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**Syllabus 2017-2018**



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Jackson’s choral program is dedicated to helping all students achieve their highest musical potential.

Students will be exposed to music theory, sight singing, music of other cultures, musical theater, folk music, music history, and the fundamentals of healthy singing through a wide variety of choral literature. We want choir to be fun and lead the students toward an appreciation of how and why music and singing are important.

**Course Understandings (Big Ideas)**

1. Students will understand that music is comprised of reading and performing the elements of music effectively.

2. Students will understand that musicians use proper tone quality and technique to sing or play music effectively.

3. Students will understand that musicians communicate meaning and emotions through the manipulation of musical elements.

4. Students will understand that effective composers use musical elements in order to create music.

5. Students will understand that practice leads to muscle, visual and auditory memory which supports automaticity while singing.

6. Students will understand that music can be analyzed and revised in terms of all the musical elements and their effects.

7. Students will understand that the human body plays an essential role in producing and expressing music.

8. Students will understand that music elements, literature and performance can have integral connections to life.

9. Students will understand that proper rehearsal and concert etiquette are important to music performance and integral life skills

10. Students will understand that culture influences specific sounds of music.

11. Students will understand that that there are specific historical eras and styles of music.

**Course Outline**

**Trimester 1** - Pitch identification and accuracy, Technique (Elements of Quality Singing – breath control, mouth shape, clear diction, projection, posture) and Choral Score Reading.

**Trimester 2** – Presentation (facial expression, confidence, body language and musicianship), Concert Etiquette (including written evaluation) and Rhythm.

**Trimester 3** - Interpretation (music vocabulary) and Musical Styles

**Grading**

**Formative Assessment**

**A. Rehearsal Skills –** assessed each class period **25%**

1. Cooperation and Respect

2. Eye Contact - look at teacher and read the music

3. Correct Singing Posture

4. Quality Singing – breath control, mouth shape, clear diction, projection, good singing posture

5. Focus

**B. Classwork 20% -** Sight singing book, trimester study guides, quizzes, concert evaluations, worksheets.

**Summative Assessment**

**A. Singing Tests 20%**

Students will sing with at least one other person for all singing tests, unless they prefer to sing alone. Different skills

will be assessed during each singing exam, according to the focus of the trimester. This should be a non-threatening experience. Students who feel uncomfortable testing during class can meet with their teacher before or after school.

**B. Rehearsal and Performance Attendance 25%**

Attendance at choir concerts and rehearsals is mandatory. Please read the Jackson Middle School Performance Attendance Policy carefully (found on the last page). Information on which group your child is in will be sent home in November.

**C.** **District Common Assessments 10%**

District Common Assessments are given at the end of each trimester.

One of the most exciting things about being in choir is singing in the concerts. The 6th and 7th grade students will have two after school rehearsals to prepare for these performances. They are scheduled from 3:15 to 4:15. Activity busses are available at 4:30 for the Tuesday and Wednesday rehearsals. Students will be supervised from 4:15– 4:30 (or 5:05 on Mondays and Thursdays, activity busses are available at 5:05) if they do not have a ride. Parents are encouraged to pick their children up at 4:15 in the East parking lot. 6th and 7th grade students have two evening concerts and 8th grade students have three. Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is required. **All choir students will wear black pants and a JMS Choir shirt to all performances.** Also, please mark the concert dates on your calendar - then come and enjoy the music! Invite your relatives and friends also. It is extremely motivating to have people you know in the audience lending support.

**Rehearsal and Concert Dates for Choir 6**

Tuesday, December 5 3:15-4:15 Group 1 Jackson Rehearsal P702

Wednesday, December 6 3:15-4:15 Group 2 Jackson Rehearsal P702

Tuesday, December 12 3:15-4:15 Lace Rehearsal P702

Wednesday, December 13 3:15-4:15 Morgan Rehearsal P702

Thursday, December 14 6:30 pm Group 1 Jackson Concert Jaguar Gym

7:45 pm Group 2 Jackson Concert Jaguar Gym

Tuesday, December 19 6:30 pm Lace Concert Jaguar Gym

7:45 pm Morgan Concert Jaguar Gym

Tuesday, May 15 3:15-4:15 Lace Rehearsal P702

Wednesday, May 16 3:15-4:15 Morgan Rehearsal P702

Monday, May 21 3:15-4:15 Group 1 Jackson Rehearsal P702

Tuesday, May 22 3:15-4:15 Group 2 Jackson Rehearsal P702

Tuesday, May 22 6:30 pm Lace Concert Jaguar Gym

7:45 pm Morgan Concert Jaguar Gym

Thursday, May 24 6:30 pm Group 1 Jackson Concert Jaguar Gym 7:45 pm Group 2 Jackson Concert Jaguar Gym

**Rehearsal and Concert Dates for Choir 7**

Wednesday, November 29 3:15-4:15 Group 1 Rehearsal P702

Thursday, November 30 3:15-4:15 Group 2 Rehearsal P702

Thursday, December 7 6:30 pm Group 1 Concert Jaguar Gym

7:45 pm Group 2 Concert Jaguar Gym

Wednesday, May 2 3:15-4:15 Group 1 Rehearsal P702

Thursday, May 3 3:15-4:15 Group 2 Rehearsal P702

Thursday, May 10 6:30 pm Group 1 Concert Jaguar Gym

7:45 pm Group 2 Concert Jaguar Gym

**Rehearsal and Concert Dates for Choir 8**

Thursday, November 30 7:00 pm All Hours Champlin Park High School

Thursday, March 29 7:00 pm All Hours Concert Jaguar Gym

Tuesday, June 5 7:30 All Hours Pop Concert CPHS Field House

**Exchange Concert for Grades 6, 7 & 8 with CPHS - during school hours**

**Wednesday, December 20**

**Jackson Middle School Performance Attendance Policy**

Band, Choir and Orchestra are performance-oriented subjects. These classes require after school involvement, which include after school rehearsals and evening concerts. Attendance at concerts and rehearsals is an integral part of the curriculum. Each student is an important part of the ensemble and their participation is essential for academic and personal achievement, also for the success of the group as a whole. Because of this, the following is a guideline for excused and unexcused absences. **Notification of excused absences must be received by the student’s teacher**

**two weeks prior to the concert date. Please call, email, or send a written note.**

Excused absences may include:

Confirmed illness

Family emergency

Dance recital/Athletic tryout

Religious commitments

Unexcused absences may include:

Dance, karate class, etc.

Regular season game or practice

No ride - Director will try to help if necessary

Penalty

Unexcused absences will result in minimum drop of two letter grades, such as A to C.

Unexcused absences cannot be made up.

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* **Please sign below indicating your understanding of the choral handbook/syllabus.**
* **Also indicate your desired t-shirt size (adult sizes) and include $7.00.**
* **Please return this form in an envelope with your check or cash.** (Checks made out to JMS)

PLEASE WRITE NEATLY – Thank you!

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Day \_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ (circle one) Mrs. Lace Mrs. Morgan Mr. Jackson

T-Shirt Size – Adult Sizes (circle one) Small Medium Large Extra Large XXLarge

\_\_\_ Please check indicating that you have found your choir t-shirt and it still fits.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

for teacher use only

Paid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date returned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The choir t-shirts are black, short sleeved and have the logo that is pictured

on the front page of the handbook. The logo is red, white and black.

**Please return this form by Friday, September 15th, 2017 Thank you!!**