

Swainsboro High School Chorus Syllabus 2012-2013

COURSE NAME: CHORUS

GA PSC CERTIFIED MUSIC TEACHER: Mr. John F. Morgan (T-5 certificate in Music grades P-12)
B. M. Ed., Shorter University. MSPSE, Troy University. Yamaha *Music In Education* certification.

Mr. Morgan is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE)

E-mail: jfmorgan@emanuel.k12.ga.us Website for Curricular Information:
<http://www.johnfmorganmusic.com/moodle/> , and <http://tigermusic.sites.noteflight.com>
(logins required. Parents may request credentials)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Each Semester two courses offered: 1st block or 2nd block

LOCATION: Swainsboro High School – Room D-121

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Swainsboro High School Chorus is an organization designed to promote musical growth in every student by developing vocal and music reading skills. Although the course is primarily performance based, there is a strong emphasis on sight-reading, ear training, and basic music theory. The course is a comprehensive approach to musicianship giving students an opportunity to listen, sing, evaluate, and study differing styles of music. We will utilize available technology and much of the course work and evaluation is done via computers and the Internet. Because excellence results from students' talent, commitment, and experience levels, students are encouraged to arrange their schedule in coordination with the counselor and their advisor so that they can have eight consecutive chorus classes by graduation.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will develop a positive attitude toward music and our choral program that includes demonstrating the following abilities:
 - Personal commitment to music
 - Teamwork, group cohesiveness, and goal orientation
 - Responsibility and loyalty
 - Respect and courtesy toward classmates and teacher
 - Pride in musical accomplishments
- Students will demonstrate the following universally recognized choral techniques (from the Georgia Performance Standards, also meeting National Standards from the NAfME):
 - Correct sitting and standing posture for singing
 - Correct breathing techniques for vocal production
 - Developing accuracy in pitch and rhythm, appropriate to prior experience.
 - Sing with clear vowels, appropriate diction, and good tone quality
 - Participate in daily warm-up activities including memorize scales
 - Recognize and perform literature in major and minor keys relating each pitch to the appropriate scale degrees or arpeggios
 - Sing assigned part in chorus within section while responding to conductor's direction
 - Sight-sing choral music individually and chorally at an appropriate level
 - Perform music from memory in public concert

SPECIFIC MUSIC READING EXPECTATIONS:

- ✓ Demonstrate working knowledge of rhythm, time signatures, and conducting.
- ✓ Identify the lines and spaces of the treble and bass clef.
- ✓ Recognize key signatures of each musical selection by demonstrating ability to sing scale degrees.
- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to follow choral scores by "tracking" and maintaining the correct page and system position, including following repeats and demonstrating knowledge of the form of the music.
- ✓ Identify, define, and demonstrate knowledge of music terms included in repertoire.
- ✓ Evaluate daily and concert performances through critical listening.

TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

- ❖ Various sight-singing exercises on hand-out sheets and in textbooks.
- ❖ Varied choral repertoire. Standards and popular choral literature, both sacred and secular, chosen by the conductor.
- ❖ Selected audio examples.
- ❖ Concert attire (see below).

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- ❖ Students should come to class with an SD card with sufficient space for assignments, sharpened pencils, notebook paper, a binder with 4 subject dividers, and a student planner.
- ❖ Students must head their papers on the top left corner with Name, Date, Class/Teacher, and Assignment. Papers are to be turned in at the designated place on the teacher's shelf.

COURSE CONTENT:

- ✓ Warm-up exercises daily (may include stretching and other physical activity or choreography).
- ✓ Sight-singing, musical dictation, ear-training, and notation-reading exercises daily.
- ✓ Singing repertoire, ensembles, and solos - the entire course is based on singing and national music standards. Students are expected to sing alone and with others throughout the period and no excuses will be accepted unless accompanied by physician or parental note. In general, if you are not well enough to sing, you are not well enough to be at school.
- ✓ Creative and analytical thinking skills used daily to expand knowledge of music and relate it to life and culture. Students are expected to learn to write, arrange, and improvise music.
- ✓ Public performances.

