

Textbook: In chorus, your music is your textbook. It is the students' responsibility to have their music at every rehearsal. Students who misplace or deface their music will be assessed a fee prior to receiving their final course grade. Students will also need to provide a notebook to be used as a journal.

Course Description:

Beginning Choir is open to all 6th through 8th graders. Basic fundamentals of singing, note reading, music history and general musicianship will be focused upon. This music group will perform at the Winter Choir Concert, the Spring Choir Concert, and Centennial Choir Pre-Festival.

Advanced Women's Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and Show Choir are open to students by audition or placement by Mrs. Garnett. Singing fundamentals, music reading, and general musicianship will be stressed. High caliber music will also be added. These choral ensembles will also participate in music festivals in and outside the district throughout the school year. Advanced choral students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Solo/Ensemble Contest at the district level and to audition for the CCSD Middle School Honor Choir.

All Chamber singers, Show Choir, and Advanced Women's Ensemble are invited to participate in the spring LMS music department trip tentatively scheduled for April 23rd – 26th as they meet all travel requirements as determined by the director.

I. Course goals

- a. Students will demonstrate proper course expectations in class, rehearsals, and performances as per the CCSD curriculum alignment project (CAP).
 1. To establish an understanding of proper vocal production
 2. To develop a fundamental understanding of performance skills
 3. To establish fundamental music skill notation, sight-reading and theory skills
 4. To introduce music from a variety of cultures, musical styles, and time periods
 5. To introduce common elements found in the various arts disciplines
 6. To introduce the fundamentals of critical listening: pitch, dynamics, form, and structure
 7. To introduce the fundamental criteria needed to evaluate the quality of a performance
 8. To provide the opportunity of active participation and public performance
 9. To understand the importance of focus and discipline in relation to the individuals' responsibility to the ensemble.
 10. To recognize the opportunities available in music, as well as the opportunities which allow for continued musical involvement throughout life

II. Course content and time schedule (sequential)

- a. Classroom procedures will be introduced.
- b. Basic choral music fundamentals will be taught and stressed which will continue throughout the year.
- c. Students will prepare repertoire for performances and festivals.

III. Course Activities

- a. **Tests/quizzes:** Singing tests will be given periodically along with written tests occasionally. Content of the tests will include the basic music fundamentals learned in class. Students are allowed to retake singing tests as many times as they would like as long as improvement is displayed each time by making arrangements with the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule and retake the test.
- b. **Assignments/homework:** All students are expected to submit completed homework as required by the teacher. Optimal student learning happens only if work is done in a timely fashion. If it is not turned in on time a 10% penalty will be assessed each day for the first week. After a week, the assignment will be assessed with a 50% penalty.

c. Make-up work: **Daily grades can be made up with make-up practice time after school and/or by writing a critique of an article about music.** For each absence, students are to practice an extra hour (exception: if a student is absent due to school activity or there is an excused sick absence.) Daily Participation points cannot be given if a student is not present to participate. Students should see Mrs. Garnett for appropriate make-up work. If a student misses an assignment, written test, or performance, it is his/her responsibility to make arrangements with the teacher to complete the required work **within three days of returning.**

d. Extra credit: Extra credit can be given for various things. Extra time on practice recordings, attending concerts or music performances other than their own, performing approved solos in front of the class, and doing an approved report can all be considered for extra credit.

e. Performances: Each student is **required** to be at all performances in which his/her class is involved, including rehearsals outside of class time to prepare for the performances, Parents and/or guardians are highly encouraged to attend performances that their child is involved in. This is your child's chance to demonstrate all of his/her hard work and dedication in a concert setting!

f. Solo & Ensemble: All members of the Chamber Singers are encouraged to participate in the annual NMEA Solo & Ensemble festival on Saturday, February 1st, 2020. Plan now to prepare your solo or small ensemble for this event! Mrs. Garnett will be rehearsing with any and all students who are interested in performing at this event. (more info. provided in Dec.)

g. Trips for choir: Festival performances are **mandatory** for all choir students. For any other trip which is taken by the choir students must be academically and dean's eligible. Students must have no suspensions and must be academically eligible. In addition, the student must have a B or better and an S or better in his/her choir class.

