

## 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorale

Mr. Zelamsky

2020-2021

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Welcome to chorus class! I will be using Google classroom to communicate during this time at home. Whether you are home or in school, you can grow as a singer! Please continue to practice daily and complete all assignments. You can do it!

This course will emphasize the correct vocal techniques used in ensemble singing. Through various vocal exercises and songs, students should deepen their understanding of the voice, creatively express the meaning of the lyrics, sing with confidence and vocal freedom, increase their sight singing ability and connect with others through music. This course will also enhance musical skills including music theory, music history, music technology, and aural skills. Students will have opportunities to sing solo in class, and will also be highly encouraged to sing at the NYSSMA solo festival at Kingston High School tentatively on either Friday, April 23rd or Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>!

**Topics Covered:** Breathing, Posture, Vocal Anatomy, Music Analysis, Performance, Vocal Music Terminology, Foreign Languages, Basic Music Theory, Sight Singing

**Musical Books:** The songs that we study during class will be provided and will be kept in a provided folder.

**Materials Needed:**

- Pencil
- Highlighter
- Water bottle (recommended)

**Lessons:**

All students will be placed into small group lessons on a rotating, pull-out basis once during the six-day cycle. Student attendance is expected unless the previously scheduled teacher objects for valid reason. Every quarter, students will be asked to sing melodic and rhythmic excerpts, and in-class ensemble repertoire for a grade.

**Performance Guidelines:**

- Be early for report times
- Come prepared physically and mentally
- Have proper musician etiquette while performing and backstage
- Concert/Performance attire- all Junior High Groups: Solid white on top, solid black on bottom.

**Grading:**

Classwork/Participation (Includes homework assignments and binder checks) 40%

Concerts/Assessments 40%

Lessons 20%

**Important Dates**

- **NYSSMA Solo Festival** - Tentatively Friday, April 23rd and Saturday, April 24th  
at Kingston High School

**Classroom Rules**

1. Arrive on time to class.
2. Do not talk when the teacher or other students are talking.
3. Respect other students and the teacher.
4. Raise your hand when you want to speak.
5. Have a positive attitude.
6. Keep the classroom tidy and respect all classroom supplies/equipment.
7. No food/gum in class.
8. No cell phones in class, unless specifically asked to take out for an activity.
9. Do your best.

**Disciplinary Consequences**

- Warning
- Parent/Guardian contact (if time & severity allows)
- Referral written
- ANY SERIOUS INFRACTIONS WILL BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE OFFICE

**Communication**

1. Google Classroom
2. Email- [jzelamsky@saugerties.k12.ny.us](mailto:jzelamsky@saugerties.k12.ny.us)
3. Website -go to [www.saugerties.k12.ny.us](http://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us)

**Upon completion of this course students will be able to:**

1. Sight sing according to their appropriate NYSSMA level
2. Perform using the correct rhythm, melody, breathing, artistic expression and vocal techniques
3. Increase their stage presence, posture and confidence
4. Construct and identify various musical elements throughout their songs of study
5. Understand the contextual meaning of various songs from classical vocal literature
6. Apply their understanding of the voice to produce a healthy, free tone quality without straining or pushing the voice.
7. Increase their music theory skills
8. Increase their knowledge of vowel and consonant production to create a beautiful tone quality
9. Increase their appreciation of various musical styles and genres

# Chorus Class Syllabus

Please sign below that you have read this syllabus and will support your child in Chorus class this year. Please return this form to Mr. Zelamsky by **September 18th**.

I look forward to working with your child this year and will do my best to help them reach their full potential in singing. Please feel free to contact me throughout the year if you have any questions or concerns! Thank you!

Parent/Guardian Phone # during the day: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian email: \_\_\_\_\_

Best form and time of communication: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature