

# Choral Music Ensemble Syllabus

## TREBLE CHOIR.....Grades 6

*Mr. A. Seigel / Mrs. D. Berchtold / Mr. D. Rothkopf / asst. Mr. J. Daniels*

**The Treble Choir is the basic introductory course in chorus and concentrates on the fundamentals of vocal / choral singing and performance.**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 may audition. Students are selected for the Treble Choir based on their auditions scores derived from their choral audition. Each student must maintain a positive discipline record and must maintain his/her grades. Students who encounter behavioral and /or academic problems during the year will be dealt with on an individual basis and in cooperation with the administration; continued problems may result in probation from the choral program.

Students will develop an understanding of the basic elements of melody, rhythm, harmony, and dynamics.

Students will gain music literacy skills (music reading, sight-reading, sight singing, singing technique and tone production) Students will develop skills in tonal matching, pitch recognition, scale singing, and fundamental choral singing in one and two part harmony.

Treble Choir members have a responsibility to perform at concerts, and attend all scheduled after school rehearsals and performances. The course also provides aesthetic experience in:

- a. creating and performing
- b. critical/ analytic/ judgment/valuing
- c. esthetic / personal philosophy
- d. historical /cultural /social concepts.

Students must maintain at least 60% attendance in this group.

## SHOW CHOIR..... Grades 6, 7, 8

*Mr. A. Seigel / Mrs. D. Berchtold / Mr. D. Rothkopf / asst. Mr. J. Daniels*

**The Show Choir is the advanced chorus ensemble. The group focuses on 2, 3, and 4 part harmonic choral works and integrating choreography/movement into the context of their performance.**

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 may audition. Students are selected for the Show Choir based on their auditions scores derived from their choral audition. Each student must maintain a positive discipline record and must maintain his/her grades. Students who encounter behavioral and /or academic problems during the year will be dealt with on an individual basis and in cooperation with the administration; continued problems may result in probation from the choral program.

Students work to refine and master elements of music such as melody, rhythm, harmony, dynamics, music reading, sight singing, and tone production. Choral music will be performed in two, three, and four part harmony. Members in this program have a responsibility to learn choreography, memorize music, and perform at concerts, competitions, festivals and all scheduled S.P.P. (Home Room) and after school rehearsals and performances. The course also provides aesthetic experience in:

- a. creating and performing
- b. critical/ analytic/ judgment/valuing
- c. aesthetic/personal philosophy
- d. historical/cultural/social concepts.
- e. interpretation and analysis of musical style, sounds, and symbols

Students must maintain at least 60% attendance in the group, and 75% attendance for solo opportunities.

**Note: Choir members who play a band instrument may also participate in Band.**

# General History and Description

The Show Choir performances and activities have included: 2007-2008, MAPS FOUNDATION performance at the Taj Mahal, Atlantic City; 2005-2008 Holiday Broadcast and Taping – Light Rock 96.9 WFPG Radio; 2005-2007 Multicultural Day Concerts and Community Event / Atlantic County Criminal Court House, Mays Landing; co-sponsoring the annual Sock Hop Dance with the Concert Band; 1990 to present - WMGM TV 40 Choral Fest (Shore Mall), the winter and spring concerts, Elementary School assemblies, the Songs for Senior Citizens Holiday concert; Davies Showcase; the NJ Music Educators' Choral Festival at Rowan University. School and community dedication ceremonies including, Hess, Davies, the Atlantic County Superior Court House, Atlantic City – Naturalization Ceremony, the Tony Canale Fire Training Academy, Egg Harbor Township, March of Dimes Telethons, and the Opening Ceremonies for the Atlantic City Convention Center. For 9 years, the choir also performed the National Anthem with the band at the Atlantic City Surf Game (June) until the Surf closed its doors. In May, 2005, the Show Choir received Excellent and Outstanding Soloist ratings at the Rowan NJMEA Choral Festival, and at Music in the Parks, Jackson, NJ.

