

**Windham High School Concert Choir**  
**2015-2016**

**Instructor:** Dr. Richard Nickerson  
**Credit:** one fine arts / elective credit  
**Office:** Windham High School Rm. 306  
**Office Hours:** Monday, Wednesday 2:00-2:45, others as scheduled  
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**Philosophy and Objectives**

Active, thoughtful participation in music ensembles can provide for development beyond the possibilities of individual study alone. The ensemble setting may become a synthesis of component parts of a complete musical education. It may include the study and performance of diverse musical expressions that represent a variety of historical and cultural perspectives.

This ensemble, the Concert Choir, provides the opportunity to prepare and present varied music; and to enhance individuals' skills in singing, listening, reading, and application of related musical skills. In a broader sense, the ensemble serves composers and listeners by presenting choral performances of the highest quality possible.

**Expectations**

Students are expected to arrive on time for rehearsal. Students are responsible for all work missed during an absence. An unexcused absence will count as a zero (0) for all work missed. Cell phones, Ipods and hats should be put away during class.

In addition to the assigned music folder, students are expected to keep a notebook. All class notes and handouts should be kept in the notebook.

**Folders**

Each student will be assigned a music folder with a specific number. At the end of each rehearsal, students are responsible for placing folders in the slot of the corresponding number. ***FOLDERS ARE NOT TO LEAVE THE CHOIR ROOM!***

**Assessment**

Each member of the Concert Choir will be required to complete the following per quarter:

- 1 vocabulary test
- 1 general knowledge test
- Individual choral assessments as assigned
- 2 listening assessments
- 5 rehearsal assessments
- Performance assessments will also be completed following each concert

## **Concerts**

The Concert Choir will present 3 public performances. In lieu of homework assignments, attendance at these concerts is mandatory. Absences from a concert will require a note from a doctor. Unexcused absences will result in a zero as a test grade.

Dress for the concerts is as follows:

Men: black pants, black socks, dark necktie, white shirt, dark shoes

Women: black skirt (at least knee length), dark shoes, white blouse (no tank tops!!!)

*All concert attire must be in accordance with the school dress code.*

### **Concert Dates:**

Winter Concert-Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

All Choirs Concert –Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m.

Spring Concert-Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

### **Areas to be covered in class**

Musical Vocabulary

Musical Styles

Vocal Technique

Music History

Music Theory

Demonstration of techniques and skills

Music Literacy

Assessment

### **Additional Opportunities**

District II Auditions: Thursday, October 22 (Festival Jan. 29-30 @ Windham High School)

All State Auditions: Saturday, November 7 (Festival May 19-21 @ University of Maine, Orono)

Tri-M Music Honor Society (Grades 11 & 12). Applications taken in fall, 2015

Europe trip, June, 2017 (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). Initial meeting on Tuesday, September 15 (see attached letter)

### **Grading**

Grades will be determined by averaging tests, quizzes, performance assessments, listening assessments and any other material assigned. In addition, students will receive a grade for demonstration of skills, which will be averaged with the above.

## **Essential Questions**

Why and how is music created?

How is music communicated?

How do people sing and play an instrument?

How is music analyzed and understood?

How is music performance evaluated?

How does music relate to other disciplines and reflect the culture that creates it?

## **Overarching Enduring Understandings**

1. Music-making is one of the oldest, most intimate and basic forms of communication and cultural expression.
2. Singing and playing an instrument provide people with the means of learning musical and developmental skills.
3. Through performing, composing, and improvising, people learn to connect ideas with symbols, sound patterns, and musical elements.
4. Reading and notating music are essential to literacy.
5. Educated music listeners learn to describe, analyze and evaluate music and music performances as an expressive art form.
6. As a form of human expression, music combines knowledge, skills and ideas in a unique social and educational experience.

## **National Standards for Music Education**

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music.
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performances.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.