Dixie Hollins High School

Ms. Melissa R. Life, choral music educator

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**Choral Department Syllabus**

**2019-2020 School Year**

**Instructor’s Name**: Ms. Melissa R. Life

**Office Hours**: 1:55pm-2:25pm

**Office Location/Phone Number**: 910-Music Building; direct telephone number and e-mail address are listed above.

**Choral Room Schedule:**Listed below is the schedule of the choral rehearsal room. Please note that we will follow Dixie Hollins High School’s policy on attendance.

***Blue Schedule: White Schedule:***

Period 1 Chorus 1 Period 2 Keyboard 2&3

Period 3 Keyboard 1 Period 4 Plan Period

Period 5 Chamber Choir Period 6 Keyboard 1

Period 7 Plan Period Period 8 Treble Choir

*Tardy Process****:***

Period 1&2: After bell students report to student center for tardy pass. Fourth & subsequent tardies will result in one-hour detention.

Periods 3-8: Automatic one-hour detention for all tardies any other periods – tardy sweeps will be regularly utilized – ABS for missed detentions.

**Course Expectations**:

1. ***Be on time*** – You should be in your assigned seat, with your materials, when the bell rings. Attendance will be taken promptly and will be recorded. We will follow the Dixie Hollins High School policy on any tardy that may occur.
2. ***No food, gum, or drink*** – We are working with electronics which can be very expensive to repair or replace. Please do your part by not bringing these items into the classroom.
3. ***Be respectful***. I expect that all students will treat me, the students, and the classroom equipment with respect.
4. ***Be an active listener***. This applies to both group instruction and individual playing time. When I ask you to listen, I expect you to stop playing immediately and listen to the instructions given.
5. ***Use class time wisel****y*.This is a course that demands responsibility. You are expected to use class time to practice on your keyboard, as it is assumed that not all students have a piano at home. Any written work given in class must be completed during class.

**Disciplinary Action**:

Any disciplinary action will follow this process:

***First Offense***: A direct verbal warning or “blanket statement” during class time.

***Second Offense***: Conference between the student and Ms. Life to address the issue.

***Third Offense***: Communication with parents/guardians about the issue (via telephone call) and referral to school administration.

**Learning Objectives:**

Most of the progress and success that you will achieve comes through your willingness to express yourself, your desire to be an involved member in the choral department, and your attention to details in the music and remarks given by the director. To achieve a high degree of success, you must be willing to work individually as well as within our performance groups, continually striving to improve yourself as a member of the DHHS choral department, and to be proud of your accomplishments. The DHHS Choral Department will continue to build and maintain a reputation of excellence through the outstanding work of our students. Talent is nice to have, but hard work is better appreciated and rewarded.

**Standards Utilized:**

Instruction for all choral ensembles and classes will be based off the **National Core Art Standards** and the **Florida Next Generation Sunshine State Standards**. These standards emphasize music literacy and understanding in areas that reflect the actual processes in which musicians engage.

**Vocal Skills Emphasized in Class:**

* Understanding of the proper care and use of the voice.
* Knowledge and demonstration of breath support.
* Knowledge and demonstration of vowel production and modification.
* Understanding and demonstration of the proper use of dynamics.
* Understanding and demonstration of meter signatures.
* Understanding and demonstration of key signatures.
* Understanding and demonstration of music terminology.
* Knowledge and demonstration of musical phrasing.
* Knowledge and demonstration of expression markings.

**Personal Skills Emphasized in Class:**

* Pride in yourself and in the DHHS Choral Program
* Working together for a common goal: the enjoyment of singing
* Accepting responsibility in attendance at daily rehearsals, special concert rehearsals, concerts, MPA, and festivals.
* Positive self-discipline and classroom behavior
* Your development of leadership within the choral program.
* Your willingness to continually develop your singing voice.
* To discover choral music as an art.
* To learn to become intelligent and sensitive in expressing the emotion of music.
* Striving to improve yourself and the DHHS choirs to be the best you can be! To set standards of excellence for the future.
* Respecting your fellow students and director
* To become a better listener.
* Working together to develop self-confidence.
* Showing a desire to attract new students into the choir program.
* Positive criticism.

**Vocal Health Skills Emphasized in Class:**

Vocal hygiene refers to the practice of caring for your voice. This includes taking measures to ensure overall health and specific ways to care for your body and voice. As a member of the Dixie Hollins Choral Department, it is your duty to maintain good vocal health as you owe it to your fellow ensemble members, your director, and your audiences who come to support you.

*Vocal Health & Care Tips*

* Maintain good general health: eating right, washing hands regularly, and exercise regularly, get good rest.
* Do not clear your throat! Swallow softly and drink water.
* Do not yell or scream.
* Before singing, always go through a proper warm-up.
* Do not sing beyond comfortability.
* Do not expose your voice to excessive pollutions such as: smoking, alcohol, etc.
* Drink lots of WATER! Your voice and body must stay hydrated throughout the day. Make a goal to drink 32 ounces of water a day.

**Important Dates:**

Winter Concert Tuesday, December 10th @ 7:00pm (Call time: TBA)

MPA March 2 & 3 @ TBA

Spring Concert Tuesday, April 14th @ 7:00pm (Call time: TBA)

If any additional dates need to be added, Ms. Life will notify everyone immediately through multiple means of communication (students, newsletter, website, e-mail, etc.).

**Attendance at ALL concerts/contests/performances is required.** Job conflicts are NEVER considered excused absences. Unexcused absence from a performance cannot be made up and will result in the lowering of the concert/contest grade and possible suspension from choir and/or revocation of future performance privileges. Regardless of the reason (excused or unexcused), your parent or guardian must notify the director PRIOR to the performance (concert or contest). Failure to do so is extremely inconsiderate of the director and the other performers and will result in a higher penalty for the performance absence.

Excused absences or an absence due to a long-term illness (more than 10 days - see above) or verifiable family emergency, can be made up through a student-initiated appointment with the choir director. In order to earn the performance points, the student will need to complete one hour of supervised practice and perform for the choir director all musical selections performed at the concert, contest or performance missed. Such a performance will be graded with strict scrutiny, and the student’s make-up performance will count as part of the concert/contest grade. Students will be given one week from the day of their return to school complete the make-up work.

**Grading**:

Grading of this course is broken down by percentages:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Percentage** |
| Class Participation | 30% |
| Performances | 40% |
| Class Worksheets | 10% |
| Written Quizzes | 10% |
| Written Tests | 10% |

**Homework Policy**: Very rarely will homework ever be given due to most students not having a keyboard or computer at their home to practice. However, occasionally, I might ask students to write me something for homework. Once again, this will be rare – so, don’t think you’re going to have homework all the time! I know your time is precious! ☺