

MS SOLO REPERTOIRE SYLLABUS: LEVEL 1

Instructor: Mrs. Lisa Forkish
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Fall 2014- Spring 2015
Wed. Period 5 in RM 221

Course Description:

Solo Repertoire is a course that focuses on providing solo vocal performance support to entering 6th grade students in the School of Vocal Music. During this year-long course, students will study 4 solo vocal pieces within the traditional, jazz, musical theater and contemporary idioms. Students will learn and memorize the piece, study the history of their particular genre, and analyze the context in which their particular piece was performed and written. Students will also learn the fundamentals of vocal technique with a focus on posture and breath support. Finally, students will have regular opportunities to perform in class in front of their peers and receive constructive critique on stage presence, delivery and technique. Primary focus will be on building confidence in students, both in terms of their vocal instrument and stage presence.

Course Objectives:

The year-long course is divided into four quarters:

- **Quarter 1:** Students will learn an American folk song or spiritual and work up to performance level. The course will cover fundamental techniques for solo singing and performance, as well as taking a deeper look at the song context and history.
- **Quarter 2:** Students will learn an up-tempo piece from the standard jazz repertoire and work up to performance level. We will expand on fundamental techniques for solo singing and performance and introduce a brief history of jazz and the song's composer.
- **Quarter 3:** Students will learn a piece from traditional musical theater literature and work up to performance level. We will introduce the musical theater genre and provide a brief history.
- **Quarter 4:** Students will prepare a piece of their own choosing to workshop with the instructor in front of the class. Students may choose a song in any genre, including pop and other contemporary styles. Students will perform unaccompanied with an emphasis on performance and connection to the song and "audience."

Grading Criteria:

All students will be graded on the following:

- This is a Pass/Fail course
- 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
- Mid-term Performance (50 points)

- Final Performance (100 points)

Course Policies:

- Students will respect and follow all OSA policies outlined in the student handbook. Students will arrive on time, prepared and focused.
- 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 hand-written note from parent to verify that absence was excused.
- 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.
- Students are expected to take pride in their classroom by keeping it neat and clean.
- Students must be seated and ready with all necessary materials by the second bell. Students who do not arrive on time are considered tardy and will lose 5 participation points for the day.
- 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.

Required Materials:

- Pencil and eraser
- Blank notebook paper
- Folder or binder to store music and hand-outs