

St. Francis High School

CHAMBER – Chamber Choir

Syllabus 2011-2012

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Course Description:

Chamber Choir is the premier women's choral ensemble at St. Francis High School. This ensemble performs a wide range of music from a long history dating back to the 16th century. This ensemble performs at several concerts throughout the year as well as at select school events. Students will learn about music primarily through performance in voice, but will also be engaged in a variety of other activities.

Classes:

Rehearsals are held every day during 7th period in the choir room (201).

Required Materials:

All students are required to have the following at every rehearsal:

- A folder with pockets containing ALL music
- Pencil with eraser
- Appropriate dress (see handbook for more information)

Course Outline:

The following list details what elements of music will be covered throughout each quarter. At least one element will be covered at each rehearsal.

- Performing (playing and singing)
- Reading and notating
- Analyzing and evaluating
- History and culture
- Composing and improvising

General Expectations:

Students enrolled in classes at St. Francis High School are expected to:

- Come to class on time and prepared to engage in the learning process
- Complete all assignments to the best of their ability
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect at all times
- Ask for help or clarification when needed

*All other rules and regulations as noted in the SFHS Student Agenda and as set out by each class and instructor apply.

Music:

At the beginning of the year you will receive a numbered folder containing the music. This music has to be used over and over by many different people and is quite expensive so please take good care of it! Excessive damage to music could result in a fee to cover the cost of replacing it. Please mark rehearsal notes in PENCIL only. Do not use any pens, markers, highlighters, crayons, or colored pencils unless specifically indicated to do so. At the time of folder collection anything left in the folder will be thrown away (so don't leave anything in it that you want to keep!).

The school also has a library of solo works, duets, and small ensemble pieces that are free to check out. Please see the director to do this.

Private Lessons:

Private lessons are available for any student who wishes to take them. These are taught by outstanding experts in their voice part and are a great opportunity to learn a tremendous amount about music and about singing. The cost for private lessons depends on the teacher with whom you take them as well as how long and how often you take them. Although much can be accomplished in rehearsal helping you to improve, the best way to really develop your skills is to study on a private basis. The instructors are very willing to work around your schedule so that a convenient time can be set. You will be amazed at how much difference private lessons can make!

Grading:

Grading in Chamber Choir is based on a point system. The number of points that students earn will determine their grade. Grading is calculated differently for quarters and semesters. The grading areas and respective weights are listed below.

Quarter Grades

Performance: 45%
 Individual performance
 Group performance
 Play tests
 Lesson work

Semester Grades

Quarter 1 Grade: 40%
 Quarter 2 Grade: 40%
 Final Grade: 20%

Homework: 30%

Assignments
 Quizzes
 Projects
 Papers
 Exercises in composition and improvisation

Attendance/Behavior: 25%

Daily attendance at rehearsal
 Attendance at special rehearsals
 Attendance at all performances
 Having all required materials
 Following all classroom expectations

Extra Credit:

Opportunities for extra credit will be available throughout the semester. They will apply to one specific grading area. Activities will have a different amount of points that can be earned. Since there is no formal system for extra credit, requests for extra credit opportunities (including coming up with ideas for earning extra credit) will be welcome at any time during the semester.

Events:

This page contains all of the known required events for Chamber Choir. Attendance at all of these events is required. Students who cannot make these events because of extreme circumstances (such as a family emergency) will have to do make up work in order to not receive a zero for that grade.

October 20	Thursday	7:00 pm	Fall Concert
December 8	Thursday	7:00 pm	Winter Concert
March 3	Saturday	TBD	Solo & Ensemble Festival
March	TBD	TBD	Concert
May 24	Thursday	7:00 pm	Spring Concert

*This entire list is non-final and is subject to change. Please refer to the music website for the most up-to-date information regarding all department events.