

VARSLITY CHOIR SYLLABUS

MUS241 (Sem. 1), MUS242 (Sem. 2)

1.2 Credits

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Please take time to read this syllabus and keep a copy in your choir folder to refer back to it when you need information.

WELCOME to Varsity Choir! I'm so glad you're here. The Varsity Choir is made up of freshman through senior girls who want to have a great time and love to sing. Varsity Choir is open to all, and will perform SSA choral literature. There may be occasions that the Varsity Choir may combine with the other choirs to have more appropriate voicing or for a festival situation.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Varsity Choir is a non-auditioned mixed choir open to students in all grades. It is designed to develop music reading skills, vocal health, and vocal technique through a variety of musical styles. The primary objective is vocal development using easy to intermediate music. Teamwork, responsibility, and leadership skills are also developed in this class. Varsity Choir meets three times weekly all year.

STANDARDS

Below is a list of the national standards for Choral Music. The National Core Art Standards guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school.

Creating

- Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.

Performing/ Presenting/ Producing

- Anchor Standard #4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Responding

- Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Connecting

- Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

ASSESSMENTS

After each concert, students will have an opportunity for self-assessment. These will serve as both formative assessment to chart progress throughout the year, and summative assessment for each concert series.

Quizzes covering vocabulary and other musical concepts will be given throughout the year.

MISSED PERFORMANCES

WORK IS NEVER AN EXCUSED ABSENCE. NO MAKE UP WILL BE ALLOWED.

1. Tell Mr. Slade at least **1 WEEK PRIOR** to the event you will be missing.
2. You will complete a "Missed Performance Make-Up Assignment"
3. Complete the assignment in the time allowed.
4. Your grade will be changed **AFTER** your assignment has been turned in.

CONCERT ATTIRE

For the Dubuque Senior High Choir concerts the students shall wear the following (unless otherwise specified):
Note: There will be a \$25 rental fee for tuxedo and skirt rental and a \$20 fee for tuxedo shirts. There will be more information about this later as we begin to check out uniforms.

BOYS

Black tuxedo pants and jacket. (Provided by DSHS)
White tuxedo shirt and red bow tie and cummerbund.
Black dress shoes. (NOT tennis shoes, NOT boots, NOT Sketchers) See Mr. Slade if you need shoes!
Black socks
Black tuxedo studs

GIRLS

Black skirt (Provided by DSHS)
BLACK DRESS SHIRT/BLOUSE. NO –T-shirts
Black dress shoes (NO flip-flops, NO sandals, NO dangerous heels, NO tennis shoes, and NO boots)
Black tights or trouser socks

TARDIES & HALL PASSES

Ask Mr. Slade before leaving the Choir Room for any reason. You will be allowed to use the restroom freely unless this is continually abused.
Have your Student Handbook with you to record your pass to leave for locations other than to the bathroom

TRAVEL

There may be some events that require us to travel to either another school or another city. The Department handbook release will serve as a driving permission form.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phone use during class is disrespectful. We are an ensemble. This means that, in order to be successful, we need the full cooperation of EACH AND EVERY MEMBER of the ensemble. Turn your cell phones off and put them out of sight. Tell your friends and parents phones will be off during class; that you want to fully engage in learning. There is an electronics policy discussed in your student planner; please familiarize yourself with it. If you choose to disrespectfully use your phone during class, it will affect your grade via your participation points. Students who use cell phones during class receive no credit participation point for that day. Eventually, disciplinary action will occur (see “Disciplinary Measures”).
No student will ever have a cell phone in use at a concert either during or as an audience member during the performance of other ensembles. If I see your cell out you will receive no credit for the performance.

“The use of cell phones is prohibited in classrooms unless authorized by the teacher. Cell phones must be kept out of sight during class time. The continual use of cell phones during class could result in confiscation of the phone. The student is first warned by the teacher. The second violation results in the phone being taken to the Assistant Principal office. The student may pick up the phone at the end of the day. The third violation results in the confiscation of the phone and a parent/guardian retrieving the phone.”

