

Syllabus

Vocal Music Classes

Arvada High School

John Miller

Description: Choir classes at Arvada High School are performing groups that present at least two concerts per semester for the school community. All the activities of the class are targeted to create value in our singers. That is, values of reliability, supportive attitude and behavior, musical competence, healthy vocal technique, and engaging performance.

Grading Scale

A	100-90%
B	89-90%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	59-0%

Categories of Grading

Participation and Classwork	30%
Concerts, Major Rehearsals, Sectionals	40%
Musicianship, Citizenship	30%

Goals: The purpose of this class is to teach you how to sing, and how to be a musician. While you will learn other things, these are the most important. You'll learn how to sing by yourself and with others, and to sing with good vocal technique. You will learn the basics of musical notation, terminology, and gain an understanding of keys and meter. You will learn what it means to perform in public and how to do so effectively. You will be able to track your part in the music and read the full score. You will be able to sing a song the first time you see it, and it will have good accuracy, pleasant tone quality, confidence, and feeling. You will learn the traits of a musician and will apply them in our classroom.

Requirements: Performance costume; class fee; basic materials for writing; attentiveness to schedule of rehearsals and performances; communication with instructor, parents and others; arriving early to all scheduled events with positive attitude and prepared to learn; become part of the team and build a positive and supportive atmosphere for all. Make an effort to learn.

Attendance: Your presence at daily rehearsals, sectional, and Concerts is MANDATORY. Daily attendance and positive participation is a major portion of your grade, and is necessary to create a trusting atmosphere and to continually grow. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated. After three unexcused absences a student may be given an alternative assignment and not be allowed to perform the concert. Tardies are unacceptable, and will be dealt with according to school policy. Being late to class is very disruptive. Make it a point to be in your seat with your materials before the bell rings. When you arrive at class, put your backpack in the designated area, get your folder, pencil and water, and go to your seat. Your cooperation in starting the class on time and prepared will help us get to our highest potential. Be early. If you are on time, YOU'RE LATE!

Extra Rehearsals: There will be several rehearsals necessary beyond the school day. These will be scheduled well in advance and are mandatory. Choraliers and Modernaires will be required to meet in sectional on a regular basis. Other rehearsals may be required based on preparation needs.

Concert Attire: Each group has a specific concert uniform:

Men's Chorus - White wing-tip tuxedo shirt and red bow tie are supplied. The men must provide their own black pants, belt, white undershirt, socks and dress shoes.

Women's Chorus - Blue concert dress is provided. The women provide their own black, closed-toe dress shoes with a low heel, and purchase spankies with the group.

Choraliers - The selected dress must be purchased with the group. The women purchase character shoes, tights, and spankies through the Vocal Department.

Modernaires - The women's outfit is the same as for Choraliers, with their own dress.

Men purchase their vest and tie with the group. Tux is provided as per Chorale.

Men provide their own white undershirt, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Chorale - Women will be issued a red concert dress. Hemming the dress is the student's responsibility, and must be done according to provided instructions. Black, closed-toe shoes with a low heel are the student's responsibility. \$7.00 cleaning fee.

Men will be issued Tux coat, pant, vest, tie, and shirt. Men provide their own white undershirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. \$7.00 cleaning fee.

For Choraliers and Modernaires, a garment bag is highly recommended. This will provide one place for all the pieces of the outfit to be kept together. This will also allow the student to safely hang the outfit at school prior to a concert, and assure that nothing has been left at home.

Personal Hygiene: Be aware that bodies are changing in this age-group, and there must be awareness of personal hygiene. This is important for daily classes as well as for concerts. Daily showers and use of deodorant are important when we are working so closely together. DO NOT use any perfume or cologne at concerts. DO NOT open ANYTHING with fragrance in the classroom, including lotion. There are classmates with asthma that is triggered by these fragrances. This policy will be enforced, as it is a safety issue and a disruption.

Riser Etiquette/Concert Etiquette: Your behavior during rehearsals will determine the degree of success we are able to achieve. Please respect our time by staying focused and on task. Train yourself to watch the director at all times, and to refrain from talking. Cell phones are a major distraction and cause resentment in other singers. Gossip is poison to a group. Do your best to contribute in a positive manner to each rehearsal. At concerts, your deportment when not onstage is as important as your performance. All singers are required to be part of the audience for the entire concert, and show respect for other groups by being a good audience member with responses appropriate to the situation.