



Gateway High School Vocal Music Syllabus/Handbook 2016-2017

Ms. Amy Gallegos
aegallegos@aps.k12.co.us
(303)755-7160

gatewayhighschoolvocalmusic.weebly.com

Accompanists: Ms. Grace Christus & Dr. Mandy Townend

We are empowered to embrace our diversity,
challenge our mindsets, think critically, and lead our
community to think globally and act locally.

We are Olympians.

Our school is a Gateway to the world.

Choir Policies and Regulations

The Policies and Regulations are created and maintained out of fairness to all members of the choir department. Any deviation negatively affects the entire choir, affecting the success of the entire choir program at Gateway. These are intended to put you on the right track toward becoming an active and vital member of these ensembles.

Course Description and Objectives

Vocal music courses are designed for the singer of varying ability who desires to be exposed to a variety of music from numerous time periods and cultures. Both accompanied and a cappella music will be explored, as well as various languages. Objectives are to enhance vocal production, gain a thorough knowledge of music literature, demonstrate vocal independence, provide musical service to the school and community, and provide opportunities for leadership and responsibility.

** Because a vast majority of choral music has historically been written for religious institutions, some of the music we study contains such texts. The repertoire will include material drawn from various traditions, which are studied and performed solely for educational value, and are in no way intended to be exclusive of any individual whose experience or beliefs are not represented. Our shared musical experiences are intended to bring us together as we all seek to be inspired by the power of great music.*

Expectations

Being a member of a choir means being part of a team. Teamwork takes cooperation, consideration, communication and dedication. We all must work together for our team to be successful and to accomplish our goals. High expectations will be set for each of our groups, so we have something to work towards and are constantly improving. These expectations include (but are not limited to):

1. **100% positive participation** will prevent disruptive behavior such as talking, etc. Students are expected to remain actively engaged at all times. Criticizing another student's voice or effort will not be tolerated.
2. Have **MUSIC** and a **PENCIL** at all rehearsals. It is vital that you're at **ALL REHEARSALS and ON TIME!**
3. **NO GUM, FOOD, or DRINK** (other than water)!

4. **DON'T TALK** while we are rehearsing. Follow along with the other parts so you know exactly when to come back in. Chances are the concepts covered while rehearsing the other part will apply to all students.
5. Be responsible for materials. Lost or damaged folders or music will be paid for by the student to who it was issued in student fees.
6. Treat others with courtesy and respect. Leave outside issues at the door and be a mature member of the choir when you enter the room.
7. Maintain a sense of professionalism at all times, in and out of the classroom. We are representing Gateway, as well as the Aurora community.
8. And most importantly, always strive to reach high expectations, make beautiful music, and have fun! It's more fun to be a phenomenal choir that works hard, then a mediocre choir that slacks!

Grading

Progress indicator used in grade book for assessments.		Conversion of grade book body of evidence to letter grades.	Used for grade reports and transcripts.
8/7	Advanced	In a variety of assessments, the student consistently and independently demonstrates excellence in grade level concepts and skills and demonstrates advanced application/analysis when the opportunity exists.	A/A-
6/5	Proficient	In a variety of assessments, the student consistently and independently achieves proficiency in grade level concepts and skills with minimal assistance. S/he demonstrates substantial application/analysis when the opportunity exists.	B/B-
4/3	Partially Proficient	With teacher or peer support, the student adequately demonstrates proficiency in grade level concepts and skills. Or, in a variety of assessments, the student inconsistently demonstrates proficiency.	C/C-
2/1	Unsatisfactory	The student demonstrates limited understanding and application of grade level skills and content but is making progress toward partial proficiency.	D/D-
0	No Evidence	The student has not shown any evidence that he or she understands or can apply grade level skills and content on assignments.	F

Grades are weighted as follows

1. Performances (40% of grade)

Rehearsals before a concert are part of performance attendance and are required as part of the concert grade. If you deliberately skip a concert, you will not be allowed to make up that assessment.

2. Daily Participation (45% of grade)

The points are earned if you show up on time, exhibit exemplary attitude, participate fully from start to finish and demonstrate proficiency in the standard. **Deductions or zeros** will be given for food, gum, talking, poor attitude, lack of participation, being unprepared or not following directions. **ALL ABSENCES RESULT IN A ZERO FOR THE DAY!**

3. Written Work and Tests/Quizzes (15% of grade)

These include music theory assignments, singing tests, memorization tests, written reflections, and other various assignments.

Class Fees

Listed below are all required fees for the school year. **All financial obligations listed under Vocal Music Fees should be paid during by Aug 28th.**

All Vocal Groups

\$10.00 per class. (2 classes = 2 class fees)

All other financial obligations that are acquired during the course of the year, such as, lost or damaged music, lost robe or folder, or any other obligations charged to the student, must be paid by May 12, 2017. ***Checks payable to Gateway High School***

Concert Dress

Students who do not arrive in appropriate concert attire for their ensemble may not perform; thus they will not be assessed for the performance.