*** Leavitt Middle School will not be responsible for any monies that are non-refundable or are otherwise lost due to the subsequent cancellation of a field trip or school-sponsored trip. Also, Leavitt Middle School will not be responsible for any monies that are non-refundable due to revoked field trip privileges as a result of disciplinary consequences.**

IV. Evaluation

a. Criteria for arriving at students' grades

Daily Participation	30%
Performances	35%
Assessments	30%
Homework	5%

Daily Procedures

1. *Students must be in their seats with all materials by one minute after the bell has rung.*
2. *Students must be prepared for class with a pencil, music, and journal.*
3. *Students must always sit with proper posture while in choir class.*
4. *Students must stay quiet during rehearsal to ensure that all of our time is used towards learning.*
5. *Students must have respect for him/herself, her/his peers, teachers, and any equipment in the choir room.*
6. *Students must appropriately and regularly participate in class.*
7. *Go above and beyond!*
8. *HAVE FUN SINGING!!!*

Performances/rehearsals/assessments: The assessments grade will include written and singing tests. If a student wishes to take his/her singing test privately, an opportunity will be given for that student to take the test after or before school. All students are required to be at every rehearsal and performance for which a two-week notice is given. Participation in a concert is a privilege, not a right. Students are required to have a "C" or better and no "N's" or "Us" in CHOIR and must be able to perform our concert music. This rule is intended to allow for all the students who have met these requirements to have a concert that they worked hard for. If a student can not perform due to his/her grades or performance level, a written music composer report will be required to make up the points. If a student is eligible to perform, it is a required performance.

In addition, every student must be present at the dress rehearsal during the school day in order to perform at the concert. NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy. In addition, students will be allowed to perform if they are in appropriate clothing for the concert. Students will ONLY be excused from performances due to emergencies. Parents are required to contact the teacher if a child is to miss a performance and a make-up assignment will be required to make up the points.

Semester exams: The semester exams are written exams that will include basic music fundamentals that the students have learned throughout the year. The two quarters will each make-up 40% of the semester grade and the exam will be worth the remaining 20%.

Semester exams will not be administered early. Students who are absent may make-up their exams on the district approved make-up day.

b. Explanation of student grades

- i. A 100 - 90%
- ii. B 89 - 80%
- iii. C 79 -70%
- iv. D 69 - 60%
- v. F 59 and below


c. How and when students will be advised of their grades

- i. Parents and students are urged to check Infinite Campus portal on our website regularly.
- ii. Students will be advised of their grades on grade day along with periodically progress reports. Students can make arrangements with the teacher after school if they need a progress report other than the days grades are given out.

d. Citizenship/behavior expectations: The success of our choral program depends highly on the type of daily rehearsals we have. Every choir member is expected to work as a productive team player. Every student will show respect to him/herself and to others.

Citizenship is taken very seriously here at Leavitt Middle School. Teachers expect students to bring supplies to class, pay attention, stay on task, talk when appropriate, be respectful to all teachers and students, and not chew gum or eat in class. These are only a few of the reasons why a student may lose citizenship points. Any other actions which disrupt the learning environment of the classroom or other students will also be documented and points toward citizenship will be lost.

V. School-Wide Rules

- a. Follow directions quickly.
- b. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
- c. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat
- d. Make SMART Choices: Kindness, Leadership, Courage, Invincible Grit, Creativity
- e. Work hard to do your best for your teachers and parents at all times.
- f.  Keep your eyes on the target.

VI. TARDY POLICY – Progressive Steps

- a. 1st Tardy – Warning
- b. 2nd Tardy – Warning & Parent Phone Contact
- c. 3rd Tardy – Non-TRS RPC
- d. 4th Tardy – After School Detention
- e. 5th Tardy – In-House Suspension (IHS)
- f. 6th Tardy – Required Parent Conference – RPC/Tardy Contract
- g. 7th Tardy – IHS/parent and student meet with the principal

VII. BEHAVIOR- Progressive Discipline

- a. 1st Incident – Verbal warning
- b. 2nd Incident - Parent contact by teacher
- c. 3rd Incident – Written contact to parent
- d. 4th Incident – Counselor referral
- e. 5th Incident – Office referral

CHOIR CITIZENSHIP RUBRIC

In order to receive an OUTSTANDING citizenship grade, students will:

