

Jr. High Choir Syllabus

2026-2027

Mr. Nick Weber

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an elective vocal music course for junior high school students desiring to perform. The goal of this course is to teach students to become better and more confident singers and to develop an appreciation for vocal music.

The objectives for the year are for each student to:

1. Demonstrate proper singing posture.
2. Demonstrate expanded rib cage breathing.
3. Demonstrate breath support.
4. Sustain vocal phrases.
5. Demonstrate correct tone production.
6. Demonstrate vertical vowel formation.
7. Sing diphthongs correctly.
8. Demonstrate correct diction and articulation of consonants.
9. Sight sing musical excerpts of beginning difficulty.
10. Dictate musical excerpts of beginning difficulty.
11. Sing degrees of the scale using solfege syllables.
12. Blend and balance with the choir when singing.
13. Demonstrate knowledge of musical terms and symbols
14. Listen analytically to yourself and critique your performance.

GRADING

Attendance, preparedness, class assignments and singing tests, make up your choir grade. The following components will determine a student's grade in Jr. High Choir:

1. Classroom Work (Theory/Musicals/History/Listening Assessment) – 15%

a. This will consist of all the worksheets, papers and substitute work done throughout the semester.

2. Quiz (Singing Tests & Choir Folder) – 20%

- a. On sight-singing material and concert repertoire.
- b. Singing tests will be both announced and unannounced.
- c. Each student will participate in one unannounced quartet style singing test each semester.
- d. At the end of every 9 weeks your Choir Folder will be assessed to make sure it and its contents are properly handled & respected for a grade.

3. Choir Participation – 30%

a. Includes positive attitude, behavior, following directions, being engaged in rehearsal, being prepared with your music, sight-singing material and a pencil.

b. Unexcused absences will directly receive an F in participation for that day.

This means you NEED to stay on top of your absences and adhere to what the handbook says.

i. The day before "Grades are due" for interims, end of 9 weeks, and at the end of the semester (whatever date is selected by admin) is when I count unexcused absences. I then calculate the grade accordingly. After I have entered it into the system, I DO NOT backtrack to change said grade, unless under special circumstances. If I determine it's a special circumstance, I will double-check the accuracy for unexcused absences and adjust the grade accordingly.

4. Test (Concert attendance) – 35%

a. ANY CONCERT ABSENCE will result in the concert grade of 0. If the absence is excused (which Mr. Weber will determine), a written note should be provided NO LATER than one week before the concert date. If excused, you may make up the 0 by following the procedure below.

b. You may partially make up the 0 by **writing** a one-page, front side only, double-spaced, 12 sized, Time New Roman font paper about one of the composers to a piece we sang. Provide a biography of this composer, and any background information about the song, lyricist or arranger. You should also describe the piece: How does it make you feel? What makes it challenging? What makes it easy? Be specific. Full credit on this paper can equal up to half credit for that concert/performance grade.

c. This paper is due at the end of the 4th day after the assigned Test (Performance). After that day Mr. Weber doesn't have to give ANY credit.

JR HIGH CHOIR RULES

1. The Jr High Choir adheres to all rules in the WRHS Student Handbook.
2. Act in a manner that is beneficial to the group and does not hinder the choir from reaching its fullest potential. You are expected to be a role model.
3. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
4. Be prepared – have a pencil, music, and sight-singing materials for all rehearsals and performances.
5. Report any inability to sing, due to illness or injury, before class begins on that day. Your participation level for that day will then be determined by the teacher.
6. Do not talk when another section is rehearsing.
7. Follow directions promptly when given.
8. No food, gum, or drink is permitted, except for water bottles.
9. Teacher's office, desk, computer and phone are off limits for students
10. Every member of our choir ensemble will be treated with respect. No bullying will be tolerated.

CONCERT ATTIRE

**Concert attire should always respect the dress code,
which can be found in the Walnut Ridge Handbook.**

** No holes, sports headbands or shorts will be allowed.**

1. For most of our performances we will wear our Walnut Ridge Choir T-Shirts with non-holed jeans.
2. The Christmas Concert is the only concert where we allow students to wear something festive and nice.

CONSEQUENCES

Any member of this ensemble not following the policies will be docked points from their daily participation and is subject to the following:

- 1) Warning
- 2) Parental notification and lunch detention
- 3) Parent Conference requested and lunch detention
- 4) Administrative Referral

JR HIGH CHOIR PERFORMANCES

***Veterans' Day Performance**

Tuesday, November 10th @6:30pm in the Community Center

***Capitol Trip/Performance in December**

TBD (We find out in October) in Little Rock, AR

***Winter Concert**

Tuesday, Dec. 8th @6pm in the Community Center

***Nursing Home Visits: TBD**

***Spring Concert**

Tuesday, April 20th @6pm in the Community Center

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE FOR ALL JR HIGH CHOIR STUDENTS

Jr High Choir

Through the signatures below, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and support the rules and policies set forth in the Jr. High Choir Syllabus. My signature also acknowledges that I will check ParentSquare at least once a week for any choir updates regarding upcoming information, events, performances, changes, and reminders.

Students Signature & Date	
Parent Signature & Date	