

Syllabus 2016-2017

**Teacher: Mr. Corbin Rasmussen**

**School Phone: (208) 745-7704**

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**Course Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to gain understanding of vocal production and music fundamentals. Students will have many opportunities to sing for personal enjoyment and perform a variety of vocal ensemble/solo literature. All choral music that is included in the curriculum is selected based on its place in music history, educational content, vocal demand, and support for modern and ongoing compositions and composers of the choral/vocal music art. Much of the standard choral music literature includes settings of religious texts, however, religious ideas are not taught in the classroom. Musical selections with religious texts are used to teach classic music history, style, concepts, and techniques.

**Classroom Expectations:**

1. **BE NICE!!** Respect your teachers, your classmates, and yourself.
2. Arrive at rehearsal/class on time. “On time” means you give yourself enough time to pick up your music folder, have a pencil ready, and are in your seat when the class is ready to begin.
3. No food or drink allowed in the choir room during instructional time. Only exception is water in a closed container or bottle.
4. No gum EVER! Gum is to be spit out at the beginning of class as you walk into the room. If you are caught chewing gum during class time you will lose daily participation points.
5. No cell phones allowed during instructional time, if seen on your cell phone, it will go on Mr. Rasmussen’s piano until the end of class regardless of circumstance. If this continues to be an issue, cell phones will be taken to the office and will need to be picked up after school, or we will have a meeting with Mr. Lords and a parent about proper use of technology in class.
6. If you are needed to use the bathroom you are expected to sign out and sign back when upon arrival back to class. In order to leave the classroom for a bathroom visit, you must leave your electronic device (cell phone, iPod, tablet, etc.) with me in exchange. If bathroom use is excessive, then a ‘limited use card’ will be issued to the entire class, which will have to be signed by Mr. Rasmussen before exiting the classroom.

**Grading Policy:**

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| **A** | **94% - 100%** |
| **A-** | **90% - 93%** |
| **B+** | **87% - 89%** |
| **B** | **83% - 86%** |
| **B-** | **80% - 82%** |
| **C+** | **77% - 79%** |
| **C** | **73% - 76%** |
| **C-** | **70% - 72%** |
| **D+** | **67% - 69%** |
| **D** | **63% - 66%** |
| **D-** | **60% - 62%** |
| **F** | **0% - 59%** |

Choirs seldom requires written homework or take home assignments, however, you are expected to practice your music at home for at least 15 minutes a day. For the most part, your work is done in class by participating and being a responsible member of the ensemble. In addition to grades, in order to participate in extracurricular choir activities, each student is required to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Those who fall below this point will be unable to participate with the choir.

***Assignments:***

**Summative**

**40%** Concerts – 500 points

**10%** Formal Assessments – 25 points per Assessment

**Formative**

**30%** Daily Participation – 10 points per day

**10%** Concert critiques – 100 points

**Homework**

**10%** Listening Assignments – 50 points per Assignment

**Concerts:**

Concert attendance is **MANDATORY.** If you don’t attend the required concerts it will severely affect your grade in this class. Call time for singers is forty-five minutes before the concert starts. (e.g. if the concert starts at 7:00, singers arrive no later than 6:15 and report to your ensemble’s predetermined room)

**Formal Assessments:**

In general, formal assessments will take place in the form on sight singing and rhythm clapping tests. These tests usually take place in my office in groups of 2-4, and occur once or twice in the course of a trimester. We will also have a few written assessments throughout the course of the trimester on music theory topics.

**Daily Participation:**

You will earn 10 points everyday you come to class prepared and ready to participate fully in the day’s rehearsal. You will lose points if you are: goofing off, distracting fellow students, eating or drinking anything other than water, chewing gum, not sitting in assigned section/seat, excessive talking, etc. Any time a student feels unable to participate in the day’s vocal activities, (illness, sore throat, etc.) they will be expected to complete a rehearsal observation form to earn back points lost for not participating in the day’s activities.

**Listening Assignments:**

Every two weeks you will be required to listen to a musical selection of a varied genre via the choir web page. You will be asked to respond to the listening example in various ways, including some of your overall impressions about the piece. On occasion a “listening quiz” may be administered in class that pertains to the online listening assignment for that two-week period.

**Concert Critique:**

You are required to attend one concert of your choosing over the course of the trimester. The concert **MUST** consist of primarily vocal performance, and you must be an audience member of the concert (No critiques of concerts you were in). Acceptable concerts would include: High School choir concerts, college/university choir concerts, church choir concerts not during Sunday church services, community choir concerts, musical theatre performances, or professional solo or group concerts.

This paper must be typed, at least one page in length with one-inch margins, Times New Roman or Calibri 12 point font, 2.0 spaced.Critiques must be submitted in class or online within one week of concert attendance, and ***must include a concert program or ticket stapled to your critique.***

What you should include in your critique:

* Start with details such as what kind of concert you attended, when and where the concert took place, who the conductor was, who the performers were, why you chose to attend this concert.
* Make notes during the concert. Pay attention to details and write about the performer’s stage presence, performance attire, and professionalism.
* Discuss musical elements such as: blend, balance, intonation, style, and interpretation.
* Summarize your overall feelings about the concert. (If you attend a musical, DO NOT re-tell the story; that is not a critique)
* Above all, I want you to learn how to listen with musical ears, and to be a critical audience member.

**Website and Information:**

The official website for the Rigby Choirs is choir.rigbytrojans.org. This site is continuously being improved and updated, and contains a calendar of all the choral events and performances for the school year. Additionally, other area concerts, assignments, project details, forms, practice recordings, etc., are posted online. Please review the calendar and your class page often.

**Music Checkout:**

Music is owned by Rigby High School Choir department and checked out via Mr. Rasmussen. Any music checked out to your student that is not returned, or is returned in less than optimal condition, will be charged a **minimum** of $3.00 per piece of music that is lost or damaged.

**Fees:**

Students will be responsible to acquire a dress or tuxedo for their concert attire. More information about purchasing options will be given in class. There a few activities in which the choir participates that have associated fees for travel, such as tours. In general, these activities are optional; however, those who commit to go are responsible to cover their own cost. More information regarding fundraisers and other details will be presented in class at a later date.



*Please review and sign the accompanying form and return to Mr. Rasmussen by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**I have read and understand the expectations of the Rigby High School Choir Program as outlined in the syllabus.**

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Student Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date