

**Course Syllabus
Pueblo East High School**

Teacher: Andrew Watson

Course Title: Honors Advanced Women's Choir

Colorado Music Standards: Performance Pathway

Music Standard #1: Expression of Music

1. Perform accurately and expressively, demonstrating self-evaluation and personal interpretation at the minimal level of 3 on the difficulty rating scale
2. Perform music accurately and expressively at the first reading at the minimal level of 2 on the difficulty rating scale
3. Participate appropriately as an ensemble member while performing music at the minimal level of 3 on the difficulty rating scale
4. Demonstrate requisite performance skill sets appropriate for postsecondary Pursuits

Music Standard #2: Creation of Music

1. Improvise a stylistically appropriate vocal or instrumental solo over a given harmonic progression
2. Compose complex music in several distinct styles
3. Arrange selections for voices and/or instruments other than those for which they were written in ways that preserve and enhance the expressive effect of the music

Music Standard #3: Theory of Music

1. Interpretation of musical elements and ideas
2. Classification by genre, style, historical period or culture
3. Evaluation of music using critical, informed analysis

Music Standard #4: Aesthetic Valuation of Music

1. Practice of appropriate behavior during cultural activities
2. Evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of musical performances
3. Development of criteria-based aesthetic judgment of artistic process and products in music
4. Knowledge of available musical opportunities for continued musical growth and professional development

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS:

This class is designed as an advanced mixed choir consisting of 10th – 12th grade students that have auditioned and been accepted into the ensemble. Students will sing a wide variety of music in Unison, SAB, SATB, and eventually SSAATTBB arrangements. Music standards 1, 2, 3, and 4 will be stressed daily. The choir will perform in at least 2 concerts during the semester. The group will also sing at extra performances throughout the community. The music literature studied will be fitted to the capabilities of the students and will also meet music standards. The difficulty level of the music will increase as the year progresses. Students who perform successfully in this group will have the opportunity to continue on in Les Jongleurs or Honors Les Jongleurs next year.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Lessons will begin with very basic skills to determine students' knowledge and proficiency and will continue from there. Students will learn basic warm-up techniques involving major, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales along with major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads. Rehearsal will be held every day and proper rehearsal etiquette will be described and then expected. Key signatures, musical terms, musical signs, scales, note names, and musical expression terms will be introduced. The music literature selected will incorporate and support these ideas and will progress gradually in difficulty and sophistication. The choir will also sing music from different time periods and different musical styles.

ASSIGNMENTS:

The choir must learn to work together as a "whole." With this being a primary goal for making good music daily attendance is extremely important! Class time is rehearsal time; the time that all of the skills the choir must attain are introduced and practiced. Your daily assignment IS to rehearse with the group. Substitute assignments will be given for *excused* absences but please note that these assignments can in no way make up for the lack of practice with the group.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment is accomplished in several ways. Formative performance assessment is done on a daily basis. In a group situation, the choir must perform the music in a superior manner, following all the guidelines that have been presented and taught. On an individual basis, students will be given written assessments on musical terms. Verbal assessments will be given from time to time and sections will be required to sing their parts individually. Students will NOT be forced to sing alone (NOT including solo auditions). Students may sing individually if they are willing. Others will be allowed to sing in pairs.

ATTENDANCE STANDARDS:

Excellent attendance is expected! Each student is given 10 points a day for active participation in class. If a student is absent, they will have 2 days after returning to find out what their written assignment will be to make up the points lost. If a student has an unexcused absence no points will be received. Rehearsals during concert weeks are worth double the points (20) of a regular rehearsal. Concerts account for 100 points. The same policy applies. For extra performances not already scheduled, the choir will vote on whether to accept the invitation to perform. If a student votes for a performance and we decide to do it, then that student **MUST** attend. If a student votes against an extra performance, they must inform me at that time of the reason and they will be excused. If a student is an athlete or spirit leader and has an event at the same time as our performance, then he or she is excused IF I am informed at least 2 (two) weeks before the event. As for our regularly scheduled concerts, with the exception of the excuses noted, all students must be there. **AND PLEASE NOTE:** Birthdays, anniversaries, your job, etc...are **NOT** legitimate excuses and will not be accepted.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS:

Cooperative individual behavior is absolutely necessary to be a successful choir. This type of course depends on group cooperation. If one person is being disruptive, the entire group suffers. Therefore, we should all do our best to see that everyone cooperates so the entire group can grow musically. A student who is not cooperating will be given one warning. The second infraction in the period receives detention and no points for the day. The third infraction in the same period results in a trip to the assistant principal's office. On any

subsequent day, there is a warning and steps two and three will be used. Excellent behavior is also expected at all performances. Behavior off-stage is as important as the performance on stage. If a student is disrespectful to other performers by talking, etc., all of the points for that performance will be taken away. Though this may seem strong, it is stressing a very important principle. We MUST show courtesy to other performers and the rest of the audience.