1. ALWAYS arrive quietly, and on time to class
2. ALWAYS sit in assigned seats quickly upon arrival
3. ALWAYS contribute to the class by giving 100%
4. ALWAYS have required materials quickly when needed (pencils/pens/paper/folder)
5. ALWAYS maintain eye contact with the director during rehearsal and instruction
6. ALWAYS remain silent when appropriate
7. NEVER chew gum, consume beverages, or eat in class
8. ALWAYS sing with tall vowels and at the appropriate volume
9. ALWAYS sing with energy and enthusiasm
10. ALWAYS have a positive attitude
11. NEVER miss a concert

Below is the scale for citizenship. All reports of misconduct will be documented in the teacher's grade book so either the students and parents will be able to check Infinite Campus portal to see what his or her current citizenship grade is, and why points have been lost.

0-2 infractions - Outstanding
3-5 infractions - Satisfactory
6 - 8 infractions - Needs Improvement
9 or more infractions - Unsatisfactory

*** Please be advised that serious infractions may result in an automatic Unsatisfactory in citizenship.

VIII. Choir Journal Expectations/Responsibilities

- a. Students are required to write in their choir journals (composition book) located in their choir folders daily. Objectives and homework will be given on the board for the students to write down. There will be pop quizzes for journal checks.

VIII. Supplies needed for this course

- a. A choir folder, pencil, and journal will be left in the classroom. EACH STUDENT MUST BRING A COMPOSITION BOOK TO BE USED ONLY FOR CHOIR BY MONDAY, AUGUST 19th. Original music must not be folded or written on in ink, etc. Otherwise students will need to be around \$3.50 per piece of music. Every student should have a pencil in their choir folder.

For performances, the students are required to wear the following:

Beginning Choir: Black dress pants (no capris, jeans, or “gauchos”), black socks or nylons, black dress shoes, NO JEWELRY, and the required choir shirt that will be distributed in class. If a student loses the choir shirt, he/she must pay \$15.00 to buy a replacement shirt.

Advanced Women’s Ensemble: Choir dress (provided by the school), flesh-colored nylons and black shoes (provided by the school) No personal jewelry will be worn. The choral students are expected to have their dress wrinkle-free and look “performance ready!” **There is a \$10.00 cleaning fee.** All students who are wearing a school uniform are required to pay this fee at the beginning of the school year.

Concert Choir and Chamber Singers: Choir dress/uniform (provided by the school - please refer to the uniform agreement form that will be sent home with each student), flesh-colored nylons for girls (NOT opaque tights!!) or black socks for guys, black dress shoes (provided by the school) **There is a \$10.00 cleaning fee.** All students who are wearing a school uniform are required to pay this fee at the beginning of the school year.

Show Choir: To be determined by the ensemble

*** This class meets Tues/Thurs/Fri from 8:12 - 9:04 AM. This is an early bird class. Selection is by audition only, and all members of this ensemble must be a member of the LMS Choral Department. This ensemble has traditionally ordered a hoodie, the cost is usually about \$28.00

X. Explanation of Fees

The fee for this course is \$25 for all choir students. This covers choral music, theory books, choir shirt (beginning choir only) and classroom supplies. **There is also a \$10 cleaning fee** (Chamber, Concert, and AWE only).

IX. Utilizing technology to learn

At Leavitt, we want to encourage the daily use of technology in and out of the classroom to further enhance the educational experience. As such, Leavitt will be providing students with individual devices in all grades to utilize in class and at home. Students will also be provided with a Google email address to correspond with their teacher and classmates on projects, as well as to turn in assignments. Students may choose to utilize their own electronic tablets (iPads, Kindle Fire, Samsung, etc.) cell phones, laptops, and reading devices for educational purposes. Please be reminded that your student is responsible for the safety of their personal device and must utilize the district’s Wifi to ensure their internet safety. All use of these devices will be for educational purposes and must be approved by the individual teacher.

II. Teacher’s hours of availability

7:55 AM - 3:45 PM every school day. Thursday afternoons until 4:30 PM. If you have any questions of concerns, please email or call. For a faster response, please email - garneem@nv.ccsd.net
School phone 702-799-4699 ext. 4050
Also keep an eye out for setting up the Remind App.

Thank you for your continued support!!!!