

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS SYLLABUS

The following information and procedures will help you to be successful in this course. Please read the syllabus carefully, sign it, and keep it in your notebook for future reference.

General Course Information

Course Code:	<u>MUS-0702</u>	Course Title:	<u>Middle School Chorus</u>
Instructor:	<u>Mrs. Melissa A. Barnes</u>	E-mail:	<u>melissabarnes@myfccs.org</u>
Telephone:	904-777-3040	Web site:	<u>www.myfccs.org</u>

Course Pre-requisites

Pre-requisites for a student's enrollment in the course are: approval by the director.

Major Concepts & Content

- The goal of this course is to teach an appreciation for choral music and develop musical literacy at the intermediate level through the development of musical skills.
- The course will include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - **application of music sight-reading skills**
 - **mastery of music vocabulary**
 - **development of vocal skills**
- The course will focus on the following topics:
 - **Accurate rhythm reading**
 - **Accurate pitch reading**
 - **Accurate pitch matching**
 - **Interval recognition by sight and by ear**
 - **Proper vowel and diction pronunciation**
 - **Confidence in three and four part harmony singing**

Course Objectives

According to Sunshine State Standards, after successfully completing this course the student will:

- Develop strategies for listening to unfamiliar musical works.
- Compare, using correct music vocabulary, the aesthetic impact of a performance to one's own hypothesis of the composer's intent.
- Identify, aurally, a variety of vocal styles and ensembles.
- Describe the functions of music from various cultures and time periods.
- Identify connections among music and other content areas and/or contexts through interdisciplinary collaboration.

- Improvise rhythmic and melodic phrases to accompany familiar songs and/or standard harmonic progressions.
- Sing melodies by ear with support from the teacher and/or peers.
- Perform music from memory to demonstrate knowledge of the musical structure.
- Sing age-appropriate repertoire expressively.
- Demonstrate proper vocal or instrumental technique.
- Sight-read standard exercises and simple repertoire.
- Notate rhythmic phrases and melodies, in varying simple meters.
- Understand the relationship between music, character, and worship.

Course Requirements

To accomplish the previously stated goals, students will:

- participate in daily vocalise exercises to develop the vocal ability of the singer.
- participate in daily sight-reading exercises as assigned by the instructor.
- participate in daily rehearsal of current assigned music to prepare for upcoming performances.
- complete assigned reading or videos.
- take up to 12-24 unit theory quizzes .
- take up to 12 unit theory tests.
- take 2 semester exams.
- complete 1 research project related to a music topic of the instructor's choice.
- participate in ALL scheduled performances.

Materials (Each student will have his/her own personal copy of each of these)

- *Sing at First Sight : Foundations in Choral Sight-Singing*, By Andy Beck, Karen Farnum Surmani, and Brian Lewis (8.95)
- School-issued iPad with the following apps pre-loaded.
 - Sound Note (\$4.99, by David Estes)
 - Theory Lessons (\$2.99, by musictheory.net)
 - Tenuto (\$3.99, by music theory.net)
 - Rhythm Training - Sightreading(Free, by Lei Chi Tak)
 - Garage Band (Free Edition)
 - Musical Terms (Free, by Hon Fai Yiu)
 - Notate Me Now (Free, by Neuratron Ltd)
 - Scales Tutor (Free, by Musi Keys, LLC)
 - Quinterval (Free, by Oliver Hahn)
- A black 1" 3-ring binder to keep music in the music room.
- A pencil with an eraser and a yellow highlighter to be kept in the student's music folder.
- Various choral selections as assigned by the director to be kept in the black 3-ring binder in the assigned music slot in the music room.
- Appropriate chorus concert attire. Ordering info will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year. (see attached flyer)

Major Performances (**Required**)

- Fall Worship Concert, Wednesday, September 28, 2016, 7:00 PM, FCBC
- Fall Cabaret Fundraiser, Date to Be Determined, More details to follow
- Christmas Concert, Saturday, December 10th, 2016, 5:00 PM, THCPA
- FACCS Jr. Fine Arts Regional, Competition, Saturday, April 29th, 2017, FCCS
- Spring Concert, Thursday, May 4th, 2017, 7:00 PM, FCCS
- FACCS Jr. Fine Arts State, Competition, May 18th -19th, 2017, Location, TBD
- Any other performances which may be scheduled .

Grading

Grading

Performances, Tests, Projects	=	40% of quarterly grade
Theory Quizzes, Periodic Vocal Evaluations	=	30% of quarterly grade
Class Participation & Homework	=	30% of quarterly grade

Classroom Procedures

Daily Procedures

- A. Today's Instructions – Upon entering the classroom, you are to check the Classroom Instructions for anything special. (*Please complete these instructions before the tardy bell rings.*)
- B. Tardiness – Please be in your seat and ready for class before the bell rings or you will be counted as tardy unexcused.
- C. Preparation for Class – Bring everything you need to participate in class. You will not be allowed to borrow from another student or go to your locker.
- D. Roll Call – When roll is taken, please respond by saying, "Here, Maam."
- E. Communication During Class – There is to be **NO** talking without permission. – When asking a question or making a comment, you must raise your hand and wait for the teacher to call on you unless participating in a class discussion. – *Class discussions will be initiated by the instructor and guidelines will be explained prior to the initiation of the discussion.*

