SHAW HIGH SCHOOL – 2016-2017

CHORAL MUSIC SYLLABUS

Beginning Chorus

Donna Bedenbaugh Dooley, Instructor

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Choral classes at SHS emphasize vocal training and polished performance skills for students. Students will learn to sing accurately by reading music notation, developing sight singing and ear-training skills, using vocal technique and responding to the interpretations of music. Students will also learn to strive for excellence while rehearsing through hard work, responsibility for self and respect for others. The value of collaboration and team work will be emphasized and practiced.

Students will also experience interdisciplinary lessons (language arts, history, math. etc…), creating and improvising, critical analysis and historical/cultural perspectives throughout the year.

The Georgia Performance Standards for Fine Arts in Choral Music will be carefully followed in the classroom!

**MATERIALS NEEDED DAILY**

1. A 1 or 1 ½ inch 3-Ring binder with loose leaf notebook paper and 4 pocket dividers to hold music.

**MUSIC should NEVER leave the classroom without permission and sign-out!**

Students will be charged $5.00 for missing or damaged music.

2. Pencil for marking music. Pens or other markers are unacceptable.

3. Optional: a bottle of water **– strongly encouraged!**

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. **ABSOLUTLY** **NO GUM, FOOD OR DRINKS** (Plain water is allowed in the room)

2. **CELL PHONES OFF** unless permission is given to use for a class activity – district policy and consequences will be followed if misused.

3. Be in your assigned seat when the bell rings and begin bell work if assigned.

4. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak. No interruptions at any time!

5. Follow instructions the first time they are given.

6. Students are only allowed in the choir room when an instructor is present, or

specific permission is granted.

7. Students must ask to use any electronic device or the piano.

8. Students should knock, and then receive permission to enter the director’s office.

9. A cubby will be assigned to each student. Personal items and books from other classes or not allowed to be stored in the cubby. **The only items that can remain in the cubby on a permanent basis are the required student materials.** All other items will be removed and placed in the lost and found box for one week. After one week, the items will be discarded. Students MUST use their assigned locker for personal items and other class materials.

10. **RESPECT EVERYONE!** No cursing or teasing. Be appropriate in all you say and do.

Because negative attitudes and comments damage team spirit, they are strongly discouraged. All music students are expected to try their very best at all times, including keeping their comments constructive, positive, helpful, and considerate. **Students are expected to follow the Class Procedures Guidelines which is posted in the choir room and on Ms. Dooley’s web site. Consequences for offences will be**

**followed as stated in the Class Procedures Guidelines.**

**GRADING**

**Summative Assessment – 50% of the grade**

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against some standard or benchmark. Summative assessments are often high stakes, which means that they have a high point value. Examples of summative assessments include: a midterm exam, term project, paper, choral concert, or LGPE.

**Formative Assessment – 50% of the grade**

The goal of formative assessment is to *monitor student learning* to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by instructors to improve their teaching and by students to improve their learning. More specifically, formative assessments help students identify their strengths and weaknesses and target areas that need work and also help teachers recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Formative assessments are generally *low stakes*, which means that they have low or no point value. Examples of formative assessments include: daily participation grade, individual or small ensemble hearings for sight reading or music parts, concert evaluation, or pencil and paper quizzes for theory knowledge. These assessments will usually involve a rubric.

**Grading will include but not be limited to:**

**PARTICIPATION POINTS Formative Assessment)**

**Daily Points = 6 points**

1 – Being in class on time.

1 – Having all necessary materials (binder, pencil and assigned music).

4 - Class participation is a **subjective grade** based upon the following factors: willingness to learn, attitude towards director and guest conductors, attitude towards peers, leadership, attendance, promptness and openness to new concepts, Class participation grades are not based upon the following: how well students sing, choir placement or popularity.

**Points will be deducted for the following: disrespectful to the teacher or students, does not participate fully, not giving 100 percent.**

All students are expected to participate in class. If there is a need for a special circumstance, please arrange this with Ms. Dooley before class begins and a make-up assignment will be arranged; otherwise, points will be deducted.

**CONCERT ATTENDANCE (Summative Assessment)**

**Attendance to scheduled home concerts and choir festivals are MANDANTORY!**

There will be 100 points awarded for each scheduled concert and/or festival.

\*15 points for concert warm-up with full participation. Students must be on time, quiet, and in their seat for scheduled warm-up call time to receive these points.

\*10 points for coming in the appropriate dress.

\*65 points for the student’s participation in and during the concert (THIS INCLUDES APPROPRIATE CONCERT ETIQUETTE – no talking, no use of cell phones and being respectful to all performers)

\*10 points for the performance evaluation form (completed within 2 days of the concert).

