

# **Perry High School Choir Syllabus**

2018-2019



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# Welcome

Welcome to the Perry High School choral program! I am excited that you have decided to sing in choir.

All Perry choirs will sing a diverse set of choral literature that includes music from many styles and time periods. The Perry choral program consists of the following ensembles:

## **Intermediate Choir**

This mixed ensemble provides an opportunity for students to learn basic vocal technique and musicianship while develop an understanding of the skills and attitudes necessary for success as a member of a performing group.

## **Women's Choir**

This ensemble of female singers is selected by audition. Members of this choir have prior experience in choral music or other vocal performance settings. In this group, students build on the foundation of their knowledge to improve their musicianship and performance skills. Most music performed by this ensemble is in three-part harmony.

## **Advanced Women's Choir**

This treble choir performs advanced repertoire. Singers in this group demonstrate independence and intrinsic motivation in rehearsal as well as strong sight-reading skills. Most music performed by this ensemble includes four or more harmony parts. Members are strongly encouraged to audition for Regional and/or All-State Choir.

## **Concert Choir**

This advanced mixed choir includes experienced singers who have developed the musical skills and attitudes necessary for performing challenging literature at a high level. Singers demonstrate strong sight-reading skills, dedication, and a professional approach to singing. Members are strongly encouraged to audition for Regional and All-State Choir.

## **Jazz Choir**

This advanced ensemble performs jazz as well as contemporary a cappella. Singers must be independent musicians with outstanding sight-reading skills and the ability to confidently sing a challenging vocal part in a small group or alone. Members are strongly encouraged to audition for Regional and/or All-State Choir.

# Objectives

1. Develop the vocal technique and aural skills required for singing beautifully and artistically in an ensemble or as a soloist.
2. Read music fluently.
3. Develop an understanding of music theory and its connection to performance.
4. Develop an appreciation for music of different styles and time periods.
5. Perform a diverse repertoire of vocal music with accuracy and expressiveness.

# Grading

In addition to performances, choir students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge of important musical skills and concepts. All grades will fall into one of the following categories, which are weighted as shown:

## **40% - Performances/Tests**

This includes concerts as well as written or performance-based assessments.

## **40% - Assignments**

This includes activities that build musicianship and prepare students for performances and tests. Examples are sight-reading practice sheets, score markings, music theory assignments, and small group performances in class.

## **20% - Rehearsal**

This reflects the student's performance in the essential musical skill of rehearsing.

- Every student must actively participate in rehearsal daily to work toward individual growth and to contribute to the improvement of the group as a whole.
- Choir members must be prepared with their folder, sheet music, and pencil at all times.
- Students must avoid actions that disrupt the rehearsal process or take the place of appropriate activities.

# Class Supplies

1. 1/2-inch three-ring binder
2. Pencil

# Classroom Expectations

1. Treat others with kindness and respect.
2. Do not talk while the teacher or another student is talking.
3. Actively participate at all times.
4. Arrive on time and prepared for class.
5. Do not use electronic devices during class unless given specific permission.
6. Do not eat or drink anything other than water in the classroom.

Choices made by individual students during class can positively or negatively affect their own learning as well as other students' experience and the success of the group as a whole. Additionally, personal conduct at public performances reflects not only on students but also the director, the choral program, the school, and the district.

Think, "If everyone were doing what I am doing right now, how would it work out?" *Individual* actions must reflect a *group* mentality. Think "we," not "me."

## Consequences

Any student who does not meet expectations may face the following consequences:

- Teacher/student conference
- Parent contact
- Alternate seating assignment
- Office referral
- Removal from rehearsal/performance setting
- Removal from class

## Concert Etiquette

Audience members are encouraged to follow established standards for formal concerts. This helps provide a positive experience for performers and audience members.

- Refrain from talking or using electronic devices during the performance.
- Enter/exit the auditorium only between songs.
- Prevent disruptions by silencing electronic devices and removing small children who are making noise.
- Wait to applaud until the conductor lowers his/her hands to indicate the completion of a piece of music.
- Students must stay for the full duration of each concert as a courtesy to other performers.