- F. Proper Posture – Please sit correctly in your seat. This means that you face forward, keeping your feet out of the aisle and keeping your hands to yourself at all times.
- G. Dismissal – **The teacher will dismiss the class, NOT THE BELL.** DO NOT PREPARE TO LEAVE CLASS until you are allowed to do so. Any trash around your desk will need to be picked up prior to dismissal.
- H. Quiz & Test Days – NO TALKING is allowed prior to the bell on quiz or test days. Use this time for review. All talking will need to stop as you enter the classroom. *Points may be taken off your test/quiz grade for not following this procedure.*

Quiz-Test Procedures

- A. It is the responsibility of you the student to know what "Prepare for a Quiz or Test" means.
1. There is to be **no talking as you enter the classroom on quiz or test days.** You will use this time for review.
 2. When instructed by the teacher to "Prepare for a Quiz or Test", the following needs to be completed without any communication.
 - a. Clear your desk/table of all notes and books by placing them under your desk/table.
 - b. Take out a **black** (or **blue**) pen & either a **red** pen for quizzes or a **pencil** for tests.
 - c. **For quizzes and all written work, write your name in the top right hand corner, write the subject below your name, and the day's date below subject. Then write the appropriate heading centered on the top line.**
 - d. For tests, write your name, subject, class period, and the day's date in the spaces provided on the **Scantron answer sheet** provided by the teacher. All tests are taken in pencil. However when an essay is included, the student may use black or blue pen for that portion.
- A. Upon the completion of the quiz or test, turn the quiz or test over and wait for instructions.

FCCS Chorus Policies

- A. Students are expected to arrive on time for all rehearsals. Please attend to any restroom or water needs between classes prior to arriving for chorus. Unexcused tardies will result in a deduction of the student's daily grade.
- B. Students are expected to come prepared for chorus rehearsal. Being unprepared for class will result in a deduction of the daily grade. Music must

be handled with care and is never to be folded or rolled, but neatly placed in the student's music folder. When marking the score, please do so carefully in pencil only.

- C. Students are expected to enter the chorus room in an orderly manner, get your music folder, and take your assigned seat quickly and quietly. Students should check the board upon arrival to the chorus room for a theory or other assignment to begin working on.
- D. Students are expected to show one another mutual respect, courtesy, and patience at all times to the director as well as the other students. Upon completion of the theory assignment the student should begin to focus his or her mind on the music to be rehearsed.
- E. Students are expected to be active participants in each class session/ rehearsal. Participation will be characterized by consistent effort by the student to stay on task, contribute to a meaningful rehearsal or performance, give your best effort at all times, and follow the instructions of the director. Disruptive behavior or excessive talking will result in a deduction in the student's daily grade. Repeated infractions will result in issuance of demerits and/or referrals to the dean.
- F. Students are expected to have good posture at all times. Good posture contributes to healthy breath support and a good vocal tone.
- G. Students are expected to take correction positively and acknowledge the director with respect and a good attitude and follow the director's instructions.
- H. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle with them to chorus. The bottle must be clear and contain only water. It is important to keep the throat well-hydrated before and during singing activity. However, it is very disruptive for students to ask to leave to go to the water fountain and will not be allowed.
- I. No gum, candy, or snacks are allowed.
- J. Occasionally special events like festivals or concerts may require an extra rehearsal outside of the normal school day rehearsal time. The students will be notified at least one week prior to any extra rehearsals so that he/she may plan to attend. Conflicts with these extra rehearsals should be discussed with Mrs. Barnes by the parent at least two days before the scheduled rehearsal.
- K. A list of performance dates will be issued to students at the beginning of the school year. Please plan accordingly.
 - 1. All performances are mandatory and will be issued test grades for participation and for performance for all singers in the choirs involved.

Performance grades for competitions and festivals will be recorded as the grades that the judges issue for our performance. Concerts will be given a grade by the director. Students who miss a performance will be issued a grade of zero. As a performing group, every member's voice is needed to provide a high quality performance. If a singer is not present for the dress rehearsal of a performance, participation will be at the discretion of the director.

2. **All students are expected to remain for the entirety of a concert or event. Special permission will not be granted to leave early.** It is not polite for students to leave once our group has performed. We should give the other students and groups the courtesy of our attention as well because they have worked just as hard as we have to prepare an excellent performance. Additionally, observance of others' performances is an important part of the music educational process and experience. Students who leave early will receive a deduction in their grade.
3. Singers will receive a Concert Detail Sheet prior to each scheduled performance. This detailed sheet for the upcoming performance will give specific information such as call time, location of the performance, where to drop-off / pick-up, dress code / uniform for the performance, ticket requirements, and other useful, necessary information to ensure a smooth event. All singers must report ON TIME at the designated call-time for each performance. Late arrivers will perform or not perform at the discretion of the director.
4. Out of respect for all performers, we kindly request that very young children not be in attendance at the performances. Many very young children have short attention spans and often create distractions to the performers as well as other audience members.

Once you have read and understood these procedures, please sign the following pledge using Notability and email this form to Mrs. Barnes @ melissabarnes@myfcss.org
By signing this form you are agreeing to follow each of the guidelines outlined above.

I understand and agree to abide by the previously described procedures and apply myself to each and every area of expectation in order to achieve my personal

spiritual, intellectual, and social goals in relation to the course material.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date