Women's Chorus (Artemis) will wear school-issued choir robes. These robes MUST NOT leave the school under any circumstance. Please wear black pants/tights and plain black dress shoes underneath. At the completion of each concert, students must return and hang up the robe. If a robe is lost or damaged, students will be charged \$80.00.

Men's Chorus (Apollo) members are responsible for acquiring their own concert outfits. The guys will wear plain black dress pants (NO BLACK JEANS!), black dress socks, plain black dress shoes, long-sleeve plain white button-down dress shirts (plain white T-Shirt underneath), and a plain black tie. *For the winter concert, it has become tradition for Apollo to wear ugly Christmas sweaters. It's fun and inexpensive. Please let me know if you need ideas of where to get an ugly sweater.*

Women's Ensemble (Calliope) will wear dresses that are ordered. These need to be paid for by each individual student and may need alterations. Plain black dress shoes will be required as well.

\$65 (*this includes the \$10 class fee*)

Checks payable to **"Gateway High School"**

Due by August 26, 2016

Olympians (Concert Choir) will wear school-issued choir robes. These robes MUST NOT leave the school under any circumstance. Please wear black pants/tights and plain black dress shoes underneath. At the completion of each concert, students must return and hang up the robe. If a robe is lost or damaged, students will be charged \$80.00.

Venus ladies will wear dresses that are ordered. These are to be paid by each individual student and may need alterations. Black character shoes will be required as well.

\$205 (*this includes the \$10 class fee*)

Cash or Checks payable to **"Gateway High School"**

Due by August 26, 2016

Athenians will wear dresses and tuxedos that are ordered. Athenian women will order a sparkle and chamber dress, black character shoes and a black choir t-shirt. Athenian men will order a tuxedo ensemble, chamber and sparkle vests and a black choir t-shirt. Black dress shoes will be required as well. These are to be paid by each individual student and many need alterations.

Athenian women: \$250 (*this includes the \$10 class fee*)

Athenian men: \$215 (*this includes the \$10 class fee*)

Cash or checks payable to **"Gateway High School"**

Due by August 26, 2016

Attendance/Tardy Policy

Excused Classroom Absences can be made up. Students will *still* receive ZERO points each day they are gone, but may complete different activities to make up those points. Students should make up missed daily points within 2 school days.

Tardies are NOT TOLERATED and will result in a loss of points. This is a participation class, making it impossible to earn points when you're not there.

Unexcused Absences will not be tolerated.

You cannot replicate a performance atmosphere; therefore, an unexcused absence from a performance results in a zero.

Concerts

1. Concert performances are the culminating, summative assessment of growth throughout the quarter and attendance is therefore a requirement.
2. Work is NOT an excused absence.
3. Performances are listed below, are included on the website and are posted in the choir room. There are always changes being made to the calendar so it will be updated periodically. It is your responsibility to clear your work schedule with your employer.
4. Any excused absence from a performance will result in the student being given the opportunity to do make-up work for full credit. Parents should contact the director via voice mail or email as soon as they are aware their student will be missing the performance, before, not after a performance.
5. Cost: \$6 for adults, \$4 for students/seniors and \$12 for families of 4 or more.

Check the calendar now and discuss any conflicts with Ms. Gallegos ASAP.

Thursday, October 4th 2016 – 7:00pm (call 5:45pm) Fall Concert

Tuesday, December 13th 2016 – 7:00PM (call 5:45pm) Winter Concert

Tuesday, March 7th 2016 – 6:00PM (call 4:45pm) Performing Arts Gala

Tuesday, May 9th 2016 – 7:00PM (call 5:45pm) Pops Concert

Missing a Concert

Since written work is light in music classes, our concerts serve as “unit/semester finals”. In a performing arts class, it is the performance that we spend weeks/months striving towards. No other activity can match the educational value of that experience. I do realize that RARE instances do occur - but in 12 years of teaching, I can count on one hand how many situations were truly unavoidable and/or unable to be worked out.

Definition of excused absence from a concert:

Serious illness with a doctor note, serious illness in family, or bereavement. A written notification from student and parent must be submitted to the Director IN ADVANCE (email, handwritten or phone call) for review and consultation. In the event of serious illness, the Director is to be notified as soon as possible. If there is a conflict with a dress rehearsal or a concert please let Ms. Gallegos know as soon as possible. These conflicts can almost always be worked out. Please note that work is NOT an excused absence.

If you fit into the realm of the above description, you’ll receive a zero until you complete the “Missed Performance” assignment, as posted on the choir website

Extra Rehearsals

Before choir festivals, concerts, etc. **extra** rehearsals are sometimes held. Students will receive adequate notification of these rehearsals. All members of the choir are required to attend unless excused in advance by the director (see definition of excused absence above).

POSITIVE = FUN!!!!

Enter our classroom with a smile on your face and take on each activity with a positive attitude. If we all put forth our best attitude and work hard together, we will in turn have a lot of fun and the rewards will be huge!