



Clyde A. Erwin High School Chorus Syllabus and Policy Handbook 2019-2020

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Student Name: _____ Period: _____

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Dear Parents and Singers,

Congratulations on being a member of the Chorus Program at Clyde A. Erwin! By choosing to be a part of the choral department here, you are accepting the honor and responsibility of continuing a program of excellence.

In order to ensure that everyone has the capacity to reach their full potential, it is imperative to identify the expectations and requirements for both student success and success of our program as a whole. **It is the parent and the student's responsibility to read and review this handbook in its entirety.** Being a part of the choral program is both a responsibility and a privilege. Failure to meet expectations and requirements will result in consequences seen fit by the director.

I am very excited about the wonderful opportunities planned for this program and look forward to our journey together through this 2019-2020 school year. It is my hope and intention that each of you, by being a member of this chorus, will grow in your knowledge, talent, and a love for music and in turn, help you to make our world just a little bit brighter.

"Sing"cerely,

Rachael Affron

Rachael Affron
Choral Director

Course Offerings and Placements

Available Courses for 2019-2020

FALL CLASSES:

- 1st Period - Planning*
- 2nd Period -Advanced Chorus*
- 3rd Period - Intermediate Chorus*
- 4th Period- Beginning Chorus*

SPRING CLASSES:

- 1st Period - Advanced Chorus*
- 2nd Period - Planning*
- 3rd Period - Intermediate Chorus*
- 4th Period- Beginning Chorus*

BEGINNING CHORUS:

Beginning Chorus is for all students who have not yet taken chorus at the high school level. Students in this class will learn the basics of music reading and theory. Students will learn how to sight-read stepwise movements and simple metered rhythmic exercises. Students will learn to match pitch as well as sing in unison, two parts, and three parts. Students will learn about vocal anatomy and health as well as healthy vocal production.

INTERMEDIATE CHORUS:

Intermediate Chorus is for students who have taken the prerequisite Beginning Chorus class or have demonstrated vocal ability and music literacy on an intermediate level. Students that wish to be in Intermediate Chorus without taking Beginning Chorus should contact Ms. Affron to set up an audition.

Students in Intermediate Chorus will sight-read steps and skips, simple and compound rhythmic exercises. Students will be able to identify key signatures and all solfege pitches. Students will sing in unison, two parts, three parts, and sometimes four parts. Students will continue to expand their knowledge on vocal anatomy and health as well as improve their vocal production.

ADVANCED CHORUS:

Advanced Chorus is an honors credit class and is for students who have taken the prerequisite(s) or have demonstrated vocal ability and music literacy on an advanced level. Students that wish to be in Advanced Chorus without taking Intermediate Chorus should contact Ms. Affron to set up an audition.

Students in Advanced Chorus will begin to read music on a much more difficult level. Students will analyze music through theory and chord structure. Students will learn to sight-read both step-wise and skips in parts as well as unison and will sight-read both simple and compound time meters. Students will expand upon identifying intervals and learn to identify chord quality. Students will sing in unison and up to eight parts. Students will have a vocal anatomy vocabulary and understand how the body works to produce a healthy tone. Students will work on making a beautiful tone with proper breath control, good intonation, musicality, strong diction, accuracy, and passion.

Expectations

RULES:

If you are following the motto, chances are you will not have to worry. These three simple things are so important and something I firmly believe in and expect out of my students.

Stay Humble.

Chorus is a team effort. There is not one person who makes or breaks it. Humility goes a long way and arrogance will not be allowed nor accepted in this chorus program. We must always work together and strive to help one another. There is always something we can be working on to help bring us to the next level, which brings me to my next point...

Work Hard.

Because chorus is a team effort, it is important that we ALL work and contribute. We cannot depend on a select few to learn our music and piggyback off of others hard work. Instead, we must all hold ourselves accountable and work to achieve all that we can. Bring your all every day and work hard - not work for half the class, not work until you're tired. Just.work.hard. As long as you are working hard, it doesn't matter the mistakes you may make or how long it may take before singing a passage correctly. If you are giving your all, you are doing what I expect.

Be Kind.

It seems like this one should be a no brainer, but it is **so** important. When you walk through the chorus door and are in this room, whatever drama you may have with others should stay outside. We are working to create something bigger than just one person. Put your differences aside and be kind to one another. It will make you a better person and help the program and YOU to be its/your best. Bullying of any kind will ***not*** be tolerated.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Cell phones are ***NOT*** allowed during rehearsals. Failure to put a phone away the first time will result in a warning. After a warning is issued, the phone will be confiscated. Insubordination on this issue will result in an office referral with one day of OSS.

CONSEQUENCES:

Infractions to the above will be dealt with on a case to case basis and will follow the consequences laid out in the student handbook.

FACILITY:

- Please, pick up after yourself. Trash goes in the trash can and music goes back where it belongs (not your chair or the floor). Please be mindful and do not trash the chorus room and make more work for our custodians.
- Please be sure to put music in your assigned cubbie at the end of each rehearsal and pick up your music ***before*** rehearsal.
- Students must ask permission before going into the middle room.

