they are a part of the learning experience. Students will adhere to all district, school, and classroom rules, regulations, and expectations at all times.

In order to travel with the ensemble, students must have a current ASB card; be in good standing with the business office (all fees to date paid in full); have all course documents signed and turned in, and have a signed travel contract on file in the music office. In addition, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average (GPA) and not be earning a failing grade (69% or below) in any class.

Travel opportunities are an invaluable resource for student learning, they promote ensemble growth and camaraderie, and widen the scope of Mead High School's role in the community. Students are to be aware and respectful of their responsibility as representatives of Mead High School at all times. Mr. Saccomanno reserves the right to not allow any student to travel with the program if he feels s/he would not meet this expectation.

eDevice Policy [from Student Handbook]

Think of class as a boardroom for our classroom business. We are in the business of learning. If your productivity goes down, you may get "fired." Electronic devices will be used occasionally to HELP us learn. Anything deemed "distracting your productivity" (Mr. Saccomanno's call) will result in the following:

#1: Get it back after 6th period [even if you have early release]

#2-thereafter: Mr. Saccomanno's discretion. Usually given to administrator AND referral if disruption to learning occurs

Academic Integrity Policy [from Student Handbook]

Academic Integrity - Plagiarism is the use of another person's work (this could be his or her words, products or ideas) for personal advantage, without proper acknowledgement of the original work. Most often the phrase is used to denote deliberate intent of passing it off as one's own work. Subject to Progressive Discipline.

NOTE: Copying / cheating of any sort will result in a zero ("0") for that assignment / project and a referral.

Signature Page

Please review, sign, and return the Signature Page no later than **Friday, September 21, 2018**.

A copy of this document is available at www.TheChoirRoom.org for your review.

Intentionally left blank.

Signature Page

Please sign and return this page to Mr. Saccomanno before Friday, September 21, 2018.

Acknowledgement and Agreement of the Course Syllabus

I agree to follow classroom and school policies, including putting forth the effort necessary to be successful in this class.

Student Name (print) _____ Date _____

Student signature _____

Parent Name (print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature* _____

Department Handbook

I have read and agree to the policies and procedures outlined in the Department Handbook (found online at www.TheChoirRoom.org), including the expectations for attendance at all scheduled events, the payment schedule for course fees, and the eligibility requirements to travel with the department.

Student Name (print) _____ Date _____

Student signature _____

Parent Name (print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature* _____

*If you are living on your own, please explain below or on the back of this sheet.

Schedule of Choral Events

I have reviewed the Schedule of Choral Events for first semester, and will be present for all scheduled rehearsals, workshops, retreats, and performances.

Student Name (print) _____ Date _____

Student signature _____

Parent Name (print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature* _____