

**Plymouth Middle Schools
Music Program
Course Syllabus**

Course Name Chorus
Grades Grade 8

Course Description

This course is a vocal ensemble for any eighth grade student. Emphasis will be to continue developing vocal technique, ensemble skills, and performance experience with musical styles from a variety of musical genre. Students will sing independently in 2 and 3 parts. Students will be encouraged to explore solo music. The chorus will develop musical reading skills using standard notation. Students will be expected to participate in all performances both during school hours and evening performances.

Instructional Objectives

Students will:

1. Use correct vocal techniques and posture;
2. Use correct pronunciation skills with clear consonants and open vowel sounds;
3. Sing in 2 parts and simple 3 part music;
4. Improvise melodies and compose simple melodies;
5. Identify and describe basic elements of music: beat, tempo, rhythm, meter, pitch, melody, texture, dynamics, and form;
6. Use appropriate terminology in describing music, music notation, and music performances;
7. Respond to music using movement and choreography;
8. Develop and maintain an effective practice routine; and
9. Develop and demonstrate appropriate rehearsal, performance, and audience behavior.

Text and Instructional Materials

Middle School Choral Library; Selected choral octavos
Sight singing sheets
Essential Repertoire for 2/3 parts
SEMSBA and SE District Music
All-Town Repertoire

Performance Opportunities

Students will perform in regularly scheduled evening performances throughout the school year. Additional performance opportunities may include:

- SEMSBA and SE District (auditioned regional honors groups)
- All – Town Choral Festival
- Small ensembles
- Invitational concerts

Grading Policy

Student grades are determined by their performance through multiple tasks and assignments.

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| Performances | 40% |
| Performance Assessments/Participation | 30% |
| Homework and practice | 15% |
| Cooperation/Class Preparation | 15% |

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Learning Sequence

Term 1

- Review of note reading
- Partner songs
- Voice range exploration
- Junior District audition requirements (optional)
- Sight singing
- Review of intervals
- Improvisation assignment
- Preparation for Holiday Concert

Term 2

- Holiday concert
- Junior SEMSBA audition requirements (optional)
- Small group singing
- Rhythm tests
- Improvisation and composition assignment
- Sight singing
- Preparation for All-Town Choral Festival

Term 3

- 3 part singing
- Rhythm tests
- Improvisation and composition assignment
- Sight singing
- Preparation for spring concert
- Southeast Jr. District Music Festival (qualifying students)
- Possible Music Festival/Competition
- Spring musical tryouts
- All Town Choral Festival

Term 4

- Spring concert
- Jr. SEMSBA Music Festival (qualifying students)
- Final performance assessments
- Sight singing
- Composition assignment
- Final exam
- Self assessment/group assessment
- End of the year review/reflections
- Musical performance
- Attend high school choral performance