Materials and Uniforms

MATERIALS:

- Pencils - ***NO*** pens are allowed when marking in music!
- Black binder
- Laptop

CHORUS FEE:

Students enrolled in chorus will need to pay a \$15 chorus fee. With this chorus fee, students will receive a t-shirt which will be part of the chorus

uniform for performances and will help to supplement the costs of hiring an accompanist throughout the year for our concerts. Students who cannot afford this fee will have opportunities to fundraise throughout the year and should see Ms. Affron for financial aid opportunities.

UNIFORMS:

Uniforms are required for all chorus members for all performances and is part of their concert grade.

Beginning and Intermediate Chorus

All students should wear black bottoms (slacks, jeans, skirts with black panty hose, etc). Yoga pants and/or leggings will not be allowed for the performance. Students should wear black closed-toe shoes and their chorus shirts.

Advanced Chorus

Formal Attire:

Females - Formal black dress (\$65) with black closed-toe shoes and minimal jewelry. Please be mindful of the jewelry you wear - nothing too flashy! Limited dresses are available for rental. If you are interested in renting a dress, please, see Ms. Affron ASAP, as these are loaned out on a first come, first serve basis.
Males - Formal tux (\$100) with black dress shoes.

Informal Concert Attire:

All students should wear blue jeans with no holes, closed-shoes, and their chorus shirts.

Assessment and Grading

PERFORMANCES:

Chorus is a performance-drive class; therefore, your chorus performance is ***mandatory***. Performances are directly related to what we study and perform in class. If a student must miss the concert due to a ***school-approved absence or medical emergency*** he or she is responsible for letting the director know ASAP and will be responsible for completing a written exam in lieu of their performance. Chorus performances comprise your grade for the final exam in Chorus so it is imperative that you are present. Below, are all performance dates for chorus

students. Please go ahead and mark your calendars now so that you may plan accordingly.

Fall Concert- October 3rd
Winter Concert - December 5th
MPA - TBA
Spring Concert- May 19th

All concerts (with the exception of MPA) will take place in the Bob Johnson Auditorium at 7 Pm. All students must be in the chorus room thirty minutes prior to their performance (6:30 PM).

PARTICIPATION - 50%

Participation includes singing, being on task, having good posture, coming to class prepared, and actively giving a genuine effort in all class activities. Students all begin with a 100% in this category. Students that are on task and fully participating with keep their points. Students who are not on task will lose points on a day to day basis. Students who are sick or cannot sing will need to complete a participation assignment in order to receive their points for that day. Students can find participation assignments on Google Classroom.

WRITTEN WORK - 30%

Students will have written work that comes in various forms - reflective essays, music theory worksheets, composing, etc.

TESTS AND QUIZZES - 20%

Students will have tests and quizzes in chorus to measure their musical progress. This includes performance tests and quizzes as well as written tests and quizzes and the Advanced Mid-term. Performance tests include singing passages from music being worked on in class, sight-singing melodic exercises, and sight-reading rhythmic exercises. Written tests include multiple choice, matching, open-ended, etc. and will be more focused on music theory.

Communication

- Please be sure to visit the chorus page on the school website. All general information will be posted there as well as what we are doing each week in the classroom.
- Google Classroom also has many wonderful resources and is where you can find a digital copy of all letters that go home. To join, login to your gmail account and click on the waffle icon located at the top right of

your screen. Click on the classroom icon and then the + icon located again at the right top of your screen to join the class. The chorus code is vyou5u.

- Periodically letters may be sent home to inform you of upcoming performances and/or events.
- Remind is a free text messaging service that allows me to remind students and parents of upcoming events. Text @erwinsing to 81010
- As always, please, feel free to email me at rachael.affron@bcsemail.org or call at (828)232-4251

Fundraising

Students will be given opportunities throughout the school year to raise money for various chorus costs such as formals and field trips. There will also be one Zaxby's night a semester in which the chorus will receive 10% of all orders between 5-8 PM that evening. Students and families are highly encouraged to attend and enjoy dinner to help support the chorus program.

Collecting Money

- Please be prompt in making payments and follow the due date. Money will not be accepted after the due date unless previous arrangements with the director have been made.
- Make all checks out to Clyde A. Erwin High School
- **Students may turn in money from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM.**
- Students are responsible for all money collected during a fundraiser. The school, chorus program, and/or director is NOT responsible for any money lost or stolen. If a student loses money, he or she is still responsible for coming up with the amount owed.

Field Trips and Travel

Chorus allows the opportunities for several field trips throughout the year. These trips are a privilege and students will be expected to adhere to the following:

- BCS rules and CAEHS rules apply to every chorus member at all chorus events.
- Follow all instructions of the director, chaperones, or other adults who are part of the trip.
- Students receiving inadequate grades in chorus or in another subject area will not be eligible to travel with the chorus. If the director or another teacher feels it is in the best interest of a student to remain in class on the day of the field trip, it will be so.

