

## **WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT SYLLABUS**

While most high school choral students do not become professional singers, many do enter college music programs, and everyone has the potential to be a life-long participant in music making and a lover of the choral art. The objectives of the Westlake High School Choral Department are aligned with the Utah State Core of Music Curriculum—Choir II.

These objectives include:

1. To promote excellence in choral music and strengthen musical skills, such as sight-reading and theory.
2. To learn and utilize correct vocal technique, in both solo and ensemble situations.
3. To develop appropriate rehearsal etiquette.
4. To develop and enhance performance and audience member skills.
5. To increase knowledge of music history.
6. To develop awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity reflected in music.

### **UNITS of STUDY**

In general, units of study in a performance-based class are not taught in specific units. Rather, they are introduced and continually remediated during the rehearsal process.

These Units include:

- Aspects of vocal technique including posture, breath management, attacks, and releases.
- Tone quality including resonance, focus, control, clarity, and consistency
- Diction including correct vowel formation, voiced vs. unvoiced consonants and clarity of pronunciation
- Intonation
- Balance and blend of individual voices and sections within the ensemble
- Singing with expression including phrasing, tempo, dynamics, and emotional involvement
- Appropriate performance etiquette including appropriate appearance, conduct at performances
- Memorization of music
- Musical literacy (pitch identification, sight-singing and reading rhythms)
- Aural Training
- Music History and stylistically appropriate performance

## **ASSESSMENTS**

Students will be assessed individually and in small groups each term on the pieces we are preparing for each concert. The concert serves as the final assessment. Students will also be assessed on their musical literacy.

Please refer to the choral department calendar for the concert dates. (Found on [www.westlakechoirs.org](http://www.westlakechoirs.org))