# Attendance and Tardy Policy

Choir members have a responsibility to be present and on time to class, performances, and after-school rehearsals.

1. After the 4<sup>th</sup> unexcused tardy to class (and each subsequent tardy), the student will be issued an administrative referral, which may result in lunch detention or in-school suspension.
2. Attendance at performances is mandatory and counts for a significant grade.
3. Rehearsals outside of the regular school day are infrequent and will be scheduled only as necessary. They will be announced at least two weeks in advance to allow students to request time off from work and plan around other activities. Therefore, attendance at these rehearsals will be required and graded.
4. Absence from concerts and after-school rehearsals will only be excused for medical or family emergencies or situations outside the student's control within reason as determined by Mr. Staley. In such cases, an alternate assignment may be given.
5. If you expect to miss an after-school rehearsal or performance, you must notify Mr. Staley by email at least one week in advance. In every case of absence, an email from the parent/guardian is required for documentation.
6. Examples of unexcused absences include but are not limited to:
  - Lack of transportation
  - Work
  - Babysitting family members

# Concert Attire

## **Women**

- Dresses must be hemmed so that the bottom is 1 inch above the floor while wearing the shoes that will be worn during performance.
- Do not cut any material off the dress, and do not use any kind of tape on the fabric.
- Wear closed-toe black shoes. Flats or heels are acceptable. Do not wear athletic shoes, flip flops, or sandals.
- Hair accessories should be neutral or black. Keep jewelry to a minimum.

## **Men**

- Students will be fitted for a tuxedo at school.
- Men must provide their own black dress socks and black dress shoes for performances.
- Vests and bow ties will be provided by the school.

## **Jazz Choir**

- Jazz Choir concert attire will be selected during the first quarter. Students in Jazz Choir may be required to pay a fee for concert attire during the school year.

# Class Fees

There is a \$75 class fee for Women's Choir, Advanced Women's Choir, and Concert Choir. These funds are for concert attire and sheet music. Please pay this fee in the bookstore by Friday, August 17.

# 2018-2019 Calendar

## **Performance Dates**

- Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 7:00 PM, PHS Auditorium – Fall Concert
- Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 7:00 PM, PHS Auditorium– Winter Concert
- Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 7:00 PM, PHS Auditorium – Spring Concert
- Thursday, May 16, 2019, 7:00 PM, PHS Auditorium – Pop Concert
  
- Tuesday, May 28, 2019 – 6:00 PM, ASU Wells Fargo Arena – Graduation (Concert Choir only)

Call times for students will vary depending on the ensemble in which they sing and will be communicated directly to students closer to the performance date. Any additional performances will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

## **Honor Choir Opportunities**

Students may choose to audition for three honor choir events throughout the school year. If selected, students will participate in field trips where they will study and perform with outstanding students from other parts of the state and learn from collegiate choral conductors. Participation in Regional Honor Choir is a prerequisite to audition for All State Choir.

- Monday, August 20, 2018 – All State Jazz/Show Choir Audition Registration
- Saturday, September 15, 2018 – All State Jazz/Show Choir Live Auditions
- Thursday-Saturday, November 15-17, 2018 – All State Jazz/Show Choir Event
  
- Monday, November 26, 2018 – Regional Honor Choir Audition Registration
- Friday-Saturday, January 25-26, 2019 – Regional Honor Choir Live Auditions
- Friday-Saturday, February 15-16, 2019 – Regional Honor Choir Event
  
- Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – All State Choir Audition Registration
- Friday-Saturday, March 8-9, 2019 – All State Choir Live Auditions
- Thursday-Saturday, April 11-13, 2019 – All State Choir Event

## **Choir Banquet**

- Wednesday, May 22, 2019 – PHS Cafeteria



# 2018-2019 Perry High School Choir Syllabus Signature Page

**Complete and return by Friday, August 10, 2018 for an assignment grade.**

I have read the 2018-2019 Perry High School Choir Syllabus on Mr. Staley's website.

I understand and accept the responsibilities and requirements for this class in the following areas:

- Performance Dates
- Performance Attire
- Expectations
- Grading Policy
- Attendance/Tardiness
- Dress Code
- Fees

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Student Name

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Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Email (please write **legibly**)