

Eureka High School Concert Choir

Student/Parent Handbook

Instructor: Mrs. O'Donnell odonnellk@district140.org 309-467-2361 ext. 6653
www.facebook.com/ehschorus www.MrsOEHS.weebly.com

Course Description

A non-auditioned choir for students grades 9-12; this class serves to enhance students' exposure to quality repertoire of several difficulty levels and musical periods, including music with sacred and foreign texts. Students will begin or further their understanding of music theory and sight-reading. This choir will participate in concerts and festivals during the school year.

Course Objectives

1. To build and continue to grow the skills and knowledge needed to be a positively contributing member of a choral ensemble.
2. To gain familiarity with and appreciation/understanding of choral music from diverse styles, cultures, and historical periods.
3. To build a basic understanding of the fundamental aspects of music theory and improve sight-reading skills.
4. To recognize the connections between choral music and non-musical disciplines.
5. To experience and appreciate the unique joy and satisfaction that comes from creating music with other people!

Grading (Skyward Family Access Categories in parentheses)

Active and positive participation = 20% (Participation)

-Be ready at all times, always give your best effort, and treat others with respect. You will be awarded two participation points each day. Failure to participate, being disrespectful, doing homework from another class, or other negative behavior will result in losing one or both of your daily points.

Assessments = 20% (Test)

-Assessments include quizzes and tests on repertoire, theory, scales, and sight-singing. They may be planned or unannounced.

Concert attendance and performance = 20% (Project)

-Attendance of scheduled concerts is required; both your fellow singers and director are depending on you to be there and do your part! Please see attendance policy below.

Class Work = 20% (Classwork)

-This class will include homework that must be completed. Class work includes theory assignments, sight-reading tests, and journal entries. **Late work will only be accepted before 8:30am the day after the assignment is due!**

Pencil Check = 5% (Other)

- Keep a pencil in your choir folder at all times. Random pencil checks will be done throughout the year. You will get 5 points if you have a pencil and 0 if you don't.

Final Exam = 15% (SE1/SE2)

-A comprehensive final exam will be given at the end of each semester.

Attendance Policy

Rehearsal: Attendance is required and taken at every class. Class starts with warm-ups when the second bell rings. You must have a pass if you are late to class or you will be marked tardy. Unexcused tardiness/absences will result in loss of that day's participation points.

Concerts: Performances are the culmination of months of hard work by you, your director, and your fellow choir members. By missing even one person the entire sound of the chorus is completely altered. Therefore, *attendance and participation in concerts is mandatory!* Tardiness to concerts will also result in a lowered grade. Attached you will find a copy of the performance schedule. Please note the required events, as attendance at these concerts is a large part of your grade. If you have an after-school job, please give these dates to your supervisor right away.

Work is not an acceptable excuse for missing a performance.

There are excused and unexcused absences for concerts. Excused absences must be approved by Mrs. O'Donnell. A note or e-mail from a parent or guardian must be written to the director at least one week before the concert. If there is a family emergency or illness, these may be excused. School related conflicts can be worked out with cooperating coaches, other teachers, and administrators with *2 weeks notice* to Mrs. O'Donnell.

Students with an excused absence will have the opportunity to make up 100% of his or her concert grade with an assignment from Mrs. O'Donnell. If the student has an unexcused absence, he or she will have the opportunity to regain 50% of the concert grade by completing an assignment from Mrs. O'Donnell. If the student chooses to miss the concert and not complete the written assignment, he or she will receive a zero.

Communication is the key! If you have any extenuating circumstances or situations, please let Mrs. O'Donnell know ahead of time.

I do not want to penalize a student when a solution can easily be reached!

Concert Attire

Before the first performance you will be assigned a black choir robe and a white & yellow stole. While these robes will be kept at the school, you will be responsible for making sure that your robe is well-kept and put away neatly, in its proper spot with its correct hanger, after each performance. Mistreatment of the robes may result in lowering of a concert grade and/or reimbursement to EHS for loss or damages.

Concert Choir wears choir robes for almost all performances, but all students are expected to come to performances appropriately attired. Black dress pants and black shoes (with BLACK SOCKS!) are expected for gentlemen. Skirts or black dress trousers and black dress shoes are required for ladies. Please limit jewelry; nothing shiny or dangly. This reduces distractions to audience and makes the choir look more uniform on stage.

Absolutely no jeans, flip-flops, or tennis shoes may be worn to a concert.

Any student who comes to a performance inappropriately dressed may be asked to leave and will receive an unexcused absence for the performance.

Awards

The **National School Choral Award** will be presented to two senior chorus members on Awards Night in May. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated dedication, “singular merit, ability, and achievement, outstanding contribution to the success of the school vocal program, and an exceptional degree of loyalty, cooperation, and high quality of conduct”. *To be eligible for this award, seniors must have been enrolled in choir for all four years of high school.* Recipients will be chosen by general consensus of the instructor, members of the chorus, and the administration.

