



ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Course Title and Number: Chamber Choir
F083

Semester/Year: 2017 - 2018

Block: A7/8

Teacher: Mr. Nicholas Stokes

Classroom: F107

 802-857-7088

Office Hours: FLEX

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 @MrNickStokes

 MrNickStokes

Course websites: www.EssexChoirs.org
www.SightReadingFactory.com, student code: *cncxf4*

Course Description

Chamber Choir is Essex High School's premiere ensemble for students interested in vocal music performance. Through this course, students will study advanced choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods. In addition to developing individual and collaborative vocal techniques, students will develop their sight reading, ear training, and music theory skills. Students enrolled in Chamber Choir are expected to participate in many performances during and outside of the school day.

Course Proficiencies

Chamber Choir is based on the following course proficiencies:

- Students will realize a wide array of rigorous artistic work from various genres, styles and time periods through interpretation and presentation.
- Students will develop advanced techniques for their instrument.
- Students will demonstrate understanding of advanced music notation and terminology.
- Students will develop the ability to perform by themselves and with a collaborative ensemble.
- Students will create, improvise, and refine musical ideas within specific guidelines.
- Students will select various works, and analyze, evaluate and reflect on their characteristics.
- Students will apply practice/rehearsal strategies to address challenges and refine their performance.
- Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts and/or daily life.

Grading, Assessment, and Reporting

For 2017-18, academic grades will be reported separately from learning habits. At Essex High School, we believe:

- Academic grades should reflect achievement of course proficiencies.
- Learning habits are necessary for academic success and should be explicitly reported.

Academic Achievement

Academic grades for all courses will continue to be reported numerically (0-100%) in PowerSchool. In Chamber Choir, your academic achievement will be calculated as follows:

Daily Performance (25%)

In order to be successful in this course, it is essential that students actively work to develop their voice through daily [in-class] vocal performance, including strategies and content provided by the director. Every two weeks, students will evaluate their own Daily Performance, using the rubric below. Mr. Stokes will ultimately assess each students' progress using the same rubric.

Vocal Performance	3	2	1	0
	Student consistently and actively performed with the ensemble, striving to produce sound as instructed.	Student passively performed with the ensemble, striving to produce sound as instructed.	Student sometimes performed with the ensemble, striving to produce sound as instructed.	Student did not perform with the ensemble, and did not strive to produce sound as instructed.
Performance Posture	2	1	0	
	Student consistently worked to achieve the desired posture for quality sound production.	Student sometimes worked to achieve the desired posture for quality sound production.	Student does not worked to achieve the desired posture for quality sound production.	
Ensemble Collaboration	2	1	0	
	Student consistently and actively collaborated with classmates to improve both their performance and the performance of the ensemble.	Student sometimes collaborated with classmates to improve both their performance and the performance of the ensemble.	Student did not collaborate with classmates.	
Annotation	3	2	1	0
	Student consistently and actively annotated music based on self-assessment as well as instructor/peer feedback, in order to refine their performance and the performance of the ensemble.	Student passively annotated music based on instructor/peer feedback, in order to refine their performance and the performance of the ensemble.	Student sometimes annotated music based on instructor/peer feedback in, order to refine their performance and the performance of the ensemble.	Student did not annotate music base on self-assessment or instructor/peer feedback.

Written & Digital Assignments (20%)

Students will complete written and digital (online) assignments that develop their comprehensive understanding of core music concepts and skills.

Concerts (30%)

Students will apply the content and skills developed in our classroom towards the irreplaceable experience of a culminating performance. In our content area, we are fortunate that this also provides students with the opportunity to share their work with friends, family, and the community. Required performance dates and further information are available in the "Student Responsibilities & Learning Expectations" section on Page 4.

Performance Assessments (20%)

Students will be assessed through individual performance, including current course repertoire and sight-reading. This allows each student to demonstrate their progress with current material and allows them to receive individual feedback for future improvement.

Personalized Learning (5%)

As a segment of our curriculum, students will apply and extend course content towards material that is personally meaningful to them. These activities may include, but are not limited to the many possibilities outlined below. Students are also encouraged to propose their own Personalized Learning opportunities. Mr. Stokes will share additional Personalized Learning opportunities with students throughout the year.

Perform:	Create:	Research:	Community Service:
Perform the Star Spangled Banner at school event.	Use music software to compose an original piece.	Research and submit a song suggestion for an EHS ensemble (using the online form on EssexChoirs.org)	Perform for Senior Living Facility / Center.
Perform with an after school ensemble or activity.	Use music software to record and/or create an audio product.	Write an essay about a musician, composer, or song.	Assist in Middle School Ensemble Rehearsal.
Perform with a community or church ensemble.		Observe a live performance and write a critique/review.	Give a younger student (free) private lessons
Perform for Family and Friends.			

Mid-Year / Final Assessments (*20%)

At Essex High School, mid-year and end-of-year/course assessments provide authentic, meaningful experiences designed to measure student learning and achievement. In Chamber Choir, these assessments will include both a written and performance-based assessment.

