

Select Treble Choir & Vocal Arts Ensemble

Class Syllabus 2011-2012

Grading

At **NO POINT** will a student be graded on musical talent – only participation, effort, preparation, and skill improvement will be graded. Each choir member has the opportunity to earn an “A” each trimester by demonstrating her or his ability in six musical areas. Students wishing to take the course for honors level credit need to complete two additional projects – see the handouts and/or website for complete guidelines and details – and will have somewhat more demanding grade expectations.

Rehearsal Participation: Students will be graded based upon their contributions to rehearsal, effort to display a positive attitude, and physical presence in rehearsals. Grading in this area is determined at the director's discretion based on periodic observation.

Some guidelines in the area of rehearsal contribution include:

- Participating in class discussions
- Singing with an open mouth and relaxed jaw
- Low, correct breathing
- Good sitting and standing postures
- Setting a positive example
- Showing leadership and initiative

Some guidelines in the area of rehearsal attitude include:

- Following rehearsal rules
- Taking direction and criticism well
- Having all required materials for rehearsal
- Eagerness to learn

Students will be evaluated on participation three times per trimester. All students will start each portion of each trimester with 100 points, they can lose those points by exhibiting behaviors and attitudes different from those above. In addition, tardies and unexcused absences will cause students to lose points as well.

Voice Lessons: Each student is expected to attend one small-group and two individual lessons per trimester. One missed lessons due to tests, illness, or field trips can be made-up. In the event of additional missed lessons or lessons missed for other reasons students may complete an article review assignment to get credit. Lessons will be used to work on the student's issues with the repertoire, sight signing, or other vocal skills; and to prepare the student for contests and auditions as interest dictates. In addition, all students will work on solo or small group pieces.

Musicianship: Half of the rehearsal on two days per week will be devoted to the development of students' musicianship skills. Concepts will include but not be limited to music reading and theory, ear training, and music listening with critical thinking. Many lessons will include short written assignments that will generally be completed in class. On some assignments those students taking the course for honors credit will have more items to complete. There will also be daily vocabulary terms and periodic quizzes.

Repertoire: In this area students' knowledge of repertoire rehearsed in the respective trimester will be assessed by demonstrating their ability to sing rhythmically, melodically, and expressively correct. Visit the website to view the grading form.

Sight Singing: Students will be asked to sing a sight singing assessment each trimester. Sight singing will be practiced in class almost every day as an integral part of skill development. Visit the website to view the grading form.

Performance Participation: Students grade in this area will depend on participating in all required performances for the trimester, having the required performance attire, and assisting with set-up/clean-up as needed. Make-up work is allowed under specific circumstances as outlined in the “performances” section of the syllabus.

College Prep Level Grading Scale:

Grade	Minimum Total Grade Percentage
A+	100
A	94
A-	90
B+	87
B	84
B-	80
C+	77
C	74
C-	70
D+	67
D	64
D-	60
F	59 or lower

Honors Level Grading Scale:

Grade	Minimum Total Grade Percentage
A+	100
A	95
A-	92
B+	89
B	85
B-	82
C+	79
C	75
C-	72
D+	69
D	65
D-	62
F	61 or lower

Performances

Performances are a group effort and everyone's contribution is valuable. It is expected that students will want to attend all performances to demonstrate all they've accomplished as a group, however absences do happen. Whenever possible please avoid scheduling appointments, vacations, etc when there is a choir performance scheduled. There are three categories of absences for grading purposes:

- Conflicts with other CDH activities, church activities, family vacations, etc – these require **prior approval** (as early as possible, please) in order to possibly make up full credit for the performance.
- Student illness or family emergency (please call or email Mr. Jacobson before the performance, if possible) – these require written approval/notification after the concert and make-up work in order to receive full credit for the performance.
- Skipping the performance, leaving early without prior approval, conflicts with non-CDH or church activities, and jobs – these are unexcused absences and will result in loss of credit for the performance.

Performance Schedule: For the most up-to-date performance schedule please visit the online choir calendar at: www.cretin-derhamhall.org/jacobson_performances

Academic Integrity

In this class you will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid without specific permission for collaboration or without proper citation. This includes class work, quizzes, examinations, preparations of reports or projects, or any other work that is used to evaluate you. You can expect that any papers or projects you turn in will be checked to assure originality and accuracy of citations. At Cretin-Derham Hall we uniformly deplore cheating, lying, fraud, misrepresentation, plagiarism, copying other students' work, and other dishonest behaviors that jeopardize the rights, welfare, and integrity of Cretin-Derham Hall.

Choir Information

Syllabus: This syllabus is as complete and accurate as possible on August 30, 2011. Additional performance dates or policies may be added later. Every effort will be made to send information home in plenty of time for plans to be made.

Electronic Communication: The choir website address is www.cretin-derhamhall.org/jacobson_choirs. The website has a large amount and wide variety of information. Major updates to the site will be listed in the news section on the choir home page. All printed hand-outs will be available for download from the documents page, including this syllabus.

Email: Email is the best way to ensure that critical information gets to parents and families. Mass emails will be sent only occasionally. Please provide at least one current email on the information sheet attached to the syllabus.

Mr. Jacobson's Contact Information: For any other information or questions contact Mr. Jacobson at 651-696-3315 or email at cjacobson@c-dh.org

Large-Group Contest & Eligibility

All choir students will be participating in the Minnesota State High School League Large-Group Contest. Large-Group Contest is the musical equivalent to a "section" or "state" tournament in athletics, and is extremely important. Each choir will sing for a group of judges and be given ratings on their performance. Because it is an activity involving multiple schools and under is under the supervision of MSHSL, league eligibility rules apply. Copies of the policies are available for you to peruse on the website.