For appropriate conflicts, a valid **“Rehearsal/Performance Excuse Request”** form signed and completed by the parent/guardian and approved in writing by Ms. Dooley will allow students to do a substantial make-up project for up to 85% of the grade. The form will list make-up options. Any emergency (illness, family emergency, etc.) must be submitted in writing with a parent/guardian signature and a doctor’s excuse (if this applies) the day the student returns to class. Failure to meet with Ms. Dooley regarding the absence within two days of the concert or upon the students return to school will result in a grade of “0”. **Work, Sporting Events, Night School, etc. are not valid excuses for missing a concert. This is our big game!**

**TERM PROJECT (Summative Assessment)**

**FALL SEMESTER**

“COMPOSER MADNESS” OR “A TIME FOR MUSIC”

Students will research a composer or period in music and write a research paper on the subject. They will also give a class presentation based on their research.

**SPRING SEMESTER**

“SINGING RAIDER IDOL”

Students will select an appropriate “Idol – Type” song to perform for the class.

The project criteria and rubric will be given to students in April.

**ASSIGNMENT/QUIZES (Formative Assessment)**

The following music subjects will be emphasized throughout the year. Good singers are good musicians! Tests, projects, and specific assignments will be used as evaluations.

**\*Music Memory (text and notes) singing quizzes based on concert performance music will be administered on a regular basis. Students will be given two days’ notice of the quiz.**

**Students will be required to sing selected random measures of all rehearsal music.**

\* Sight singing and ear training quizzes.

\*The fundamentals of music tests (Note Names, Rhythm/Meter, Sol-Feg, Terms, Symbols, etc…).

\*Music History. This will include studying significant periods of music, composers, and music from various cultures.

\*How music relates to other subjects (interdisciplinary); for example, journal writing.

\*Proper/Healthy Vocal Techniques, Vocal Range and Vocal Anatomy

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work may be accepted at the teacher’s discretion. The make-up can be accomplished in various ways depending on the situation (tardy or absence and not being able to sing due to illness). The assignment must be completed and turned in within three days of the missed assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to contact Ms. Dooley about missed assignments.

See CONCERT ATTENDANCE for that make-up policy.

**TARDIES AND ABSENCES**

The schools policy outlined in the student handbook and also in Ms. Dooley’s syllabus will be strongly enforced in choir class. **Students will receive a thirty minute detention after two tardies.**

**Fundraising Opportunities**

Fundraisers will be scheduled throughout the year. Students are expected to fully participate to help increase the choir budget for needed supplies and to assist with the cost of festivals, field trips, etc…

**♪ ♪ SINGING RAIDER ♪ ♪**

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH**



An exceptional choir student will be chosen once a month (September through May) as the Singing Raider Student of the Month. Ms. Dooley will choose the student based on their daily participation in class, overall academic performance (GPA), enthusiasm towards music in general, loyalty and respect for the choir and overall musical progress.

Photos and information about the student will be posted in the display cabinet in front of the choir room door. The student will also be recognized on the Raider News Network.

**CONCERTS, COMPETITIONS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

**2016-2017 Concerts/Rehearsals**

**All concerts will be in the Shaw High School Auditorium unless noted otherwise.**

**Please mark your calendar now!**

**Rehearsal and Concert participation is mandatory for a class grade where noted!**

**Beginning Chorus Fall Concert Rehearsal *Wednesday, September 28 – 3:30 to 4:30***

**Fall Concert (Mandatory All Choirs) *Thursday, September 29 - 3:30 Rehearsal/7:00 Performance***

“A Night at the Movies” featuring Chorus, Band, and Orchestra

3:30 Rehearsal is mandatory for Beginning Chorus only.

Call time for Advanced Chorus is 5:45. Call time for Beginning Chorus is 6:30.

**Beginning Chorus Holiday Concert Rehearsal *Wednesday, December 7 – 3:30 to 4:30***

**Holiday Concert (Mandatory All Choirs) *Thursday, December 8 - 3:30 Rehearsal/7:00 Performance***

Featuring Chorus, Band, and Orchestra

3:30 Rehearsal is mandatory for Beginning Chorus only.

Call time for Advanced Chorus is 5:45. Call time for Beginning Chorus is 6:30.

**Beginning Chorus Pre LGPE Concert Rehearsal Monday, February 27 – 3:30 to 4:30**

**Pre-LGPE Concert Mandatory All Choirs) Tuesday, February 28 *3:30 Rehearsal/6:30 Performance***

Featuring Blackmon Rd. Middle School and Shaw High School Choirs

3:30 Rehearsal is mandatory for Beginning Chorus only.

