

2023-24

Freshman Choir

Mrs. Katie (Meo) Cudworth, Director

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www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/music/kmeo

Office: Music Office (in the Music Hallway, two doors down from the Band Room)

WELCOME TO FRESHMAN CHOIR AND YOUR VERY FIRST HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE!!

Vocal Technique

While learning to make gorgeous music, you will learn *how to use your instrument* (your voice) correctly. Singing is a learned activity! You may have some knowledge about choral/vocal technique, but we will start with the basics and gradually develop an understanding of how you can use your instrument to the fullest.

Important Dates

Mon., 9/18, 6:30pm ~ New Student Welcome in Cafe B (for all **new** Department members) ⇐ our FIRST PERFORMANCE! (graded performance)

Thurs., 12/7, 7:00pm (call time will be earlier) ~ Winter Concert I (graded performance)

Thurs., 12/21, during school ~ Winter Concert Assembly (graded performance)

Wed., 3/20, 7-9:45pm ~ Prism Dress Rehearsal (graded)

Thurs., 3/21, 8:00pm (call time 7:30) ~ 20th annual Prism Concert (graded performance)

Thurs., 5/16, 7:00pm (call time earlier) ~ Spring Concert II (graded performance)

SPECIAL NOTE: You are expected to check your email **DAILY** for updates, changes, information, requests from the Directors, etc. A lot of things happen throughout the school year in this Department, and you are now a member! That is exciting, but it can also be overwhelming *if you choose to become unorganized*. Do not allow yourself to fall behind. And if you do, catch up quickly! Checking email often is the first step.

Choral Music Repertoire

Your knowledge of choral music repertoire and composers will be expanded in this class. We will learn the origins, history, and random facts about the pieces of music and composers with which we experiment. In order to fully express the mood of a piece, it helps to understand where the author was coming from when they wrote it.

Elements of Music

In order to most effectively and efficiently learn your pieces, you must read and understand the notes, rhythms, and musical symbols on every page. You will learn all these things as we go. You will not simply listen to the music and copy it with your own voices; you will learn to *read* it and produce it yourselves. You will be music 'literate', and you will be vocal musicians, not *just* singers.

Sight Reading

This skill is necessary for the most efficient and effective learning of choral music. We accomplish so much when everyone commits to developing a basic understanding of it. It is the best way to be musically independent in the classroom!

Vocal Health

If you have laryngitis, or cannot sing for any reason, please continue to perform all the duties you normally would, but take the vocalising element out of them. You should still be stretching, marking your music, and even mouthing vowel sounds in order to keep your mind and your muscle memory engaged, while not doing any actual phonation (vocal noise-making). Over the course of the year, we will go over the things each singer needs to do in order to stay in excellent vocal health.

Performances

We will participate in one evening Winter Concert (December), one daytime Winter Concert Assembly, and one evening Spring Concert (May), as well as the Department-wide annual Prism Concert in the spring. We may be called on to sing in other concerts or at other events over the course of the year, but those are currently TBA. A large part of your grade is participation in concerts and any other performances in which the ensemble sings (all performances are graded, unless stated otherwise). See the Music Department Grading Policy for details.

Concert Attire

Students will purchase or rent concert attire through the school, so as to display a uniform aesthetic during performances. Detailed instructions will become available shortly!

Please provide your own outfit for the New Student Welcome performance, as per this dress code:

-Top must have **sleeves** and reveal only an **appropriate amount of skin**. Top must be **white**.

-Bottoms may be long pants or a long skirt. The **hemline must at least reach the shin**, and **may** go all the way to the floor. Bottoms must be **black**.

-If any part of the outfit is see-through, please wear another layer underneath (in addition to undergarments).

-**Shoes** may be any color and do not have to be a solid color. Flats are best, or you may have a small heel (that you can balance in). Please take care to **wear shoes in which you are physically comfortable while standing.**

All parts of the outfit must be **formal.**

Absences/Promptness

If you are absent, email me or see me the next day to check on what you missed, and check the Freshman Choir Google Classroom. There may have been notes or handouts that you will need for success. You are expected to be in the room by the time the bell rings. If you are not, Class Participation points will be deducted from your grade. Promptness breeds quality musicianship and team building!

Music/Folders

You will be given a folder to bring to class every day. This will carry your sheet music and any other pertinent materials. Please keep a close eye on your music; if you misplace it, you will pay the price with your grade, and possibly owe money for it. Sheet music can be expensive, so it is extremely important to know where your music is at all times. I will often ask you to write in your music. A rule for every musician: **NEVER write on music in anything but PENCIL!**

Being Prepared

As a Freshman Choir member, you are expected to be prepared with your folder, sheet music, scrap paper, a pencil, and the proper attitude for the tasks at hand. Please bring your respect, positivity, enthusiasm, and hard work ethic with you every day. You may be surprised at the difference an attitude shift can make...

Music making is our mission in Freshman Choir. Please do your eating (except in special cases where you have been given permission), gum chewing, grooming, homework, cell phone/device usage (except during those occasions where I specifically allow it), and everything else on your own time (except drinking water – you may and absolutely should drink water).

welcome and enjoy! =)