

## **Chorus – 9/10 and 11/12**

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### **Class outline:**

We will be studying singing, sight reading, music genres and performances, critiquing music, writing music, etc. There will be daily work in multiple topics.

How will we study singing in the classroom when we aren't permitted to do it together in class yet? Good question!

- We will study and practice the many elements that go into singing – posture, breathing, diction, etc. We will apply these to specific songs that we are learning. Some of these I can demonstrate live in class. Some of them I will demonstrate (both in class and online) with pre-recorded videos.
- We will hum.
- We will use vocal learning tracks (see below) to learn parts.

### **You will need your Chromebook in class with earbuds or headphones!**

The first three songs that we will be learning and recording virtually are the Star-Spangled Banner and The CASH Alma Mater (as always), and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough”. I had also bought new music that was recommended by students in a poll during the Spring shutdown. We will add some of those numbers, as well as some from our extensive library. We will cover many styles and learn what it takes to do each one of them well!

I will create part-specific videos with me conducting and your part being sung/highlighted. You will use them in class and at home to learn your part. When you record yourself, you will be watching me conduct and listening through earbuds/headphones. This should result in all of us being together on all the details of breathing, entrances and releases, consonants, dynamics, etc.

Our goal is to be able to post two online, invitation-only concerts. I’ve done one virtual piece, and it worked OK, but I also learned a few things that I will incorporate into our work this year. My weak spot so far is the video end of things, so I will be doing some learning and will welcome help from those of you who have experience!

If CoVID restrictions ease up, we may schedule a live, in-person concert. You will need the proper concert attire for this (see the syllabus). Also, we may record some of our virtual songs with you wearing concert attire (rather than street clothes). In fact, the possibilities for “costuming” are endless with a virtual choir!

### **Procedures:**

Enter on time (no excuses with the new bell schedule), use hand sanitizer, get your folder and be seated. Phones turned off. Late passes go in the basket on the piano. If there is music playing as you enter, we will be discussing it during class so tune in. Check for information on the board and start working.

Seven minutes before the bell, we will begin to wrap up whatever we are doing, sanitize our desks and chairs, and prepare to dismiss. Three minutes before the bell, those who need to go to the Min building will be dismissed. If we find that this is enough/not enough time, we will adjust it.

### **Plans for online:**

A lot of what we are doing can be transferred to online through Canvas. If you are personally quarantined, I will post as much of our daily in-class activity there as I can.

If we are totally closed down, whether it's for 3 days or longer, the entire class will be posted there. So be sure to check daily for updates and new material! We will also have periodic Zoom meetings so we can see each other; so I can demonstrate certain things that are easier in-person than pre-recorded; and so I can answer questions for everyone's benefit.

### **Student responsibilities:**

1. Attendance and **positive** participation at all classes and performances.
2. Completion of all in-class or homework assignments.

**Grading:**

1. This class receives 1 academic credit.
2. Class attendance, punctuality and participation – 5 points per day
3. Performance assignments (recording yourself for virtual choir performances) – 25 points each song
4. Concerts (when we are permitted) – 50 points each
5. Classwork/Homework – as assigned

**Concerts: This section will apply once we are permitted to perform publicly.**

- Concert dates will be posted on social media and the Conneaut School District building calendar. [www.conneautareamusic.org](http://www.conneautareamusic.org); On Facebook at “Conneaut Area Music”.
- Attendance is required at all concerts. Concerts are the major “exams” for Chorus. Once dates are announced, it is your responsibility to arrange for transportation, job absence, etc.

**Student concert and performance attire (unless specifically announced otherwise):**

***All clothing must meet the CSD dress code.*** Unless informed otherwise, **required** attire for concerts is:

- Ladies: Black skirt or slacks with black blouse or sweater; or a black dress.
- Gentlemen: Black slacks, black polo or dress shirt or sweater. Neckties are optional.
- Everyone: **Solid colors**, no patterns or variations. No jeans, shorts, t-shirts or sneakers.
- Accessories (neckties, scarves) will be in CASH colors – blue, silver, black. They should complement, not clash.

Attire for virtual performances will vary by song, from regular concert attire to street clothes to specific costumes or color schemes or styles.

**PMEA and extracurricular vocal ensembles:**

There will be no PMEA District/Region festivals this year. PMEA has announced that they will have some type of online All-State program this year, but we have no details yet. This would apply to grades 10-12.

Since we are not yet permitted to “sing” in class, our CASH Men’s, Women’s and co-ed Vocal Ensemble are “on hold”. These have traditionally met during “tutorial” (now “Lunch and Learn”) and after school. We will see how things develop.

**Please SIGN AND RETURN THIS SYLLABUS UNDERSTANDING SHEET**

I have read and understand the syllabus for the Chorus/Choir 2020-2021 class.

(PARENT signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(STUDENT signature) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_