

Choir Honors Credit Guidelines

General Directions:

For honors credit you need to complete two projects from the following list. Keep in mind that receiving honors credit should reflect a significant step up from base level of work college prep credit in choir. The purpose of the projects you choose is to aid your growth as a singer and/or choir member.

Project One – Extra Individual Voice Study

- You will need to attend 2 extra lessons (5 total unless otherwise agreed upon) used primarily for studying music other than the choir repertoire
- You will need to set an individual goal for improvement or event at which you will perform per trimester, if you don't have a specific reason for the extra time in lessons **do not** choose this project
- Per trimester you will need to learn at least 1 piece other than the choir repertoire, they may be solos or your part of a small ensemble with others, styles are negotiable
- Some individual practice outside of lessons will be needed

Project Two – Outside Concert Review

- You will need to attend an entire choir concert somewhere outside of CDH, that does mean you can't arrive late or leave early.
- The performance does need to be a choir "concert" – a formal performance by a choral group, there will be some posters and information on concerts available but you may go to ones not mentioned in class or on the choir room bulletin board, if you're not sure about whether a performance qualifies, ask before you go.
- Following the performance you need to write a 2-3 page paper answering the following questions:
 - What group, when and where, what music, etc?
 - What did you like and dislike about the performance?
 - Did the choir portray the meaning of the songs, do you think they knew the meanings?
 - Was there a discernible theme for the concert?
 - What did the choir do to engage the audience?
 - What did this choir do (not specific pieces) that you would like to do?
 - What did this choir do that you would like to avoid?

See the other side for Projects Three & Four.

Cut the bottom of this sheet off and return to Mr. Jacobson, keep the top for your reference.

Individual Student Plan for Choir Honors Credit

Name _____ Choir _____ Trimester _____

Your plan for earning honors credit in choir this trimester, you may change your mind later:

_____ Project One, individual goal or performance: _____

_____ Project Two, concert, if known: _____

_____ Project Three, topic: _____

_____ Project Four, event: _____

_____ Other: _____ Approval _____

Project Three – Research Paper on a Relevant Topic or Reflection Paper

- You will need to research and write a short (4-6 page) paper on a topic relevant to choir, the music we're doing, or topics we're discussing.
- You should use a minimum of 3 sources cited and documented correctly.
- Some possible topics include the following, there are many more possibilities, though you should ask for approval before researching and writing:
 - Composers – composers whose work we're singing or major **choral** composers – be sure include information about their choral or vocal music
 - Genres of music we're singing
 - Cultures whose music we're singing
 - Social issues reflected in the music we're singing – connect it to the music
 - History of the music, particularly major historical pieces
- You may also choose to write a reflection (non researched, more analytical) paper of the same length, some possibilities, again get prior approval to ideas on the list
 - Concerts are often themed, how do 2 or more of the pieces reflect that theme, compare and contrast.
 - Connect a piece to your life experience or to common experiences of people your age.
 - Examine the messages of a piece or two, how is that relevant to society, why is music a good medium to spread that message.
 - Examine an older piece, compare and contrast its meaning and place in society when it was written with its possible meaning and place in society today.

Project Four – Honor Choir or Other Outside Choral Activities

- After participating in a pre-approved experience write a 2-3 page reflection on your experience describing how you prepared for the activity, what happened there, what you would do differently the next time, and how the activity affected your singing and CDH choir membership.

Other

- Other ideas you may have to assist in your growth as a singer or choir member.
- Other project ideas need prior approval from Mr. Jacobson.