

# Albert Street Voices & Sweetones Syllabus 2011-2012

## Grading

At **NO POINT** will a student be graded on his or her musical talent – only participation, effort, preparation, and skill improvement will be graded. Each choir member has the opportunity to earn an “A” in the course which will be worth one total credit for the year. Grades will reset each trimester and will all be averaged for the final grade. The grades will be compiled from the following areas:

**Rehearsal Participation:** Students will begin with 10 points each rehearsal for their contributions to rehearsal and their effort to display a positive attitude. A failure to meet expectations as listed will result in deductions from the beginning grade. Rehearsal participation also necessitates punctual attendance at the rehearsals. Each tardy will be a 2.5-5 point deduction and each unexcused absence a 10 point deduction.

Some guidelines in the area of rehearsal contribution include:

- Contributing to class discussions
- Singing with an open mouth/relaxed jaw
- Low, correct breathing
- Good sitting/standing posture
- Setting a positive example
- Class leadership/initiative

Some guidelines in the area of rehearsal attitude include:

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

*Rehearsal Participation will be 40% of the student's grade.*

**Repertoire:** In this area students will be tested on music rehearsed in the respective trimester. Students must demonstrate their ability to sing rhythmically, melodically, and stylistically correct. A rubric will be used to score the repertoire test visit the website to view the rubric. *Repertoire will be 30% of the student's grade.*

**Performance Participation:** Students earn 100 points by actively participating in all required performances for the trimester, having the required performance attire, and assisting with set-up/clean-up as needed. In trimesters without a major evening performance students will be required to attend one outside choral concert and write a review paper. Make-up work is allowed under specific circumstances as outlined in the “performances” section of the syllabus. *Performance Participation will be 30% of the student's grade.*

## Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentages
A+	100
A	94-99
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	59 or less

## 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 particularly as this is a performance-based ensemble, however absences do happen. Whenever possible please avoid scheduling appointments, vacations, etc when there is a choir performance scheduled. There are 3 categories of absences:

- Conflicts with other CDH activities, Church activities, family vacations, etc – these require **prior** approval/notification (as early as possible, please) and make-up work in order to achieve grading proficiency.
- 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 achieve grading proficiency.
- Skipping the performance, leaving early, or conflicts with non-CDH or Church activities or jobs – these are unexcused absences and will result in loss of grading proficiency.

**Performance Schedule:** Due to the nature of these ensembles there will be performances added throughout the year. Every effort will be made to inform students and families a month in advance of changes to the performance calendar. For the most up-to-date performance schedule please visit the choir website at:  
[http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org/jacobson\\_performances](http://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, 2010. 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 [http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org/jacobson\\_christopher](http://www.cretin-derhamhall.org/jacobson_christopher). 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 pages, 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](mailto:cjacobson@c-dh.org)

## **Solo/Ensemble Contest & Eligibility**

The Pop Singers will be participating in the Minnesota State High School League Solo/Ensemble Contest. Solo/Ensemble Contest is the musical equivalent to a "section" or "state" tournament in athletics, and is extremely important. The ensemble will sing for a judge and be given ratings on their performance. Because it is an activity involving multiple schools and under its supervision of MSHSL, league eligibility rules apply. Copies of the policies are available for you to peruse on the website.