This year, the All-State audition will serve as our mid-year assessment. This audition will take place on January 14, and will assess vocal performance (with a quartet) and individual sight-reading.

***At the end of each semester, the Mid-Year / Final Assessment will be calculated as 20% of that semester's grade.**

Quarter 1 is calculated as 40% of your Semester 1 grade, Quarter 2 is calculated as 40% of your Semester 1 grade.

**Students who audition for All-State will not be required to complete the Concert Choir mid-year assessment. Instead, their All-State audition will be used as their mid-year assessment grade.

Learning Habits

For 2017-18, the EHS learning habits, *Work Completion* and *Engagement in Learning*, will be scored using the EHS Compliance Rubric and reported separately in PowerSchool. In Chamber Choir, *Engagement* will include participation in class discussions and other collaborative activities [not including daily vocal performance].

Class Resources

Choral Folder & Sheet Music

Students will be provided with a choir folder and sheet music to use throughout this course. It is the student's responsibility to maintain these materials and bring them to class every day. Each student is responsible for the care of their assigned materials, so that they may be used again. If these materials become lost or destroyed due to misuse or negligence, the cost for replacement materials may be charged to the student.

Essex Choirs Website

It is highly recommended that students and parents use our website, www.EssexChoirs.org

This website contains a consistently updated calendar, including all after-school rehearsals, fundraisers, and performances. If a student ever forgets to bring home an important form, the website provides direct access to forms and materials which may be downloaded and printed from home.

Sight Reading Factory

Students will have access to *Sight Reading Factory*, a web-based program that will help develop our sight reading skills. Students may access these *Sight Reading Factory* (and corresponding assignments/assessments) from any computer with internet access and a microphone. If a student does not have access to a microphone, they may check out a microphone from the EHS Library. Any student experiencing technical difficulties should email Mr. Stokes immediately.

REMIND

Throughout the year, Mr. Stokes will use REMIND to text students information related to this course. REMIND is a free, safe text distribution service for schools that protects the identities of both students and teachers. To sign up for REMIND, simply send a text that says “ehchamber” to the number 81010 as shown below. There is also an app (with push notifications) or email option available at rmd.at/ehchamber



Student Responsibilities & Learning Expectations

Scheduled Performances

As a requirement of the Chamber Choir curriculum, students are expected to participate in all scheduled public ensemble performances. Below is a list of our currently scheduled performances (non-required events are indicated with an asterisk). The entire choral calendar may be viewed at www.EssexChoirs.org. If an additional Chamber Choir performance is scheduled, students and parents will be notified as soon as possible.

- Fall Concert** – October 25 – 7:00 p.m. – EHS Auditorium
- *District III Festival** – November 3 & 4 – Colchester High School
- Madrigal Festival** – December 8 – TBA (During School & Evening) – St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
- Rotary Club Luncheon** – December 13 (During School) – The Essex
- Winter Concert** – December 18 – 7:00 p.m. – EHS Auditorium
- Bernie Sanders Dinner** – December 17 – TBA (Late Morning or Early Afternoon) – Burlington
- All State Auditions** – January 20 – TBA – Champlain Valley Union High School
- All State Music Festival** – May 9-12 – Essex High School
- District Tour** – January 19 (exam make-up day) – Local Middle & Elementary Schools
- District Wide Rehearsal for Fine Arts Night** – March 14 – TBA – EHS Gymnasium & Auditorium
- Fine Arts Night** – March 14 – 5:30 p.m. – EHS
- *Cabaret Night** – March 30 – 7:00 pm – EHS Cafeteria
- Spring Concert** – May 23 – 7:00 p.m. – EHS Auditorium
- *Senior Showcase & Ceremony** – May 30 – 7:00 pm – EHS Auditorium

As a component of the curriculum, required performances take precedence over all extra-curricular activities, employment, or sporting events [with the exception of VPA playoff games]. Concert dates and times are provided in significant advance so that students may make arrangements with their extra-curricular commitments. In the event of an unavoidable absence from a performance, a parent or guardian should notify Mr. Stokes **two weeks** prior to the performance. An alternate assignment will be provided for students with excused performance absences. Alternate assignments are not available for unexcused performance absences.

Performance Expectations

- Prior to each performance, students are expected to report on time for our warm up.
- Students are expected to report dressed in their concert attire, and remain in their concert attire for the entire concert/event.
- During specific performances, students will be asked to sit with the audience. Students are expected to model appropriate audience etiquette.

Concert Attire

Chamber Choir students will be provided with the following concert attire to be worn for each performance:

Women will be provided with a black concert dress, pearl necklace and earrings.

In addition to the provided concert attire, women should purchase black flats or low-heeled dress shoes.

Graduating seniors must return their concert dress no later than Friday, June 2nd. Graduating seniors may keep their necklace and earrings.