MAKE-UP WORK:

There is no way for a student to adequately make-up a rehearsal or a concert, so absences should be rare. Since chorus is a voluntary class, and both a curricular and an extra-curricular activity, concert attendance in concert attire is required and will be graded just as homework (assigned to be done after school hours) is graded in other courses. Other make-up work: Discuss with teacher individually.

CONCERT ATTIRE: (Subject to change by consensus of class, with director approval)

- Females are expected to wear black knee-highs or pantyhose and black shoes, a white dress shirt, and a black skirt or slacks.
- Males are expected to wear black socks and black shoes, a white dress shirt, and black slacks.
 - No tennis shoes will be allowed at concerts.
 - Hair, make-up and jewelry should be judged appropriate for concert performance by the conductor.

RUBRIC FOR STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

Major grades (tests): Individual Performance Assessments on sight-singing and repertoire. Rubrics are available upon request. 30% of 9-week term grade.	40% per 9-wk term X 2 terms = 80%
Daily grades: Class participation and cooperation. 25% of 9-week term grade.	
Quizzes: Weekly quizzes. 25% of each 9-week term grade.	
Projects and singing in scheduled concerts: See www.johnfmorganmusic.com/moodle/ for due dates of major projects. 20% of 9-week term grade.	20%
1st or 3rd 9 weeks mid-term/final exam: 1st and 3rd nine weeks: Midterm exam (will include assessment of all elements of the standards). 2 nd and 4th nine week Final Comprehensive Exams. Students are exempt if they have: An A average and no more than 5 absences (excused or unexcused) A B average and no more than 4 absences, A C average and NO absences. 3 tardies to one class counts as an absence.	
TOTAL for SEMESTER GRADE =	100%

DIFFERENTIATION: Because Chorus at SHS is a multi-section class, higher expectations will correlate to more choral experience and greater talent levels.

DUE DATES and Specific Schedule of Assignments (See: www.johnfmorganmusic.com/moodle/ login credentials required – parents are welcome to Email the teacher to receive credentials to check their student's assignments)

Daily Standards From GA GPS MHSBC: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 3a, 3b

Concerts: November 9th (during school day – Veteran's Day Program), and December 10th (Holiday Taste of the Arts). February 27th (Black History Month @ 9 a.m.), and May 14th (Spring Taste of the Arts @ 6 p.m.). Other Concerts TBA as the opportunities to perform arise. **Dates subject to change.**

Quizzes: Weekly dictation-notation-ear-training and/or sight-singing quiz 1a, 3c, 3d, plus quizzes on these subjects and other curricular materials the teacher may add during the term:

Week 1: Introduction to Choral Music: Choral Score Reading and Basic Notation Review 3a

Week 2: Posture, breathing, dynamics and repeats 1g, 3a

Week 3: Basic Tempi and diction 1g, 3a

Week 4: Phrases and phrasing 1g, 3a

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Week 5: Textual meaning and interpretation, conducting gestures 1g
Week 6: Keyboard letters 2a and key signatures, bass clef notation 5a
Week 7: Simple keyboard songs 2a, 3b
Week 8: Chords and harmony; minor key signatures. MIDTERM review 2a 3b
Week 9: Scales, arpeggios, and intervals 3b, 3c, 3d
Week 10: Voice parts and types 1f
Week 11: Vocal anatomy and exploration 4a
Week 12: Improvisation 4b
Week 13: Arranging music 5a
Week 14: Composing music 5b
Week 15: Genres, styles, composers, cultures 6a, 9b
Week 16: No quiz or project due: Catch-up week
Week 17: Music's Emotional Content 6c
Week 18: Criteria for Criticism and Audience Etiquette 7a, 7b
Week 19: Final Exam (comprehensive)

Major Projects:

Week 11: Vocal Solo (submitted via recording or live) Std. 1 "*singing alone*"*
Week 13: Composition (PROJECT) 5a
Week 14: Arranging (PROJECT) 5b
Week 15: Genres, styles, composers, cultures (PROJECT) 6a, 9b

Tests: Sight-Singing and Repertoire Tests weekly: (Individual Performance Assessments, progressive in difficulty)

EXAMS: Instead of EOCTs or EOPTs, Chorus has a comprehensive mid-term over standards 1-3 and a comprehensive final exam over all standards.

