**Gateway High School Choir**



**Gateway High School Choir**

**Syllabus/ Handbook 2017-2018**

**Ms. Amy Gallegos**

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**Accompanist: Ms. Grace Christus & Dr. Mandy Townend**

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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.

**Syllabus/ Handbook 2015-2016**

**Ms. Amy Gallegos**

**aegallegos@aps.k12.co.us**

**(303)755-7160**

https://sites.google.com/site/gatewayhsperformingarts/

**Accompanist: Ms. Emily Mesenbrink emilythepiano@jeffco.k12.co.us**

**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, 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 is not allowed.
2. Have **MUSIC** and a **PENCIL** at all rehearsals. It is vital that you’re at **ALL REHEARSALS** **and ON**

**TIME.** Please leave all books, bags, etc. on the floor when you enter the room.

1. **NO GUM, FOOD, or DRINK** (other than water)!
2. **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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Maintain a sense of professionalism at all times, in and out of the classroom. We are representing Gateway, as well as the Aurora community.
6. Choir is a performance class. The advanced level choirs have mandatory individual

requirements, such as trying out for all-state choir and performing those solos in a recital. Students in ALL choirs are encouraged to audition whenever opportunities arise.

1. 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** |
| **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** |
| **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** |
| **2/1** | **Unsatisfactory** | The student demonstrates **limited** understanding and application of grade level skills and content but is making progress toward partial proficiency.  | **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. **Summative Assessments - 80 %**

Examples: Concerts, theory tests, singing tests, concert analysis

1. **Formative Assessments - 15%**

Examples: Class assignments, homework, etc…

1. **Habits of Work (H.O.W.) – 5%**

Examples: Participation, tardies, homework completion, etc…

**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 September 1st.**

**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 6, 2018. **\*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 receive a zero for the performance.**

**Women’s Chorus (Artemis)** will wear the school-issued choir robes. Please wear black pants/tights and plain black dress shoes underneath. These robes MUST NOT leave the school under any circumstance. After a concert is done, you must return and hang up the robe. If a robe is lost or damaged, you 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 alternations. Plain black dress shoes will be required as well.

**$70** *(this includes the $10 class fee)*

Checks payable to **“Gateway High School”**

 **Due by September 1, 2017**

**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. After a concert is done, you must return and hang up the robe. If a robe is lost or damaged, you 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.

**$235** *(this includes the $10 class fee)*

Cash or Checks payable to **“Gateway High School”**

**Due by September 1, 2017**

**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: $285** *(this includes the $10 class fee)*

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

Cash or checks payable to **“Gateway High School”**

**Due by September 1, 2017**

**Tardy Policy**

**Tardies** are not tolerated and will result in a loss of H.O.W. points. This is a participation class, making it impossible to earn points when you’re not there.

**Unexcused Concert Absences** will not be tolerated.

You cannot replicate a performance atmosphere; therefore, an unexcused absence from a performance results in **0 points**.

**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 credit. Parent’s 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.

**Tuesday, October 10th 2017 – 7:00pm (call 5:45pm) Fall Concert**

**Tuesday, December 12th 2017 – 7:00PM (call 5:45pm) Winter Concert**

**Wednesday, March 7th 2018 – 6:00PM (call 4:45pm) Performing Arts Gala**

**Tuesday, May 8th 2018 – 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 15 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 zero points 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!

***This is YOUR choir! LOVE IT!***