

Course Syllabus  
**Junior High Choir**

**Communication:**

**Teacher Name:** Mrs. Jill Roe

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**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Description:** Junior High Choir is a mixed choir that meets all year and is open to any student in grades 7-8. This course is designed to develop music reading skills, vocal health and technique, and choral singing skills through a variety of musical styles. The primary objectives are vocal development, vocal health, teamwork, responsibility, performance technique, and performance etiquette, and music literacy. Students are required to perform with the Choir in public performances throughout the year. Students will be given choir lessons as an individual or small group.

Alignment to the 2014 National Core Arts Standards for Music: *Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting*.

**Standards:** The National Core Art Standards guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school.

**Creating**

- Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work

**Performing/Presenting/Producing**

- Anchor Standard #4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

**Responding**

- Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

**Connecting**

- Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

**Assessments:** Summative assessments include observations of student progress, music literacy pre/post-tests, and rubrics that reflect the learning targets of culminating projects.

Formative assessments include listening to and watching recordings of student performances, self-assessment, music literacy exams, individual and group goal setting, formal and informal conferences/discussions with students, checklists, studies, peer review, and critiques.

**Anticipated Activities and Timeline subject to change due to health guidelines**

Semester 1 - Graded, required performances

Tuesday, October 18: Fall Band and Choir Concert, grades 7-12; 6:30 pm, Main Gym

Monday, December 19: Winter Band and Choir Concert, junior high grades 6-8; 6:30 pm, West Gym

### Semester 2 - Graded, required performances

Tuesday, March 7: Spring Band and Choir Pops Concert, grades 6-8, 6:30 pm, West Gym

Monday, May 22, 2023: Spring Band and Choir Concert, junior high grades 6-8; 7:00 pm, West Gym

### **Additional performance opportunities (subject to change due to health guidelines):**

September 2-23: Opus audition submissions for interested students in grades 5-9

October 3: River Valley Conference Honor Choir for interested students in grades 7-12

October 8: "RitterSing" at Wartburg College for tenors and basses, grades 7-12 (same day as State Marching Band)

November 4-6: "Little Shop of Horrors" musical production

November 17: Opus Honor Choir Festival, Ames

National Anthem performances throughout the year

**Content:** Students enrolled in Junior High Choir may learn some Honor Choir Festival literature. This repertoire includes choral works from Renaissance to 21<sup>st</sup> Century composers. Students will learn history, technique, interpretation, expression, blend, and basic music theory and music literacy skills.

**Instructional Strategies:** include group and individual lessons, vocal technique, vocal health, music history, and music-specific technology. Guest artists will visit, offering master classes and opportunities to explore further study in music and music careers.

**Resources:** printed choral music, printed vocal solo music, vocal health resources, various online music resources, community resources including University of Dubuque, Clarke University, Loras College, Wartburg College, Mt. Mercy University, St. Ambrose University, Northeast Iowa School of Music, and University of Wisconsin-Platteville partnerships.

**Core Materials:** materials for this class are provided choral music, as well as printed materials on vocal production, vocal health, and vocal technique.

**Concert Attire:** Students are responsible to wear their own or borrow school-appropriate dress clothes of any color combination. Clothing items include, but are not limited to, dresses, skirts, dress pants, shirts, shoes, etc.

**Academic/Behavior Expectations:** Students involved in performance organizations at Bellevue High School have a unique opportunity and responsibility. By the very nature of this class, students are ambassadors for Bellevue High School. They are expected, therefore, to behave in a responsible manner at all public performances. Any student behaving in a manner less than that of an ambassador will receive a no-credit for that performance. Students are expected to maintain a classroom of safety and inclusion. Failure to maintain a positive learning environment will result in meetings with counselors and guardians.

**Attendance Policy:** Students missing at least 30% of rehearsals – approximately 4 classes – will be tested on their knowledge of repertoire before they can perform. An alternative option will be given to earn the grade if a student is ill-prepared to perform due to truancy.

### **All students are expected to:**

- Be on time for class; attend class daily
- Participate fully in class with a positive attitude
- Work as a supportive member of the team and respect others
- Attend and participate in choir lessons and all required performances/concerts
- Refrain from chewing gum, eating, drinking (other than water) and cell phone use. All cell phones are expected to be silenced and out of sight unless they are used for instructional purposes.

**Electronic Devices:** When used without permission, cell phone use during class is disruptive and disrespectful. We are an ensemble. This means that, in order to be successful, we need the full cooperation of each and every member of the ensemble. Keep cell phones out of sight. Tell your friends and parents phones will be off during class; that you want to fully engage in learning. There is an electronics policy discussed in your student handbook; please familiarize yourself with it. If you choose to disrespectfully use your phone during class, it will affect your grade via your points in Daily Rehearsal. Eventually, disciplinary action will occur. See Page 20 of the Student Handbook for more information on electronic devices.

**Evaluation Criteria:** A letter grade is earned each semester. Student grades are entered online in JMC, which is accessible to students and parents via the Internet. The following grading scale is used:

- A 90–100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0–59%

**Grading Plan:**

Students will be graded on daily work, performances, and oral and written assessments as follows:

- Daily Rehearsal (70%) – 5 points each day: student arrives on time; student participates daily in class activities and rehearsals; student has all classroom materials for every rehearsal (music and pencil); student attends assigned lessons; student behaves in a respectful manner. Points will be deducted for infractions of these expectations.
  - Choir Lessons – Lessons are offered during the school day. Students in extra choir events (Opus, festivals, etc.) will take frequent choir lessons.
- Summative and Formative Assessments (10%) - assessing musical writing and skills
- Concert Performances (20%) – student participates in the required concerts, 100 points each

**Make-Up Work:** In the event a student is absent for any reason, the student is expected to immediately contact the teacher to complete the missed work within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the teacher. Students enrolled in Junior High Choir are required to participate in all performances of the class. Students missing a performance will complete an alternate assignment to fulfill this curricular requirement. The student may perform the literature from the missed performance for the class or music department faculty.

**Enrichment Opportunities:** Enrichment opportunities are available to students who wish to work on more challenging vocal/choral music. These opportunities include, but are not limited to Opus, choral festivals, private and group voice lessons, participation in voice master classes, and the school musical when invited.

**My Pledge to You:** As your teacher, I promise to be diligent, respectful, organized, caring, and trustworthy. I promise you a music education in a safe and caring learning environment. It is my goal to equip you with the skills you need to be a successful learner. I will push and challenge you. I expect you to strive for **excellence** in everything you do.