



Donald H. Eichhorn Middle School

Vocal Music Department - Classroom & Chorus

2057 Washington Avenue

Lewisburg, PA 17837

Phone: (570) 523-3220 x 3125 (Vocal Classroom)

Email: Kerr_L@dragon.k12.pa.us

Lynn Kerr

Classroom Music Teacher & Director of Vocal Ensembles

Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to the start of another academic year! Your son or daughter, through an audition process, has earned the privilege of participating in the middle school Mixed Chorus. I hope that each individual realizes the importance of their role in this organization and that he / she must be productive to remain a part of the group. I anticipate sharing in the musical growth of your child through this academic year.

Attached is a copy of the Choral Grading Policy, Choral Grading Criteria, and Choral Grading Sheet. Please look over and KEEP THE ATTACHED MATERIALS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. I will be reviewing them with the students. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me.

Please sign below and return this page only to me via your child.

Lynn A. Kerr
Director of Choral Ensembles

I have received and READ the above mentioned materials.

(date)

(parent signature)



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Vocal Music (Chorus) Grading Policy

Objectives of the Lewisburg Vocal Music Curriculum:

As a participant in the Middle School Vocal Curriculum the student will:

- a) develop skills in the language art of reading musical notation
- b) perform music both independently and with others
- c) evaluate music using listening and critical thinking skills
- d) demonstrate the use of musical vocabulary when evaluating music
- e) participate in the cultural/musical life of the community through involvement in local performances / festivals

To grow as a musician the student must attend rehearsals, have the proper materials necessary for those rehearsals, meet with the objectives as stated above and demonstrate a positive attitude about the performance organization and those participating in it.

Extra Rehearsals and Performances

Most all rehearsals and performances (concerts) are scheduled nearly one year in advance. They are published in the district school calendar. The director also provides a calendar for individual students within the group.

In the late winter/early spring, when evening rehearsals are needed to prepare for the Music Revue, two absences are allowed without affecting the student's grade. Sudden illness and emergencies are taken into special consideration as well. If the student is absent from school the day of an evening rehearsal, they are excused without penalty from that rehearsal. Leaving part way through the day due to illness also excuses the student.

If a student misses a scheduled DRESS REHEARSAL (i.e. the evening rehearsals just prior to the concert) other than because of illness, injury or death in the family, the director MAY DEDUCT UP TO 9% from the student's nine week percentage grade.

If a student misses a scheduled performance other than because of reasons stated above, the director WILL DEDUCT 18% from the student's nine week percentage grade. Often the choreography in the spring music revue is established in partners and the absence of a few people really impacts on the group's performance in total.

CHORAL GRADING CRITERIA

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE:

The student is expected to attend all rehearsals during the six-day cycle and have his/her folder of music at that time. Attending rehearsal with the necessary folder of music is worth three (3) points per rehearsal. One (1) point will be deducted for failing to bring music.

ATTITUDE:

In order for an organization to succeed and grow, its members need to make a contribution. One way the student can contribute is with a positive and constructive attitude. Up to two (2) points may be earned each rehearsal. A habitual attitude problem may not only result in loss of points, but also dismissal from the group.

STAGE PRESENCE:

Because we are in the performance business in this organization, we must learn to carry ourselves as such. Good posture and an enthusiastic expression are not only more pleasant for the audience, but help with good vocal production. One (1) point may be earned each rehearsal for showing appropriate facial expression.

KNOWLEDGE OF VOCAL PART:

Occasionally students will be expected to sing their own part (soprano, alto or cambiata) efficiently for the director prior to the concert. This will be done in small groups of two or three to reduce stress or embarrassment. It will also be a separate grade in addition to the daily rehearsal grade.

QUIZES / TESTS:

Usually there is one written quiz prior to the winter concert that is based on information that has been covered the first three months of school. It will include questions on breathing techniques, good vocal production and elements of the music the students are learning at that time.

(See next page for sample Choral Grading Sheet.)

LEWISBURG AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL GRADING SHEET

NAME: _____ 1ST 2ND 3RD 4TH - 9 WEEKS

SECTION: _____

SIX-DAY CYCLE:	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Rehearsal attendance	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Folder in hand	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Attitude	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Stage presence	___	___	___	___	___	___	___
Knowledge of vocal part (one check off per semester)							___
Total Points	___	___	___	___	___	___	___

Grade = _____%

(Total earned points divided by possible points equals the percentage grade)