

Mr. Myles Gonzalez
Director of Choral Activities
Woodland High School
2022-2023



Syllabus

Contact Info

Office Phone#: 770-389-2784 x 47153

Email: myles.gonzalez@henry.k12.ga.us

Room#: 306

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a variety of choral music and to help students advance their musicianship skills. The lessons will include vocal technique, sight-reading, music research, music theory, aural skills, history and diction in multiple languages, and lessons and rehearsals that will fall in line with the Georgia Performance Standards and Henry county Learning Targets. Not only will the students learn about music, each student will be given the opportunity to express themselves and have fun while singing. Choir requires students to have teamwork, and the atmosphere of the classroom must remain positive in order to make mistakes and learn from them. The goal is to show excellence in everything we do and to represent Woodland High with excellence.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

These 7 rules will be enforced everyday during class.

- When entering the classroom, please grab your music from the cubby and go to your seat.
- Once the bell rings, students are in their seats and waiting quietly for Mr. Gonzalez's instruction.
- Students are required to have a **pencil** everyday as you are required to mark your music scores. There will be random score checks throughout the school year, and this will count against class participation grade. By marking your scores when told, it will help rehearsals run smoother.
- NO CELL PHONE OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES SHALL BE USED DURING CLASS. All fine art classes require your undivided attention. By being on your devices, you will miss important instructions and disrupt the students around you.
- No eating or chewing gum at any point of the lesson. This is a choking hazard, and you may leave some residue in the classroom.

- Do not talk while Mr. Gonzalez is talking. I do not talk over people, and it is just rude. If I am working with another section in the choir, you may study your music silently, or you can hum your part along quietly.
- **Drink Water!** It is unhealthy to sing when you do not drink water. It takes 2 - 4 hours for water to lubricate the vocal cords.

Required Materials

- Pencil - you will need one everyday
- Music folder - all of your music will be in your folders at all times. NOT at the bottom of your bookbag, on the floor, or in your car.
- Music scores - bring all of your music to class everyday. The misplacement of music will be a \$2-\$3 charge.

Choirs

Beginning Women's Choir - This choir is for freshmen and any first year choir student. In this class, these young women will learn basic musicianship skills, music theory, vocal technique, basic sight-reading, and how to sing healthily.

Intermediate Women's Choir - This choir is followed after the Beginning Women's Choir. Students will proceed into the intermediate class if they show potential growth in choral music. In this class, students will continue to advance their musicianship skills, music theory, vocal technique, intermediate sight-reading, intermediate and advance choral music, and vocal pedagogy.

Advance Women's Choir - This choir is an **audition choir**. In order to go into this choir, students must be able to sight-read class C music, establish good musicianship skills, and show good teamwork. In this class, these students will come across advance and collegiate level choral music, advance ear training, music theory, vocal pedagogy, and advance sight-reading. Audition for this choir will be held at the end of the school year or at the start of the next school year. Those who are in this choir are automatically eligible for honor choirs, competitions, and any combined advance level choirs.

Men's Choir - This choir contains beginner through advance students. In this class, these young men will learn a variety of different levels of choir music, music theory, musicianship, vocal pedagogy, vocal technique, and sight-reading. Since this class will consist of all levels of singers, the advance level students will help mentor the beginners as this will help with teamwork and bonding.

Grading

Choir is mainly based on class participation with some outside work and concerts. **40%** - formative assessments, **40%** - summative assessments, and **20%** Final Exam.

Formative Assessments:

Daily/Weekly Participation (3), Classwork (1), Homework (2)

Summative Assessments:

Concerts (4), Concert Evaluation (1), Part Checks (1)

Final Exam:

LGPE

Daily/Weekly Participation - Student participation in class is imperative. Students must give their undivided attention and come to class prepared, and they will be graded on attendance, quality of singing, and score checks.

Homework - In choir, students will be required to do some outside of class practice, and that will count towards the homework category. The major homework assignment that every student must due every month is Sight-Reading Factory. This assignment will be done individually, and it is meant to assess the student's ability to sight read music on their own. Everyday in class, students will sight-read music as a group to help prepare them for the homework.

- Grading - for every pitch, solfege, and rhythm you sing incorrectly, you will lose a point from the final score.

Concerts - Concerts are mandatory. On the back of the syllabus, there is a list of events and concerts that are going on this school year, and it is important for you to save these dates. Students will be graded on attendance, concert etiquette, and singing. If a student has to miss a concert, they must provide an appropriate excuse to Mr. Gonzalez, and if it is excused, the student must complete an alternative assignment to make-up that concert grade. If the excuse is not appropriate, the student will receive a failing grade in such category.