Call time for Advanced Chorus is 5:30. Call time for Beginning Chorus is 6:00

**Beginning Chorus Spring Concert Rehearsal *Wednesday, April 26 – 3:30 to 4:30***

**Spring Concert (Mandatory All Choirs)** ***Thursday, April 27 - 3:30 Rehearsal/ 7:00 Performance***

“Spring Fling” Featuring Chorus, Band, Orchestra

3:30 Rehearsal is mandatory for Beginning Chorus only.

Call time for Advanced Chorus is 5:45. Call time for Beginning Chorus is 6:30.

**2016-2017 Festivals and other Events**

**Some of the specific dates and locations will be announced when made available to the director.**

**All State Chorus Auditions FEE REQUIRED and must be paid in advance.**

**1st Round – Saturday, November 12 in Cordele; 2nd Round January 19 at Midland Middle in Columbus.** Participating students will audition at the regional level and possibly the final level. All accepted choir members will participate in the State All State event in Athens. Interested students will receive the criteria to participate from Ms. Dooley

**MCSD Honor Choir FEE REQUIRED and must be paid in advance.**

**February 3 - 4 at Hardaway High School. Rehearsals will be at Northside High School.**

Participating students will be chosen by Ms. Dooley in October and attend rehearsals throughout January. Students will rehearse and perform with other appointed choir students from the MCSD.

**Literary Meet (March – date TBA)**

Students must pass an audition in early October and be extremely dedicated to work very diligently on solo and small ensemble repertoire during after school rehearsals.Students must be a member of the Advanced Mixed or Intermediate Women’s Choir during the fall and/or spring semesters to participate.

**LGPE (Large Group Performance Evaluation)**

**March 7 and 8 at 1st Baptist Church in Columbus. We attend only one day. Exact date is determined in February.**

All major choral groups will perform and each group will be adjudicated on performance and sight-reading ability. Shaw choir will perform on one of the two days. Event time is usually during the school day and is marked as an excused absence.

**Spring Field Trip Saturday, May 6. More information to come!**

**DRESS CODE FOR ALL CONCERTS**

\*Black dress. The dress must be within school dress code: an appropriate neckline and sleeve size with NO cleavage showing. The strap on the sleeve should be at least 2 inches wide. No halter, strapless, v-back, or spaghetti strap dresses are permitted. No underwear straps should be visible. The student may wear a black cardigan or shrug type cover up if needed.

\*Black dress shoes. Women must wear a closed toe shoe with a heel of no more than 2 inches high. Men must wear black dress socks. Absolutely no athletic shoes!

\*No obstructive hair style or large jewelry is permitted.

\*A BIG SMILE!! ☺

Please see Ms. Dooley immediately if you are unable to obtain the appropriate attire.

Do not wait until the week, or even worse, the day of the concert to prepare your concert attire.

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**Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),**

If at any time during the course of this year you have any questions concerning choir, outfits, performances, your son/daughter’s progress, or anything else, please feel free to contact me at school at 706-569-3638 or by e-mail. I will return your call as soon as possible. E-mail is generally the most effective way of reaching me – “dooley.donna.b@muscogee.k12.ga.us”

Also, if you would like to volunteer in some way, please let me know. I will need parent/guardian chaperones and coverage during concerts, field trips and other events.

I need parents to help with many aspects of the choir program There are many things to be done in order to run a successful choir program. I would greatly appreciate your help**.**

Sincerely,

Ms. Dooley, Choir Teacher

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**Shaw High School Choir**

**Student and Parent Agreement**

**Please sign, date and return the Parent/Student agreement to Ms. Dooley by Friday, August 12, 2016.**

Participation points will be deducted if the signed form is not turned in on time.

The Shaw High School Choir Handbook and Syllabus should remain in the student’s 3-ring binder in the choir room. Parents can request a copy or view the handbook and all choir information on Ms. Dooley’s Web site.

**2016 - 2017**

**SHAW HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR DEPARTMENT**

**STUDENT/PARENT (GUARDIAN) CLASS AGREEMENT**

**Due Friday, August 12, 2016**

I have read and understand the Choir Class policies, rules, requirements, and procedures outlined in the Shaw High School Choir Syllabus. I have read and understand the Class Procedure Guidelines that are posted in the choir room and on Ms. Dooley’s website. I agree to follow Ms. Dooley’s choir policies, to support the choir program and to also follow the Shaw High School Policies and Rules outlined in the Student Handbook. I have shared the entire calendar of events with my parent(s)/guardians and understand the responsibilities and commitments to the Shaw choir program.

Student name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_