

# Johnson Senior High School CHOIR Syllabus 2014-2015

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## Course Description/Class Content:

Choral Ensembles provide opportunities for students to meet musical standards by singing in a chorus. Students learn fundamental choral practices using choral literature from a variety of musical styles. Students accept the responsibility to participate in public performances beyond the school day.

## Course Goals: Students will...

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of music, including melody, rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tone, texture, form, vocabulary, style, and technique.
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of the personal, social, cultural and historical contexts that influence music.
- 3) Rehearse and create various warm-ups in preparation for singing.
- 4) Rehearse and perform music from a variety of contexts and styles, alone or within small or large groups.
- 5) Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of musical works and performances.
- 6) Perform in concerts with opportunities to participate in contests, musicals, and singing festivals.

## Course Texts/Materials:

Course materials are provided. Students bring a pencil every day. Students are also encouraged to bring a water bottle in order to stay comfortably hydrated for singing. Students will eventually use I-pads to research music and for note-reading/rhythm/sight-singing work. Cell phone use is prohibited during class.

## Grading/Evaluation/Assessment:

Grading is based upon students' progress toward the standards using the following curve:

A+ = 100%, A = 95%, A- = 90%, B+ = 85%, B = 80%, B- = 75%, C+ = 70%, C = 65%, C- = 60%,  
D+ = 55%, D = 50%, D- = 45%, N (no credit) = Less than 45%.

Daily Participation = 30% of the grade. Concert participation = 30%. Tests and Written Work = 20%.

Skill development (vocal technique, ear training, rhythmic accuracy, sight-singing) = 20%.

**Honors Choir Students** are expected to complete more advanced work in music theory, actively participate in leadership roles in choir, and participate in solo/ensemble contests and festivals, such as Ordway and MMEA.

## Attendance and Participation Policy:

Students are expected to attend choir every day. **Unexcused** absences will affect the **participation** grade. If you must be absent due to illness or for any legitimate reason, be sure to provide a written note from home so that the office staff records the absence as "excused." Students absent from a performance will not be allowed to make up the points lost except in cases of serious emergency, such as a death in the family.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Required Performances During the 2014-15 School Year Include:**

**\*Concert Dates:** November 6, November 20 with Young People's Chorus of New York City (1-3 p.m.), December 11, March 19, April 10 (with MN Sinfonia), April 30, May 20 (Honors Night), & June 4(graduation). Some students are selected by audition for the Ordway Honors Concert. Rehearsals for Ordway this year are Saturday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 14. The Ordway Concert is the evening of April 14.

**Contests & Festivals:** Optional: September 27 (Men only), and March 5, 2015. Large group contest: March 26.

\*Thursday concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Singers report to the choir room at 6:00 p.m.

**Assignment #1 - Due by Friday, September 5, 2015:** Review this syllabus, sign it, and return it for 10 points.

Student Name (**Printed**) \_\_\_\_\_ Folder #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_