Part Check - Another homework assignment a student might receive from time to time is a singing assessment. This can be a few things. One example of an assessment is having the student submit a recording of them singing a certain part of their music to show that they are practicing. This will occur when the class is struggling with a section of the music, and they need to practice more.

- This assignment will be graded on completion, but if it appears that the student did not try, they will receive a failing grade.

LGPE - Large Group Performance Evaluation is a yearly evaluation of the choir and director. The students will go before 3 judges and sing two pieces, and they will be graded on their sight reading. The scoring is between a I and V with I being *superior* and V being *poor*. This grade will be depending on their score they receive, and their concert etiquette.

Concert Etiquette

Concert etiquette are rules that every performer and audience member must follow for a successful concert. At the beginning of each concert, the rules of concert etiquette will be read to the audience. For students, here are your concert etiquette rules:

- When given a call time for concerts, it is important for you to arrive on time, so you can warm up and receive any important information. Failure to arrive at concerts on time will result in a lowering of your concert grade, and if there is a problem where you will arrive late, please contact me immediately.
- Students are dressed and ready to sing at call time.
- Before walking on stage, students are in lines waiting silently for Mr. Gonzalez's instructions.
- When on stage, students are very attentive to the director's instruction.
- At the end of the concert, students will bow to the audience and proceed off the stage in an orderly manner. Be sure to collect all your belongings before leaving the fine arts center

Make-up assignments and Alternative assignment

Concerts and after school rehearsals are mandatory. It would be a great idea to take a look at the back of the syllabus for important dates and add them to your calendar. In the event of a student misses a concert or after school rehearsal, they must provide a sufficient excuse to Mr. Gonzalez, and if it is accepted, you will be provided with a make-up assignment. Students will write a 3 page reflection paper on what they saw and heard at the concert, what did they like, and what the choir could have done better. The students will have **1 week** to submit the paper.

The alternative assignments will be given to students who choose not to participate in class. Choir, including other fine art classes, requires you to participate in class. If a student chooses to not sing, they will be given an alternative assignment to complete within a week.

Concert attire

Students are responsible for the purchase of their dress or tuxedo, and they can pay in full or in payments. Students are also responsible for the alterations of their uniforms, the cleanliness, and any damages to their dress or tuxedo.

- Women's Choir - concert black dress, black closed-toe heels or flats, and hemmed dress that is no less than 1-2 inches off the ground. - \$75
- Men's Choir - black suit that includes pants, black shirt, bow tie, dress socks, and black dress shoes. \$110

For some concerts and events, wearing concert attire is not necessary. Students will be allowed to wear their choir t-shirts with a nice pair of jeans. Another dress option is casual smart or business casual, and examples of this attire will be presented in class.

Field Trips and Events

Throughout the school year, there will be multiple field trips and events. Field trips will be held during or after school which includes LGPE, opera/musical theater concerts, honor choirs, All-State, literary, and competitions. In order to attend these trips, students must show good

behavior in class, have a 70 or above in all their academic classes, and have all music learned for such trips.

Honor Choirs

Throughout the school year, there will be multiple honor choirs going on.

- County Honor Choir
- Spivey Hall Honor Choir
- District Honor Choir
- Literary (Solo, Trio, Quartet)
- All-State Choir
- Governor's Honors Choir

Based on students' musicality and participation in class, they will be selected for the County, Spivey, and District honor choir, but All-State, Literary, and Governor's Honors are audition choirs. Only one student can be selected for Governor's Honors.

Attendance

Students must arrive to class on time EVERYDAY. In order for the students to learn the music, they will need to be in class, and failure to arrive to class on time will result in a lowering of the participation grade. This will also apply to concerts and any mandatory rehearsals.

Late Assignments

After the due date of an assignment, the student will lose 10 points after each week it is late. For example, if you turn in an assignment 2 weeks late, the highest grade you can make is an 80%. If there is an issue turning in an assignment, please let me know.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of quality education; therefore, Woodland High School will not tolerate any act of cheating, plagiarism, or falsification of school work. Should it be determined that an academic integrity violation has taken place, the school reserves the right to assign a grade of zero and submit a disciplinary referral to the appropriate Assistant Principal. The school also reserves the right to remove or suspend enrollment in any AP/Honors class as well as Academic Honors Societies.