TUTORING SCHEDULE:

Mr. Morgan will be available from 7:05 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. each morning for tutoring by prior appointment only. Please schedule your time at least one day in advance.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES: See Mr. Morgan for approval and deadlines to participate.

- All State Chorus membership opportunity (4th weekend of February in Savannah). Deadline for school audition, application and fee (\$33 plus cost of audition preparation CD, non-refundable) is September 1st. Regional auditions are the third Saturday of October at a school in the region (Students must provide their own transportation). Final Auditions are the first weekend of January. Students must pay their own expenses to participate in All State, including required attire, music purchase, transportation, hotel accommodations, and meals while in Savannah for the event.
- District X Honor Chorus: First week in November. Students chosen by director from class participation and interest. There will be a participation fee of approximately \$30 plus transportation costs.
- Literary Meet participation (Boy's and Girl's Solo, Girls' Trio and Boys' Quartet) will be determined at the discretion of the Chorus Director during first semester, although Literary Meet will not be held until second semester.
- Depending on enrollment, talent, and participation, the director may opt for the chorus to participate in District X Large Group Performance Evaluation.
- Tri-M Music Honor Society Membership (by invitation only). Student leadership will have input regarding criteria for the awarding of Honor Cords for graduation.

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

- See www.johnfmorganmusic.com/moodle for current information.
- Students must provide their own rides to and from school for extra-curricular events.
- Veterans Day Program
- Christmas Concert
- Black History Month Concert
- Spring Concert
- Other performance opportunities that may occur in the community.

BASIC CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS:

1. Abide by all PBIS expectations, Classroom Core Values, and Hallway Core Values! (See school handbook)
2. Follow instructions and be polite. You represent the school and the chorus at all times.
3. Keep your hands, feet, and inappropriate comments to yourself. Chorus students are not allowed to intimidate others by making judgmental comments about students' vocal tone or ability.

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4. Do not play the keyboards without the Director's express permission. Do not play any other instrument in the room that does not belong to you.
5. Raise your hand to be recognized by the Chorus Director before speaking.
6. Be IN THE ROOM by the time the tardy bell sounds – If you are not in the room, the teacher will count you tardy in Infinite Campus. Three instances of tardiness in Infinite Campus equal one absence when final exam exemptions are tallied. For more than 5 instances of tardiness, see your student handbook. Be in your seat when class begins. This is three (3) minutes after the tardy bell rings. Tardiness has been a problem in the past. Please check the handbook policy for tardiness.
7. Have all necessary music and a pencil at the start of rehearsal; do not leave your seat during the rehearsal without permission.
8. No food, drink (with the exception of bottled water), candy, sunflower seeds, or gum.

PARENTAL OBLIGATIONS:

- As Chorus is a voluntary activity, parents should be aware of higher expectations than some other courses require.
- Parents/Guardians of Chorus members should be fully aware of the Chorus performance schedule, available at the school's website.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for student transportation to and from Chorus events. Make sure your child is picked up after Chorus events by a parent/guardian or another responsible party. Rehearsals will begin and end promptly.
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for Chorus Uniforms, fees incurred by Chorus students (as listed above) as well as providing meal money for your child for any Chorus trips.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to encourage and endure private practice time at home, especially for those students participating in enrichment opportunities.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to attend performances and applaud vigorously at appropriate times.
- Parents/Guardians should expect to be involved in fundraising activities and double-check any student money and order forms for accuracy.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to get to know the Chorus Director and call him any time with questions regarding the chorus. Office: 478.237.2267 (SHS)

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR PARENT-STUDENT-TEACHER AGREEMENT – Sign and Return

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Detach and return with student and parent signatures:

The Emanuel County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, color, religion, national origin or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment.

(printed student name)

Our signatures below certify that we have read and understood expectations and grading for membership in SHS chorus and agree to participate and act in an appropriate manner during class and chorus events. I agree to perform at scheduled concerts to the best of my ability (with the exception of genuine illness).

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____

Emergency Contact: (name and phone):

Parent/Guardian Email: _____