## Region Honors Choirs / Performance Opportunities

### ELEMENTARY CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sixth Grade Choir Members interested in participating in the annual Elementary Choral Festival sponsored through the South Jersey Choral Directors Association may audition before the choral directors for placement in this group. Auditions will be held in December. Only 2 Sopranos and 2 Altos are permitted by SJCDA to represent the Davies School in this Festival (the Festival Concert is held in March). Selected students are responsible for practicing and learning the music for this honors ensemble.

### SOUTH JERSEY JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS

Advanced 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members will be invited to audition for South Jersey Junior High Chorus (November), the annual Recital Night (March), and at the Atlantic County Teen Arts Festival.

### ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Advanced 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Members may be invited to perform in the annual Performing Arts Recital Night (March), and at the Atlantic County Teen Arts Festival (May). Eighth Grade Choir members perform the National Anthem, a cappella, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Ceremonies.

### **Attire for the Band and Choir:**

**Black Pants and Black Shoes.** No fashion statements please. **Black Dockers or Wal-Mart Brand cotton twill pants are perfect...belted loops and black belts. No Lo-Rise pants ! NO TIGHT/STRETCH PANTS.**

**Shoes** – Boys: **Black Loafers or Black Tie Shoes (No Sneakers)**

Girls: **Black Pumps, 1 ½-inch heel – no higher: no clogs, no thick platform shoes. (We need to dress appropriately for performing ; this pertains to shoe height and uniform dress). SAFETY is important. Inappropriate footwear can cause tripping, twisting and injury of ankles. (Shopping ideas? Payless Shoes – great prices)**

**Red Davies Performing Arts Shirt** is Mandatory for Band/Choir; Percussion Ensemble wears their Black Davies shirt.

**Holiday Concerts** – Long sleeve white blouses, long sleeve white shirts. No sheer blouses – girls may need camisoles. **REMEMBER, the students will be elevated and in bright lighting while performing. Lights tend to show the audience many things that should not be seen. Therefore, our music ensembles always dress decently so as not to cause any embarrassment.**

*Updated: 11/1/11*

# Additional Information

Rehearsal Schedules and a Music Department Newsletter “NEWSY NOTES” are emailed to all members/parents and may be found through the school’s web site:

[www.hamiltonschools.org](http://www.hamiltonschools.org). Search for Related Arts: Andrew Seigel and / or Donna Berchtold.

Music Dept. phone numbers are: 476-6241, x1013 (Mrs. Berchtold) or x1078 (Mr. Seigel).

## CHOIR AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### A. Low and High Diatonic Scales

|              |    |   |
|--------------|----|---|
| Soprano I -  | E  | A |
| Soprano II - | C  | G |
| Alto I       | A  | E |
| Alto II      | G* | C |
| Tenor        | D* | F |
| Bass         | G* | D |

(\*) This scale will descend first and then ascend.

All scales are sung on the vowel “ah” as in “father”, for advanced choir student auditionees.

First time students may sing their scales either by singing in numbers:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Or by solfeggio.....

DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO’

### B. AURALS – Ear Training Skills

Each student will have to echo sing 3 note passages of varying intervals.

The teacher will: play a three note example on the piano

The student will: sing back “on la” the pitches to the best of his/her ability.

If the child demonstrates an inability to match pitches correctly, the teacher will “sing” the pitches

Rather than play them on the piano (this technique may help the students hear the pitches better).

If the student continues to demonstrate an inability or poor judgment to matching pitch, the teacher will stop providing assistance and will move on to the next part of the audition.

### C. SOLO – jumping the octave

Each student will sing the solo – “Happy Birthday”. The starting pitch will be given on the piano.

The teacher will analyze the solo for “phrasing”, “musicianship”, diction, “tone quality”, and the octave interval jump. A student having difficulty singing the octave jump will be given one more chance, by following the demonstration presented by the teacher.

- Students are scored in four categories
  - High note scale
  - Low note scale
  - Aurals
  - Solo
- Each category has a range of 10 points ( 1 = best score 10 = worse score)
- Total amount of points equals 40
- Students accepted into choir generally have a final point range of 1-20 points( 4 = best, 20 is considered an average grade)

Updated 11/1/11