

Correia Middle School Choir Syllabus 2018-2019

Dear Choir Students and Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the start of a new school year at Correia Middle School. I am thrilled that you have chosen to participate in choir as your elective. It is my goal to make you aware and keep you updated about the events, expectations and procedures of the Choir class this year. Please take the time to read through the material carefully. If you should have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at any time or check for periodic updates on the correiamusic.com website. No performing arts program can succeed without parental support and communication.

Sincerely,

Ina Soliz
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Correia Choir is a year-long standards-based elective class that provides instruction in the basic principles of musicianship, vocal production, standard choral literature and performance.

SUPPLIES

- A folder for music storage (supplied)
- A sharpened pencil with eraser
- School planner
- Water is not mandatory, but highly recommended

Students are expected to be prepared with all materials at the start of every class period.

PERFORMANCES

The Correia Middle School Choir will be performing at the **Spooktacular Event on Thursday, October 25th, the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 20th at 5pm, and the Spring Concert on Thursday, May 30th at 5pm.** Dates for other performances, such as the CMEA Middle School Choir Festival, will be given at least 4 weeks in advance. Participation in these performances is mandatory and equivalent to a final exam. If a student is unable to attend, please notify Mrs. Soliz at least one week before the

performance, and an alternative assignment will be given. Failure to notify Mrs. Soliz of your absence from the concert may result in a failing grade.

CONCERT ATTIRE

It is customary for choirs to dress in a uniform manner at concerts to improve the overall look of the performance. Choir students are asked to dress nicely in black and white, or all black, from head to toe. School dress code must be considered when selecting appropriate concert attire.

CHOIR CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to behave in a manner that allows teaching and learning to take place. This includes a responsibility to follow Correia Middle School expectations (outlined in student planners) as well as the following Choir Classroom Expectations:

The Correia Choir relies upon each member to rehearse and perform to the best of their ability. The action of one member directly affects all the other members of the group.

Members of the Correia Choir are ambassadors that represent their music department, their school, their community, and their city at various musical events throughout the school year. Appropriate professional behavior must be exhibited at all times. When performing on or off campus, it is important that each student conducts himself/herself in a manner that reflects favorably upon the individual, group, and school.

Citizenship

Citizenship will be evaluated using the Correia Middle School Citizenship rubric, as well as the following:

Readiness to learn:

1. Prepare for learning when you enter the room - and use the bathroom *before* class!
2. Be in seat and ready when the bell rings.
3. Throw away or conceal food, drinks (except water), gum, hats, and electronics ***before you enter the classroom.***
4. Have all supplies ready for each rehearsal.
5. Stay focused during class, listening carefully to directions.

Classroom Conduct:

1. Be respectful of yourself, others, and all property.
2. Use appropriate language.
3. Dress in an appropriate manner as stated in the student handbook.
4. During rehearsal, stay focused and ask questions by raising your hand when needed.

Display on task behavior:

1. During rehearsal, maintain attention - listen more than you talk.
2. Begin and end all pieces with silence; stop promptly and quietly if directed.
3. Keep distractions away (including other schoolwork, makeup, food, hats, and electronics).
4. Be an active participant
5. Wait for instruction from the director before packing up.

Be respectful to others:

1. Act appropriately to the classroom setting: be polite, attentive, and non-disruptive.
2. Treat teachers, substitutes, other students, yourself, and all property kindly and gently.
3. Keep a positive attitude and maintain a desire to learn. Contribute to the choir!
4. Desire to gain a better understanding, appreciation, and love for your voice and the choral repertoire, and to develop your musical potential to the fullest!

If you are **unable to sing** for a day for whatever reason, you are expected to fully participate in the class. This means following along with the music, lip syncing, and marking the score. **You may not read a book, draw/doodle, or do homework.** At the end of rehearsal you will submit the required form documenting what you heard in the rehearsal and what instructions were given in order to receive credit for the day.

PERFORMANCES

Every choral group member is expected to attend all of the group's activities. All performances are REQUIRED and are part of the grade. All performances and rehearsal dates will be given to you well in advance in order for you to make necessary arrangements in your schedules (i.e. work or other personal activities). Students with a prolonged illness such as the flu, surgery, or other debilitating injury, should submit a physician's note for excuse.

Any performance is a moment that **cannot be recreated**. During a performance, each student's ability, knowledge, and training are at their sharpest and fullest state. We are judged by our performances. When you are absent, it affects the entire ensemble. It is therefore critical that each member of the ensemble attend every performance and support his/her fellow group members. This is called team spirit and shows dedication and responsibility.

Concerts and performances are set at least 6 weeks in advance; because of this, ALL performances are mandatory, unless otherwise stated. Failure to make a performance will result in an F for the performance and will subsequently lower your grade. The only acceptable excuses for missing a concert would include verified serious illness, bereavement, family emergency, or the observation of a religious holiday. In these

cases, students will be allowed to make up the performance by singing every note of the missed performance for the teacher.

ATTENDANCE:

Daily Rehearsals

It is crucial that you are in class everyday and an effective rehearsal requires complete mental and physical involvement. Additionally, choir works like a team so when you are absent, we miss out and you miss out which hurts the team. *It is your responsibility to come and get any work you missed while you were absent.* See Mrs. Soliz during Advisory or before school to discuss what you have missed. You have the number of days absent to make up missed work without penalty.

MAKE UP PROVISIONS

Homework, tests, quizzes

All exams, tests, quizzes, and homework that are missed due to an excused absence can be made up. In most cases, make up work should be completed upon return to school. In some severe cases, the student/parent can make special arrangements as necessary with Mrs. Soliz without penalty. If one week has passed since the student was absent and the student has made no attempt to contact the teacher or make up the work, the grade will result in an automatic "0".

ASSESSMENT/GRADING PERCENTAGES:

Music Literacy/Participation 80%	Performances 20%
This category includes all music reading assignments, sight reading tests, music worksheets, ear training assignments, quizzes, etc. It also includes other daily assignments necessary for effective participation in the daily rehearsal but not directly related to music literacy (analyzing poetry of a text, practice reports, marking the score, etc.)	This category includes all required curricular dress rehearsals and performances.

Students can earn up to 20 points in Daily Participation using the following rubric:

Preparation (5pts)

- Has folder when the bell rings
- Choir Music
- Pencil

Learning Involvement (5pts)

- Actively sings as instructed
- Studies individual part silently while teacher works with another section
- Keeps binder up to date

Correct Vocal Production (5pts)

- Correct Posture (feet on floor, head level, back straight, music held sternum high, shoulders relaxed)
- Correct Breathing (activated diaphragm-support the sound)
- Correct mouth position (jaw dropped with a vertical mouth shape)

Choral Behavior (5pts)

- Is on time (in seat when the bell rings)
- Moves promptly and quietly to assigned seat
- Remains on task
- Is not distracting
- Displays positive learning attitude
- No gum, candy, or food (water is encouraged!)
- Remains in seat during rehearsal
- Enters and exits the classroom properly