



6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Vocal Groups Periods 2, 3, & 4

2017-2018 Eisenhower Middle School

Eisenhower Middle School Choral Music & General Music

Teacher: Mrs. Plunkett

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<https://www.everettsd.org/Domain/3215>

KEEP THIS AS PAGE #1 IN YOUR CHORUS FOLDER

I have read and understand the following expectations, responsibilities, and grading policy for this performing group. I understand it is a year-long course. We will record the performance dates on the family calendar and attend all performance. I will keep this SYLLABUS in my music folder at school.

_____/_____
Parent or Guardian Signature/Date

_____/_____
Student Signature/Date

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- CHORUS is basically a large, organized group of singers.
- Chorus for both young men and ladies is a performance-based class.
- **All performances plus daily rehearsal/performance technique will be included as part of your grade.**
- Most performances will occur outside the regular school day.
- Students will develop their singing voice through vocal exercises focusing on best practices for choral singing.
- Students will be introduced to music theory, the study of music elements, and will experience how they are used in music practice.
- Students will be introduced to composers, most often the composer of the music that we will perform, and the context of their lyrics and musical styles.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED and WHAT IS PROVIDED:

- **PENCIL!!**
- Lined Paper
- Water Bottle (recommended). All other personal items must remain under your chair.
- I will provide a music folder compliments of our local music vendor.

GRADING:

- 40% **Daily Work:** Rehearsal technique, reading, writing.
- 40% Performances: concerts and in-class demonstrations of learning.
- 20% Quizzes, Assignments, & Tests

- Use of the Washington State Arts Standards in Music will be used as a guide when designing lessons and assessments. These standards follow the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) using the sequence of “Create-Perform-Respond-Connect”, as a way for students to learn and apply their understandings to familiar and unfamiliar situations. The state standards can be accessed at <http://www.k12.wa.us/Arts/Standards/2017/MusicStandards.pdf>
- The pace of the class may vary considerably according to several factors including students’ musical readiness as well as their readiness to work as a team.

- Any late assignments will be accepted if the work was originally returned either unfinished or returned showing little understanding by due date, however, the student must show a process of refining their work and improving over time. Not all late assignments will be accepted during the last weeks of the semester. (as in a “cram session”)

(REVISED point system 9/13)

Rehearsal and Performance Technique:40%

Each student will begin the semester with 300 points. Points may be deducted if a student has not met the described expectations in this table:

5 points	Bring your pencil, folder, and written warm-up to your seat daily Begin your warm-up quietly and immediately
5 points	Rehearsal technique: Rehearse ACTIVELY, demonstrating respect for the choral arts, respect for your classmates, and respect for the director through singing and positive social interaction. Always have your music open and ready through rehearsals.
10 totals	If the above is not met while in class or at a performance, a student may have up to 10 points deducted from their rehearsal technique grade each day. (Or, stay on task and keep all your points).

Rehearsal & Performance Technique Grade	Description
270-300 Points (90-100%)	Student always has folder ready and works on warm-up immediately Participates by listening and doing, ready to apply instruction to the best of their artistic ability. Makes an excellent contribution to the rehearsal and musicianship in class. Returns organized folder back to its correct folder slot
240-269 Points 80-89%	Student almost always follows above description
210-240 Points 70-79%	Student is not consistent with above description, or shows reluctance to try and follow description
Less than 210 69% and below	Student is not interested in the work required in improving as a member of the vocal group

PERFORMANCES:

Each performance in or out of the classroom will have a point value. Points and student expectation rubric will be posted so students will know what is expected for each performance.

A	93-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	below 60%

Quizzes, Assignments, and Tests:20%: This includes both singing and written quizzes/tests. Please prepare.

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES: 40% •Chorus for both young men and ladies is a performance-based class. All performances plus daily rehearsal/performance technique will be included as part of your grade. Our performances are the highlights of the year, the “final exam”. They are a lot of fun and they are required. Students can earn full credit for attendance, appropriate dress/uniform, and good behavior. These events are part of your student’s grade and except for emergencies I will need written notice of absence of at least TWO

WEEKS prior to an event in order for it to be excused. Students who are excused from a concert are required to complete an "Excused Concert Make-Up Assignment". Unexcused absences may not be made up.

EXPECTATIONS in CHOIR:

- Students are expected to participate and work hard daily.
- Students are expected to follow school and classroom rules respectfully.



The rest of these points below are really included and are implied in the two above, but let us read ahead anyway!

