

MUSICAL THEATER CHOIR SYLLABUS

Instructor: Mrs. Lisa Forkish
lforkish@oakarts.org

Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
Wednesdays Periods 8-9 in RM 205

Course Description:

This choir is an ensemble that will study and perform the great music that has emerged from musical theater. One of the most exciting aspects of this select repertoire is that it is some of the most beloved music of this country. Musical theater is a tradition born in this country out of vaudeville and musical revues and the Greek Amphitheatre! We will explore musical theatre from the beginning of the last century to the exciting evolution of the now popular pop and rock musicals. Also included in the repertoire will be some important music from film and television. We will explore the performance traditions, styles and “art” of the musical. Students will also be introduced to the vocal requirements of musical theater. One of the major strengths of this focus is that it gives our students an opportunity to expand their vocal performance to drama, movement and storytelling. It also looks into the behind-the-scenes workings of a production – directing, playwriting, producing, staging.

Course Objectives:

This course provides students with the opportunity to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the history of musical theater and its cultural significance
- Understand the import of musical theater in the performing arts
- Perform varied repertoire from the diverse styles of musical theater
- Learn and execute different vocal techniques and applications that are specific to musical theater
- Understand the art and significance of dynamics and arrangements
- Interpret melodic structure and lyric content
- Learn the structure of musical theater: book, lyrics, musical numbers, dance numbers

Grading Criteria:

All students will be graded on the following:

- Attendance and Participation (15 pts. per day)
 - 5 points off for each tardy
 - 5-10 points off for unsatisfactory classroom behavior

Note: see handbook for Vocal Department behavior expectations
- In-Class Written Assignments: Reflection / Analysis (10 points each)
- Take-Home Written Assignments: History of Musical Theater (25 points each)
- Rep Checks (25-50 points each)

Course Policies:

- Students will respect and follow all OSA policies outlined in the student handbook. Students will arrive on time, prepared and focused.
- No late homework will be accepted unless the student has an excused absence (list of approved excused absences can be found in the student handbook).

- **Note: For an excused absence, a student must turn in the assignment the day after he/she returns to school. There are no exceptions.**
- All work must be done in pencil.
 - Note: Any work done in pen will receive half credit
- **Students who are absent are given a 0/15 for the day. Students with excused absences that meet the notification requirements stated in the OSA handbook, will receive an EX/15, provided that they provide VM teacher with either email or handwritten note from parent to verify that absence was excused.**
- No eating, chewing gum, or use of cell phones in the classroom. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in deducted daily participation points.

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with or without advance notice