



Farmington High School



FHS CHOIR

Instructor Laura Argotsinger
Classroom **Rm. 921**
Credit: **1.0 Elective Credit upon completion of full year**

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Text:

Music will be handed out during each concert preparation. Each student is responsible for their own music and will be charged the octavo price if it is lost or damaged.

CHORAL JOURNAL: Each student is required to bring a spiral bound notebook in which keep notes and reviews.

Please bring in one box of **Kleenex** to donate the class' runny nose' fund.

Description:

This is a yearlong course that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history. Students in Choir are expected to participate in one evening concert each quarter as a major part of their grade. This is a 4-performance requirement outside of school throughout the year. On top of all the concerts, the group makes guest appearances for many community events and fundraisers. The vocal ensemble will perform at Festivals. Students are expected to participate at the out of school performances to fulfill their credit.

Strategic Learning Goal(s):

Music Content Standards

- Learn and develop the essential skills and meet technical demands unique music.**
- Use music to express ideas.**
- Integrate understanding of music by seeking connections and parallels among arts disciplines as well as other content areas.**
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics of the creative process**
- Observe, discuss, analyze and make critical judgments about artistic works.**
- Show increased awareness of diverse peoples and cultures through performing arts.**
- Demonstrate knowledge about how technology and invention have historically influenced artists and offered new possibilities for expression.**
- Contribute to communities by sharing expertise in music by participating in the activities of cultural institutions.**

Class Expectations and Requirements:

Statement of Choir Policy

I firmly believe that each student should improve through daily progress. It is felt that when a student has lost the will to improve and make a contribution to the choir, he/she is not fulfilling their obligations to the school, fellow students, and the community by continuing in the program. The happiest choir member is one who is improving through regular practice and daily progress and who has developed a high sense of purpose toward which he/she is willing to work.

Student Responsibilities

- Be regular in attendance and account for all absences
- Be prompt and prepared (pencils and all music at every rehearsal!) for all rehearsals
- Make a real effort to learn and improve daily
- Be respectful and attentive during all rehearsals

- Become responsible for and assume the consequences for your actions
- Follow all choir rules, school regulations, and all travel instructions
- CARE FOR YOUR VOICE!!! Your voice is your instrument, and unlike other instruments, you cannot put it away and leave it as you could a trumpet or violin. As a member of the choir, it is your responsibility to get adequate rest and hydration, refrain from yelling and smoking, and make every effort to have your instrument in top condition each and every day
- Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life
- Cooperate with fellow choir members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the choir program

Director Responsibilities

- Provide a quality rehearsal setting
- Encourage daily progress of the individual student and the entire choir
- Provide members with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, teaching, testing, and listening
- Deal appropriately with members that are not contributing to the choir program
- Supervise the students in class and on school sponsored choir trips
- Evaluate each choir member on his/her musicianship and music education

Student Success Resources:

Charmsoffice.com-manage funds online

Musictheory.net-Online music theory practice in ear training and note recognition

Grading and Evaluation:

Choir is a unique course at Farmington High School. It has curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline, but it also has out-of-class requirements. The level of commitment from each individual student is the driving force behind the organization and is reflected in the level of achievement reached by the individual and the program. Choir is a learning activity. Rehearsals are the means by which students learn, and by their very nature cannot be reproduced or made-up. Therefore, it is imperative that students be present unless absence is absolutely unavoidable. Excessive rehearsal absence or non-participation will undoubtedly affect a student's performance. Although we frequently function as conductors, we are primarily teachers who are responsible for the musical and aesthetic education of each student in the choir program. This is the reason we are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Rehearsals are not optional and are reflected in the student's daily grade.

Grading Scale Breakdown

Rehearsal/Daily Assignments/Attendance - 30%

Performances - 60%

Written Tests/Music Theory - 10%

See the FHS Student Handbook for a full description of the Grading Policy: <http://fhs.fms.k12.nm.us/FHS-StudentHandbook.pdf>

Non-Discrimination Clause:

FMS Policy: "The Farmington Municipal Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability in its programs and activities." If you feel you need accommodations due to the facility or the delivery method in the classroom, please communicate this with the instructor, your guidance counselor, or with the high school administration. See the Student Handbook for more information regarding the FMS Policy. <http://fhs.fms.k12.nm.us/FHS-StudentHandbook.pdf>