The **Freshman Choral Award** will be presented to one Prep Chorus member on Awards Night in May. This award recognizes students who have demonstrated a high level of ability and enthusiasm, dedication to the program, and participation in choral activities outside of class. Recipient will be chosen by general consensus of the instructor, members of the chorus, and the administration.

Cell Phone Policy

As per the handbook policy, cell phones may be used in the hallway during passing periods. They are not allowed in the classroom, even if the bell has not yet rung. If your phone goes off during class or if you are using it during class you WILL receive a referral through Skyward and consequences as outlined in the handbook will be applied. At times we may use phones/tablets/devices as tools in class. Mrs. O'Donnell will let you know this in advance and give you permission to use these.

Classroom Expectations

- ♪ Treat Mrs. O'Donnell, one another, and classroom materials with respect.
- ♪ Be in your assigned seat with your music folder AND A PENCIL when the bell rings. All book bags, homework, magazines, and papers should be stored **away** from the rehearsal area.
- ♪ No GUM, food, juice, or soda will be allowed during class. Bottled water is allowed. Please limit trips to the restroom or water fountain to before or after class.
- ♪ Sing! 😊

Anyone who chooses not meet these expectations will receive consequences for his or her actions.

1. Warning/ Loss of daily participation points
2. Meeting and discussion with Mrs. O'Donnell
3. Phone call or conference with parent/guardian
4. Referral to the Assistant Principal's office

Please feel free to contact me any time with questions or concerns. I look forward to a fantastic year and several great performances. Thanks! 😊

Kate O'Donnell

kate.odonnell@district.140.org

309.467.2361 ext 6653

Eureka High School Chorus

2015-2016 Performance Schedule



Please keep this sheet for your reference! All dates in **bold** are mandatory performances and attendance is required as part of your grade. Remember, **an unexcused absence from a required event will cause your grade to be lowered!**

Chorale Rehearsals will be every Tuesday evening from 6-8pm and every Friday morning from 7:30-8:05am in Mrs. O'Donnell's room.

Date	Event and Place	Time	Choir
Mon, Oct. 12 (Columbus Day)	IMEA District Choir Auditions Bloomington High School	TBA	Optional
Thurs, Oct. 15	Fall Choral Concert EHS Auditorium	7:00pm	ALL CHOIRS
Thurs, Oct. 22	Youth In Harmony Barbershop Festival	All Day, Concert TBA	Optional
Fri, Nov. 13 Sat, Nov. 14	EHS Musical "The Wizard of Oz"	7pm Fri, 2pm & 7pm Sat	Optional
Sat, Nov. 21	IMEA District Festival ISU Braden Auditorium	TBA	Auditioned participants only
Thurs, Dec. 17	Winter Concert EHS Auditorium	Time TBA	ALL CHOIRS (Incl EMS choirs and all bands)
Thurs Jan 28- Sat. Jan 30	IMEA All-State Conference Peoria Civic Center	TBA	Auditioned participants only
Sat, March 5	IHSA Solo & Ensemble (Location TBA)	TBA	Optional
Fri, Feb. 26	Dinner and a Concert EHS Auditorium/Gym	5:00pm	ALL CHOIRS (Incl EMS choirs and all bands)
Fri or Sat, Apr 15 or 16	IHSA Organizational (Location TBA)	TBA	ALL CHOIRS
Thur, May 5	Spring Choral Concert EHS Auditorium	7:00pm	ALL CHOIRS
Sat, May 7	Jazz Night EHS Cafeteria	7:00pm	Chorale

~Student Information Page~

Name _____ **Grade** 9 10 11 12

Voice Part Soprano Alto Tenor Bass No Clue **Height** _____ft_____in

Cell Phone (_____) _____ - _____ **Texting OK?** Y N

♪ Please list activities in which you're involved (sports, clubs, church groups etc).

♪ Do you play an instrument? If yes, which? _____

♪ Would you be willing to accompany the chorus during a performance or sectionals? (circle one) Performances Sectionals Only No Thanks

♪ What is your favorite group/artist/band/ type of music to listen to?

♪ Why did you join chorus?

♪ What will **you** do to help make this choir successful, fun, and productive?

I have read the student/parent handbook for the EHS Choral Program. I understand Mrs. O'Donnell's classroom expectations and policies on grading, concert attire and attendance. I also understand that, as I have received a copy of the 2015-2016 performance calendar, I am aware in advance of all required concert dates. If any of these dates change Mrs. O'Donnell will notify me as soon as possible. I understand that I may contact Mrs. O'Donnell at any time with any questions or concerns.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Please sign and return this form to Mrs. O'Donnell by
Friday, August 21