It is also expected that all students show respect to each as well as the instructor. If a student is performing, all students must show respect. This is insisted upon. No student should be made to feel inferior musically or otherwise. I am here to encourage students to grow and expect the rest of the group to also encourage growth.

GRADING SCALE:

93-100% = A

85-92% = B

78-84% = C

72-77% = D

71% or below = F

Honors students must type a critique of each concert involving music standards. (200 words or more) Keep it positive and constructive. There will also be another project assigned later in the semester. It is expected that honors students attend and critique several instrumental concerts as well as a concert at another area high school. These critiques are due 3 days after the concert.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

It is required that all parents or guardians read all of this material and then sign and return it to me. Parents are encouraged to call me at school (549-7245) or email at andrew.watson@pueblocitieschools.us to express suggestions or concerns. Parents are also welcome to attend any rehearsals and, of course, our concerts – it is always nice to have an audience to perform for. I have included a list of all the dates we have thus far. These do not include the dates we will vote upon as they come up. We will also have some fundraising projects throughout the school year. No one is required to do this, but participation will be very much appreciated.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION:

With our new “Magnet School” grant we should be getting the opportunity to start integrating technology into our music department in the form of music writing software and eventually some “Smart Music” practice programs. East has electric pianos for those who wish to practice piano skills. These are available during piano class, after school, or by special request.

SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS, TUTORING, AND ENRICHMENT:

Students are encouraged to participate in any musical groups here in the school or community. I am willing to stay after school and will be readily available during Advisement periods to offer any help I can. There will be opportunities to audition for All-City Choir, Adams State Honor Choir, All-State Choir (11th – 12th grade), and Solo and Ensemble Festival. I am available to assist in all of this. Students are also encouraged to participate in all musical and stage productions at East.

PARENTS, GUARDIANS, AND STUDENTS!

PLEASE SIGN THE SLIP AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE SHOWING THAT YOU HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS AND UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS.

RETURN IT Next Rehearsal!

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF THE DATES...

East High Music Calendar for 2017-2018

**Required by all choirs – PLEASE SAVE

OCTOBER

12-14 – All-State Choir Auditions – Vista Ridge High School

19 - ****Choir/Orchestra Concert – 7:00 pm – Auditorium**

NOVEMBER

3 – Pueblo Chorale Society – 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

14 – All-City Choir Concert – Centennial - 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

17-18 – CSU-P Honor Choir

DECEMBER

14 – ****Winter Holiday Choir Concert – 7:00 pm – Auditorium**

FEBRUARY

1-3 - All-State Choir – Denver

15-17 - Adam State Top of the Nation Honor Choir – Alamosa

MARCH

1-3 - Musical Performance - 7:00 pm - Auditorium

8 - ****Choir Concert with Heaton, and Risley – 7:00 pm - Auditorium**

10 – Solo & Ensemble

APRIL

12-13 – Large Group Festival – Pueblo West High School

19-20 – Greeley Jazz Festival

MAY

17 – ****Senior Farewell Choir Concert – 7:00 pm - Auditorium**

24 - Choir Banquet - 7:00 pm - Auditorium

JUNE

2 – Graduation – 8:00 am – Events Center

Return this bottom portion

Your signature says that you have read the syllabus and understand its content.

Honor Advanced Women's Choir

Student's name (printed)

Student's signature

Parent/Guardian signature

PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Stay up to date:

If you would like to stay up to date and know what is happening with East's choir program please join our parent Remind group. Simply start a text to 81010 with the message @choirpehs. This will allow you to get notifications about concerts, gigs, fundraisers and everything else that students might not share with you when they are at home!

Be sure to check us out on Facebook! Our group/page name is **East High School Vocal Music**, or visit our website easthighschoolchoir.weebly.com.

Help Out:

If you would like to help with fundraising, creating concerts 'goodie' bags, chaperoning field trips, helping with musical, etc; then please fill out the following information so that you are kept in the loop!

Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's choir: _____

Please check the following boxes if you would like to be part of:

Parents Promoting Music (A parent group that is involved with the music department both vocal and instrumental)

Choir Parents (A parent group for the choir program)

STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE EXTRA POINTS BY RETURNING BOTH PAGES SIGNED AND FILLED OUT!!!