

One Voice Classical Techniques

Department: Vocal Music
Time: Monday and Friday 8th-9th Period
Teacher: Alex Taite
Room: High School: 205
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Course Description

As singers, it is important to have a healthy voice and body. The voice is a delicate, sensitive and powerful instrument that can never be put away, or turned off. We use it all the time and must understand how to care for it both in normal, everyday use and on the stage. In this course we will learn to develop healthy habits from the classical vocal tradition. We will also study the structure, anatomy and bio-mechanics of our instrument. We will apply this information directly to the repertoire we sing, gaining a working knowledge of how best to serve the music's and our instrument's well-being. Students will study and follow basic conducting techniques and learn how and when gestures can shape music. Students will begin applying information they learn in music theory courses in order to create a stronger connection to the necessity of understanding the language of their art.

Course Objectives

- Develop a solid foundation in music theory, including sight singing, musical form and music notation.
- Understand and apply how to sing and blend in a cohesive group.
- Gain an understanding of classical technique as applied to either choral or solo singing.
- Learn how to conduct and follow a conductor.
- Learn good habits of a professional musician for rehearsals and performances, including vocal health, punctuality, preparedness, attentiveness, accountability and dedication.

Course Policies

- We will respect and follow all OSA policies as outlined in the Student Handbook.
- Late assignments will not be excepted unless student has an excused absence.
Note: for students with excused absences the assignment is due the day after the student returns to school.
- All students are equally responsible for their classroom environment. Each student is expected to take pride in their class room by keeping it neat and clean.
- All students are expected to exude a positive and supportive attitude towards their peers at all times.

Required Materials

Students are expected to have at each rehearsal:

- Pencil
- Black three-ring music binder

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

Arriving to rehearsal without one of these items will result in a point deduction for the day. I will also encourage students to bring water to rehearsal with them

Student Assessment

Class grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation: 15 points per day

Students will receive 5 points per day for their attentiveness, 5 points for being on time, and 5 points for required materials. Every student starts the day with 5 points in each category. Points will be reduced for not following policies and procedures. Any student who receives a zero in this category will also have an email behavior report sent to the principal.

Repertoire checks: 50 points (30 points individual + 20 points group)

There will be two rep. checks given each semester. Students will be tested as a small group (one to a part) and graded on five basic categories. The five categories are Memorization, Performance, Language/diction, blend and technique. There will be a group grade and an individual grade, the sum of which will be the final total for each student.

Assignments: 10 points each

Students will receive regular homework, research, and practicing assignments. Their grade will depend on their ability to fully complete the assignment and turn it in on time. Grammar, spelling, and accuracy will affect the total points for any writing assignment.

Performance: 25 points

The student will be graded on the execution of the material in a performance setting. The students' level of preparedness, amount of energy, amount of attentiveness and ability to engage the audience will attribute to receiving full points on this section.