*A seamstress will be hired to make alterations as needed on the concert dresses. Please let Mr. Stokes know if/when your dress requires further alterations or replacement.

**Students are responsible for the cleaning of their concert attire. It is not necessary to dry clean your concert dress. Dresses may be washed (cold water) and dried (low heat) at home.

Men will be provided with a black tuxedo, if they do not already have one. In addition to the provided concert attire, men should purchase black dress shoes and black socks. Graduating seniors must return their tuxedo no later than Friday, June 2nd.

*Students are responsible for the cleaning of their concert attire. Tuxedos should be dry cleaned as needed, at least once per year. Tuxedo shirts should be washed at home after each performance.

Water & Food

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to class, and use it as needed. The water bottle must have a closable top or lid. The student is responsible for cleaning up any mess caused by their water bottle. With the exception of water, students are not permitted to bring any food or drink substance into the classroom, unless granted special permission from the teacher or administration.

Cell Phone / Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices should not, at any time, be seen or heard in the classroom, unless the teacher requests that students utilize their electronic device for instructional purposes. Mr. Stokes will very clearly inform students when electronic devices may be used for instructional purposes; otherwise, it is expected that all devices are off and away.

Attendance

Good attendance is a vital component of your success and the success of our ensemble. Unexcused absence will result in the deduction of Daily Performance and/or Concert points. If you are absent from school, you may not participate in any after school activities on that date, including performances and trips.

Lateness

Students are expected to be on time to class every day. Unexcused tardiness may result in the loss of Daily Performance points. Repeated tardiness will result in contact with your parent/guardian.

Make-up Work

When absent, students are expected to see Mr. Stokes during FLEX, or before/after class, to promptly obtain missed work or schedule a make-up assessment.

- In the event of an excused absence, a student will be allowed the same interval of time to complete their work as their classmates (i.e. if the class was given 2 days to complete the assignment, the absent student will also be granted 2 days to complete the missed assignment)
- In the event of an unexcused absence, students may still submit all missed formative assignments. They will not, however, be allowed additional work time before the late submission is reflected in their *learning habits*.
- In the event of an unexcused absence, students will not be permitted to make up summative assessments.

Academic dishonesty

All students are expected to complete their own work. Academic dishonesty of any kind, including plagiarism, will result in an automatic zero on the associated assignment, quiz, and/or exam.

Choir Leadership Council

Students seeking additional leadership opportunities are encouraged to run for the Choir Leadership Council. The Choir Leadership Council meets once a month during flex, and assists in the planning, organization, and promotion of the choral program. In September, all choral students vote to elect student representatives to serve in the following positions:

President

Initiates and delegates officer activities and duties.
Writes thank you notes and obtains appropriate signatures.
Serves as liaison between choir and other school organizations and activities.
Attends Music Booster meetings when needed.
Other duties as assigned.

Vice President

Assists the president in all activities and preside over his/her responsibilities in case of their absence.
Posts items of importance on the music hallway bulletin boards.
Other duties as assigned.

Librarian

Assists the director with all library functions.
Organizes and files choral music, stamps and numbers new music.
Other duties as assigned.

Historian

Photographs ensembles and events throughout the year.
Creates an end-of-year slide show for the Senior Showcase & Ceremony.
Contributes to the choral program's positive social media presence.
Other duties as assigned.

9th Grade Representative

Represents the freshmen class at council meetings.
Other duties as assigned.

Secretary*

Keeps notes during council meetings.
Communicates with their choir class about council meetings.
Takes preliminary attendance during class and rehearsals.
Collects and organizes permission slips for events.
Other duties as assigned.

* Secretaries for each class will be appointed by Mr. Stokes, all other positions are elected by students.

Chamber Choir Auditions

Auditions for Chamber Choir occur in January for the following school year. Interested students should be prepared to demonstrate the following:

- Advanced collaboration and communication skills
- Proficient sight reading and ear training skills
- Independent pitch memory and intonation
- Ability to blend and balance voice

Chamber Choir • Student & Parent/Guardian Signature Page

Parent / Guardian:

I have reviewed the expectations of this course with my son/daughter, and will make every effort to help them fulfill the requirements of this course. We have placed the ensemble's performance dates on our family's calendar.

Parent / Guardian Signature Parent / Guardian Printed Name Date

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____

Preferred method of contact: Phone Email

We have many functions during the school year that depend on parental support. If you are willing/able to contribute, please check the activities below that you are interested in.

_____ I would like to **participate in a music booster organization.**

_____ I would like to **help organize the hosting of the All State Music Festival**

_____ I would like to **bake/donate for Bake Sales**

_____ I would like to **sell items** (baked goods, t-shirts) at concerts and shows

_____ I would like to **sell tickets** for special events

Student:

I have reviewed the expectations of this course, and will make every effort to fulfill these requirements to the best of my ability. I have placed the ensemble(s) performance dates on my calendar.

Student Signature Student Printed Name Date

Please detach and return this signature page to Mr. Stokes no later than Friday, September 8, 2017