

Seaquam Choir 8 - 12

Course Outline, Assessment and Evaluation Procedures and Policies

Students will be assessed and evaluated on three components of musicianship: Performance Skills (50%), Written Skills (20%), and Personal Responsibility (30%). Students will earn a letter grade for each term. In music the goal is progressive mastery of skills. For this reason students' grades are not averaged over the three terms to create a final mark for the course.

Student Progress Record

Each student will be given a progress record. The progress record will have all test and assignment marks on it, and because it is kept in the students' Choir Book both students and parents can see for themselves a student's level of mastery of musical skills at all times.

Individual Performance Tests are done in class in front of their fellow choir students or may be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom. The students are informed in advance what specific musical passages/exercises and elements (notes, text, tempo, etc) will be tested. As mastery of the material is the goal, students may re-sing a test at any time before the test material is performed, or the end of the term for scale or other technical tests.

Students may be given random "spot quizzes" if necessary. If a musical passage has been rehearsed in class, but requires individual practice to polish, this section will be deemed "learned" by the teacher. If in a future class the individual students have not polished this section, this section(s) will be given a spot quiz. All sections of the choir will be given an equal number of these quizzes in a term.

If a student is unable to play a scheduled test because of illness/injury the student must have a note, email or voice message from their parents **before** the test. If a student is absent on a test day, parents/guardians are to call absence the main office to report the student's absence. Please send an email to jsparrowng@deltaschools.ca before the test. Students who miss tests must make an appointment with me to make up their tests on their own time (most often right after class).

Group Performance Tests are concerts. Students must attend and are required to stay for the entire concert not just their ensemble's performance. Learning to be a respectful audience member and supporting one's fellow musicians is part of our curriculum. Confirmed concert dates for 2021/2022 are listed below. Please put these dates on your calendar now. The dates of other performances will be posted on Google Classroom and the Seaquam Music website as soon as they are confirmed.

Tuesday October 5	Squeak & Squawk	7:00 p.m.	Seaquam PAC
Wednesday November 10	Remembrance Day	9:00 a.m.	Seaquam PAC
Thursday November 25	Premiere Concert	7:00 p.m.	Seaquam PAC
January 20 and 21	Elementary Concerts	Specific Times	TBA
Thursday February 24	Spring Concert	7:00 p.m.	Seaquam PAC
April 4-11	Kiwanis Festival	Specific Times	TBA
Monday May 2	Music Monday	7:00 p.m.	Seaquam PAC
Thursday June 16	Final Concert	7:00 p.m.	Seaquam PAC

On extremely rare occasions students have an irreconcilable conflict with a concert. Unlike other tests, it is impossible for students to "make up" a Group Performance Tests. However, students will be able to make up a missing a Group Performance Test by completing a written assignment if they have met the following conditions.

- 1) The student must demonstrate that he/she has made every possible effort to resolve the conflict.
- 2) The student informs Ms. Sparrow-Ng in writing with enough notice so the student's part can be covered in order that the student's absence will not damage the performance of the ensemble.

If a student is so ill they cannot perform on the day of a concert, they must **phone** Ms. Sparrow-Ng directly first thing in the morning 604.591.6166 (local 6179).

Written Skills

Throughout the year students will be given various written assignments and tests (solfege exercises, text memorization, self-evaluation forms) to enhance the students' knowledge of general music theory and history and specific knowledge of the music they are performing.

As with Individual Performance tests, students may re-write a written test at any time the end of the term.

Personal Responsibility

"Every musician knows live performance is the ultimate chaos theory, there are things you don't even know enough to worry about, so I worry."

Neal Peart, drummer for *Rush*

So how to we ease the worry? By fulfilling our responsibility to our ensembles, fellow musicians, and musical art. Music is participatory. Students must be in classes, rehearsals, and concerts on time, prepared, and with all equipment.

Attendance

Other than music learning, I believe that one of the most important things students learn in a music class is how to work within a goal-oriented group on a long-term

basis. Music is a group project everyday. When you are absent the group is impacted in two ways. One, you miss the learning for the day which means you are behind, and two, the group is less able to rehearse fully as you part and your part are missing. This is why when professional musicians, must miss a rehearsal or concert, they are expected to arrange, and pay for, a substitute to take their place — yes, even for rehearsal!

Our class is Tuesday and Friday at 2:45 – 4:15, and will run all year. Our class is on the extended day schedule and is not extra-curricular, but a class same as classes scheduled during Blocks A through D, and attendance expectations are the same. Students and parents are asked to schedule appointments at another time unless there is no other option. When something arises ask yourself the question, “Would I miss my Block C Math class to do this?” If the answer is no, you don’t miss Choir do to it either. Students are to arrange to make-up tests, work on group projects, and serve detentions etc at other times. All Seaquam teachers are made aware of when Choir is scheduled and a list of list of students who are in Choir is posted on MS Teams.

Students are required to demonstrate responsibility to the group by keeping absences to the bare minimum. Students will not be penalized for being absent, however, in order to earn full personal responsibility marks, by absences must be dealt with in the following way:

- 1) Having your parent/guardian having your parent/guardian report your absence to the main office (this is the best way as all a student's teacher's will be notified), leave a voice mail message 604.591.6166 (local 6179) before class on the morning you are away explaining your necessary absence, or bringing a note from your parent/guardian on the first class you are back. If you need to leave the school during the day, you must follow school procedure and sign out.

- 2) Immediately upon return, speaking with Ms. Sparrow-Ng and your section mates about the material you missed (technique, written, and rehearsal) and making an appointment to complete any missed tests and/or attending a noon-hour sectional if necessary to learn missed material.

Punctuality

Students must be in the music room, seated and ready to sing when class begins at 2:45 pm. Students who arrive to class music room late without a legitimate reason in writing from parent, doctor, dentist, or previous teacher, may be required to make up time lost.

Preparation

Students are expected to have their instrument, music folder, and pencil every day. Music is to be marked **in pencil** (bars numbered, solfege marked in, dynamics marked, etc.) as requested by the conductor.

Practice

"You, have to shed, you have to shed."

Wendell Pierce, quoting Jazz Musicians including Wynton and Branford Marsalis

Students are required to practice at home. Choir students are not given practice charts with a prescribed amount of practice time. However, students must be prepared for rehearsal. The purpose of the rehearsal portion of class not to learn each note and rhythm for each student or section, but rather to put all of the parts together and work on ensemble problems, style, balance and the musical expression. Students who are not prepared for rehearsal will be required to attend sectional or individual practice sessions under the supervision of the director or student tutor.

For each student to become the best musician possible, merely learning their "parts" for their music will not suffice. Students must practice technical exercises regularly in order to increase range and speed and develop beautiful tone.