- MPA and any other performance that impacts a student's grade is not included in this.
- Chaperones on trips are to be treated with respect.
- When riding a bus, students will keep the bus in a clean and orderly fashion, picking up after themselves and leaving the bus in good condition.
- Be where you are supposed to be ***before*** you are supposed to be there.
- Keep up with your personal belongings.
- Failure to budget correctly on a school field trip will result in an after-school finance class through Ms. Affron
- It is your responsibility to know where your director is at all times.
- Use of degrading, colorful, or foul language of any kind is unacceptable.
- Complaining will not be tolerated.
- When a student misses other classes for a chorus related event, he or she is expected to ask for assignments ***before*** leaving for the trip. Students are responsible for completing all their assignments in a timely manner.
- If school is in session the next day the night after a chorus event, students are expected to be in class the following morning.

Vocal Enrichment

Vocal Enrichment includes choral activities and events that happen outside of the chorus classroom. All chorus students are welcome to audition for these events.

HONORS CHORUS*

This is a highly competitive overnight music festival sponsored by the NC Music Educators Association. It is held in Winston-Salem in November and features the best choral students throughout the state. Students interested in this event, should prepare *Dance* from *Invocation and Dance* by David Conte and be ready to sight-read an eight measure exercise by themselves. Those that wish to audition should have forms and money (\$35) turned into Ms. Affron by ***Friday, August 30th.*** Students will have a mock-audition ***Monday, September 23rd*** and will have their actual audition for a judge is on ***Saturday, September 28th*** in Hickory, NC. Transportation will be provided.

VARIETY SHOW

The chorus program will sponsor a variety show this October for students to display their many talents! Acts are limited so there will be auditions to be in the variety show. The performance will take place **Thursday, October 10th** in the Bob Johnson theatre at 6 PM.

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY CHORAL FESTIVAL

This a chorus festival sponsored by Western Carolina University that takes place **Saturday, November 16th** with the performance that afternoon at Western and has a minimal cost that includes a t-shirt and music. Students that wish to participate in this event must audition through Ms. Affron. Auditions will be held on **Thursday, October 17th** in class. Please prepare a choral selection to perform. If selected students will learn repertoire outside of class and after school.

ALL-COUNTY

This features a handful of students from each high school in Buncombe county. This event is held at First Baptist Church in downtown Asheville on **Monday, November 18th and Tuesday, November 19th** with the performance that evening. Students that wish to participate in this event must audition through Ms. Affron. Auditions for this event will be on **Friday, November 1st** in class. Please prepare a choral selection to perform. If selected, students will learn repertoire both in and out of class.

WINGATE 9-10 CAROLINA SELECT CHOIR*

This is a choral festival sponsored by Wingate University and is available to 9th and 10th graders only. This event takes place on **Friday, January 25th and Saturday, January 26th** with the performance that afternoon at Wingate University and is an overnight trip. Students that wish to participate must send in a recording of *My Country Tis of Thee* as well as an ascending and descending scale. Students interested in submitting a recording should see Ms. Affron. Audition tapes and audition fee (\$10) are due **Tuesday, October 29th**.

MARS HILL CHORAL FESTIVAL

This is a choral festival sponsored by Mars Hill University. This event takes place on **Friday, February 1st and Saturday, February 2nd** with the performance that evening at Mars Hill

University. Students that wish to participate will select a choral piece approved by Ms. Affron and be ready to perform a mock-audition for Ms. Affron **Friday, October 4th** and audition in front of a judge at TC Roberson by **Monday, October 7th**.

SPRING MUSICAL

This is sponsored by the Erwin Chorus and Dance programs and requires students to commit to rehearsals Monday - Thursday, 3-5:30 for roughly 10 weeks. We will have an interest meeting for all who wish to participate **Monday, November 25th**. Auditions for the musical will be on **Wednesday, December 10th and Thursday, December 11th** after school. Students should prepare a chorus and verse from a show tune of their choosing as well as be ready to do a cold reading (reading from the script with little to no preparation). Rehearsals will begin **Monday, January 6th** with performances running **Thursday - Saturday, March 26th-28th**.

ALL-STATE CHOURS*

This choral festival is a prestigious honor as you travel to Charlotte to represent Erwin High School amongst the state's top singers. This event is held **Thursday, April 23rd - Saturday, April 25th** with a mandatory rehearsal in **March, TBD**. Auditions for this event will be held **Friday, January 17th** in class. Students interested should prepare their part on a choral piece of their choosing. If selected, students will prepare repertoire outside of class and after school.

DISNEY*

This year, the chorus will be traveling to Orlando, FL to perform a twenty minute concert at Disney World! There will be an interest meeting **Monday, September 9th** at 6:30 PM in the chorus room for all interested. This trip will take place **Thursday, April 15th- Sunday, April 19th** and will cost between \$864-901 with opportunities to fundraise.

* These trips are overnight and therefore will be more expensive

