

## GENERAL CHOIR

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### Course Description

General Choir is semester-long, non-auditioned choir class. It is for students who are interested in learning more about choir ensembles, choral techniques, and earning a fine-arts credit, but may not want to be a member of the auditioned performing ensembles.

### Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe and demonstrate different styles of basic vocal technique
- Describe different qualities of choral tone
- Identify different aspects of a choral rehearsal
- Demonstrate the basics of music-reading (pitch and rhythm)
- Prepare for a choral audition

### Class Procedures

#### **Class Rules**

- Obey the rules of the school. Please make sure you are following the dress code.
- Be on time
- No gum, food, or drink allowed in the classroom. Water bottles are accepted.
- No cell phone use during class, unless designated by the instructor
- Any student found cheating on quizzes or plagiarizing their concert report will not receive credit.

#### **Class Materials**

Students will be assigned a music folder. They are responsible for that folder and all the music in the folder for the semester. Lost music will be charged \$3.00 for each missing piece of music. Damaged music and folders will be fined as necessary.

#### **Grading:**

Students will be graded on their attendance and class participation, quizzes/tests, and a concert report. The weighted categories are as follows:

- **Class Attendance/Daily Rehearsal Skills** **65%**  
Students will earn 10 points daily for being on time, demonstrating correct rehearsal skills and participating in class activities. Being on time means being in a seat and ready to begin class when the bell rings, not walking in the classroom as the bell is ringing. 3 points will be lost for the first three tardies/quarter and 5 points for subsequent tardies. Students who are tardy will need to sign the tardy log. Students who are more than 20 minutes late to class will need to have a check-in slip from the office and will earn a maximum of 5/10 points for the rehearsal. Students who check-in the last 15 minutes of class will be considered absent and will need to make-up the rehearsal points for the day.

- **Absence and Tardy Make-Up**

Each day is an assignment. If you want to earn points for the days that you miss, then you must make-up that day or assignment. Students may make-up **four** excused absences each term for full credit by listening to the class rehearsal on the music files page on the website. ([www.westlakechoirs.org](http://www.westlakechoirs.org) The password is Thunder) **Make-up must occur no later than one week from the absence.** Make-up is not required for a school-excused absence. After the fourth excused absence, students will receive different projects for make-up. Tardies must be made up within a week of the tardy as well. Tardy make-up is 20 minutes after school. **Tardies must also be made-up within a week.** According to the Attendance Policy, the grade will go to a NC after the 4<sup>th</sup> tardy. Students must attend attendance school or make arrangements with the instructor to make up the NC.

**Quizzes/Tests**

**10%**

Any students found cheating will receive a zero for that quiz. Please be honest.

- **Concert Reports (On 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Grade)**

**10%**

Students must attend one of the two Westlake Choral Department concert scheduled during the semester. The dates will be discussed in class. All concerts are held at Westlake High School at 7 PM. There will be a form available to print from the website. **The critique is due 2 weeks after the performance, except for the Final Concert, which will be due 1 week after the concert.**

- **Final Performance (On 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Grade)**

**15%**

An in-class final performance is scheduled at the end of each semester in the auditorium. Please check the website calendar for the date. Parents are welcome to attend.

**Grade Scale**

**A 94-100%**

**A- 90-93%**

**B+ 87-89%**

**B 83-86%**

**B- 80-82%**

**C+ 77-79%**

**C 73-76%**

**C- 70-72%**

**ETC.**

**CLASS FEE**

There is a \$10 music participation class fee.