- Each student will be assigned a Choir folder which is stored in the folder-slot wall in our classroom.
- Each student folder is numbered and will have their own marked slot.
- Keep the contents of your folder in order: Keep your written work in your folder in order by DATE on the left, and music in the right pocket.
- Random folder checks occur several times each month, and folders are collected for grading.
- Bring your pencil and folder DAILY to your seat BEFORE you sit down.
- Once you enter the classroom, you must stay inside my room and begin your warm up. You may not linger in the doorway or in the hall outside my room, and you may not put your books down and THEN go the bathroom or walk out of the class.
- When you walk in the door, immediately complete your written warm up, silently. You are not allowed to talk during this time. (about 5 mins) The warm up will usually be on the front board or screen.
- Sharpen your pencil BEFORE class begins.
- Use the bathroom before class, NOT DURING class.
- If you have a bathroom emergency or become ill during class, let me know. Bring your school planner for me to sign you out of class.
- If you forget your planner, you will not be allowed to go and retrieve it.
- If you are late, bring a hall pass (back of your planner). The tardy will be excused.
- If you do not have a hall pass/signature in your planner, the tardy is Unexcused and will be reported to the office.
- **NO GUM OR FOOD** in class. Choking on food or gum is a real vocal music hazard 🤮
- Throwing objects is not allowed unless part of the lesson.
- **Keep your cell phone/hand-held electronic devices in your lockers.**
- Please do not play instruments unless they are assigned.
- PLEASE take care of our piano.



Chorus field trips are a privilege. You begin earning the right to go on field trips today.

- Performance music must be memorized
- Create a caring, safe space for everyone.

CONSEQUENCES of MISBEHAVIOR:

1. Gentle verbal warning
2. One-on one discussion
3. I will contact your parent or guardian
4. I will contact the office for further discussion

PERFORMANCE UNIFORMS:

- FORMAL-To be determined
- CASUAL-Students will need to purchase a group T-shirt designed especially for our classes, and to be worn at our "Casual" performances. COST: Approximately \$10 for a Chorus T-Shirt. Details will be available as soon as approved by the building.

PERFORMANCE UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS:

- Hair/Make-up- Hair should be pulled away from the face and off the forehead to ensure visual communication during performances. Make-up is not required, but if worn, should be natural looking and not done as if for a theatre performance. No hats will be worn unless for religious purposes.
- Jewelry- Consider not wearing any jewelry for performances to keep us looking sharp. Earrings may be worn if smaller than a nickel in size.
- Black shoes and black socks/tights- choose all black closed-toe footwear. If wearing heels, choose no higher than 1.5". Please no flip-flops or sandals.
- Clothing- If it is a formal concert, you are required to wear the designated attire (that will be decided by Mrs. Plunkett with your input). Casual performances will require the Chorus T-shirt, long jeans or black pants or solid black color skirt. Pant length will be no higher than the top of your ankle bone, no lower than your heel. **NO RIPS OR HOLES** in the pants/jeans, even if it was purchased that way. We'll have a more solid look this way.

ADDITIONAL COSTS:

- **FIELD TRIPS:** Cost for field trips vary depending upon the destination
- **ASB:** It is highly encouraged but not required to purchase an ASB card. The ASB supports the music department

2017-2018 Chorus Activity And Performance Calendar (this calendar will be updated over time.)

(Not included in this calendar is the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, Booster Meetings & Fundraisers, Possible Corridor Concert with Cascade. I will be sure to give a much notice as possible beforehand when performance dates or activity dates are added).

SEPTEMBER

27: Due date to let Mrs. Plunkett know if you need financial assistance for T-shirt or other concert uniform pieces.

OCTOBER

Jazz Choir Auditions: October 17-19, 24-26,
Please sign up in the Choir room and get info from Mrs. Plunkett

NOVEMBER

27th: Winter Concert with ALL CHORAL GROUPS, and with Ike Bands at the Everett Civic Auditorium. **ALL CHOIRS** in the evening. 100 performance points.

DECEMBER

2nd: Small group performs at the Eisenhower Holiday Bazaar. TBA

JANUARY

16th and 18th: Jr. Honor Choir Festival MPMEA (Auditions in September)
Selected/Auditioned 8th grade students only.

FEBRUARY

Possible visit to Elementary Schools bus/field trip

MARCH

15th: Thursday all day
Jr. Division Large Group Choral Festival
Bus/Field Trip
7th/8th Grade only

26th: SPRING CONCERT with ALL choral groups. 100 performance points
At the Everett Civic Auditorium
In the evening

Still TBD: Corridor Concert with Cascade High!

JUNE

1st: FINAL SUMMER CONCERT with ALL choral groups 100 performance points
At the Everett Civic Auditorium In the Evening