Attendance at the following concerts is required for completion of your grade:

Students enrolled in MUS241 and 242 are required to participate in all performances of the class. Students missing a performance can complete the following assignment to fulfill this curricular requirement. The student will perform the literature from the missed performance for Mr. Slade and/or the music department faculty. The faculty will use the IHSMA grading rubric. The student is responsible for scheduling and making up missed work within two days per day of the absence/illness.

October 16	Jazz Desserts Concert		3pm	Nora Gym
December 19	Winter Concert	7pm	Aud	
March 9	“Music in our Schools Month” concert	7pm	Aud	
March 21	DCSD Choral Festival		6:30	Hempstead
May 19	Music Dept. Awards Concert		7 pm	Aud
June 3	Graduation		1pm	Five Flags

CHOIR LETTERS

Throughout your time in the DSHS Choirs you will have the opportunity to earn points for activities in which you are involved. The more points you earn the better your chance to earn Choir letters and awards! (See handbook)

CHOIR AUDITIONS

Auditions for Concert Choir and Chamber Choir will take place each spring towards the end of the school year. Auditions for Senvoja, the vocal jazz choir, will be in December.

FUNDRAISING

There will be many fundraising opportunities during the year. Students will have individual accounts in the Music Department. This means that the more you sell and harder you work the more money you will get in return. The department fundraisers will include magazine sales, fruit sales, concessions at school events and other activities.

MUSIC BOOSTERS

For friends and family of our choir students we offer a growing Music Boosters organization. For more information on this group, please call Mr. Rowley at 552-5603. We consistently need parent volunteers for our events. Meetings are once a month, and are optional. This year the Music Boosters are working towards getting the Music Department an acoustic shell for our performances!

CALENDAR

All Music Department events will be listed in the Department Handbook. There may be updates or changes to these dates as the year progresses.

Please try and plan family vacations and events around large performances, i.e. concerts, festivals. Your attendance is part of your grade, but more importantly WE WILL MISS YOU and NEED YOUR TALENT!

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES-

- In Varsity Choir, we will learn to work together as an ensemble. Everyone brings something important.
- Private voice lessons are always encouraged
- Occasionally, you will have assignments related to the concept or unit that is being taught.

RESOURCES-

- www.dubuqueseniormusic.com will be an important resource for locating information or online forms.
- There is no textbook for this class. We will use a combination of choral octavos and worksheets.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

1. **RESPECT**
2. **BE PROMPT**
3. **GIVE EFFORT**
4. **BE PREPARED**
5. **HAVE FUN!**

Some things **NOT** allowed in Choir Room:

1. Negative attitudes
2. Gum/Non-water drinks/food

GRADING

Students will be graded on daily work, participation, and oral and written assessments as follows:

60% Daily Work:

40% Class Participation – student participates daily in class activities and rehearsals. Students earn 1 point per day for participation. Each point is worth 5%. Students who choose not to participate do not earn a participation point for that day.

15% written assessments and reflections

5% Performance Resume (*Students will learn to write and maintain a fine arts e-portfolio and resume.*) Check points are October 31, January 5, and May 15.

40% Projects: Quarterly Concerts – student participates in the quarterly concerts, complete a self-assessment, and set goals following each quarterly concert.

PERFORMANCES

COMMUNICATION PLAN-

- Dubuque Senior High School Choir uses Facebook, Twitter (DSHS_Chair), Remind, Email lists and the occasional text message for communication and reminders about upcoming or important events.
- Letters will be sent home to parents via email for reminders and updates throughout the year.
- When necessary, Mr. Slade will contact parents via phone regarding important events or specific instances that arise during the year.

THANKS FOR BEING HERE!

See the Choir website for a link to the Music Department calendar for all the dates and times for this year. Add these dates to your family calendar now! You can also join our group page on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!