

Sr. High Choir Syllabus

2026-2027

Mr. Nick Weber

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an elective vocal music course for senior 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 Sr. High Choir:

1. Classroom Work (Theory/Musicals/History/Listening Assessment) – 10%

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

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

- a. Sight-singing material and concert repertoire.
- b. Singing quizzes will be both announced and unannounced.
- c. At the end of every 9 weeks your Choir Folder will be assessed to make sure it and its contents are being properly handled 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 (Performance/Concert) – 40% (Each performance is 100 points each)

- a. ANY PERFORMANCE ABSENCE is a Zero (0). If the absence is excused (determined by Mr. Weber), 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.
- b. 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.

SR HIGH CHOIR RULES

1. The Walnut Ridge Choir adheres to all rules in the WRHS Student Handbook.
2. All members will act beneficial to the group and not hinder the choir from reaching its full 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. Instead of talking when another section is rehearsing, we want you to be studying your part quietly. This way you are ready when I call your section up. Please do not get up from your chair to go talk or sing with others across the room.
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 the Nursing Home visits, Veteran's Day, Kiwanis Luncheon, Capital performance, Solo & Ensemble, The National Anthem, and Spring Concert we will wear our Walnut Ridge Choir T-Shirts with jeans.
2. For the Christmas Concert we wear something festive and nice. This can include ugly Christmas sweaters and maybe some things that light up or jingle. Just be aware that the stage lights do produce quite a lot of heat.
3. For the Night on Broadway/Night at the Movies concert we want to encourage costumes that will compliment a song that you will be performing. This, of course, lines up with what a Broadway/Movie performance is: singing AND acting. If you aren't planning on wearing a costume to fit a character, a solid black shirt with black pants will do.
4. For the Baccalaureate service, we will dress nicely. We usually describe this as "Easter Wear" like sun dresses, brighter colors, khakis & polo.
 >>Ladies – Please DO NOT wear heels; we perform on the steep steps and have had people fall in previous years because they chose to wear heels.

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

CHOIR EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

The National Anthem

As many of you are aware, *The Star-Spangled Banner* is either played or sung before each sporting event. If you would like to sing The National Anthem by yourself before a sporting event, please talk with Mr. Weber. The Choir plans on performing this piece several times throughout the year.

Nursing Home

The Sr. High Choir will usually visit the Nursing Home in Walnut Ridge a couple of times during the school year in hopes of providing entertainment for those who can't get out much anymore. These dates and performances are during school hours and will most likely be scheduled right before big concerts.

Choir Council

The Choir Council is a leadership team of 5 students elected by the choirs. Elections are held right before graduation, at the end of the year. Students will give a speech to the whole choir and Mr. Weber. The choir will then vote for each position. The council will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. If you would like to run for a position, you must have at least 1 year of choir under your belt and sign-up on the sign-up sheet. There are further requirements for President: On-campus student, previous Choir Council participation & willing to be a T.A. for Mr. Weber the following year.

Fundraising

We hold a couple of fundraisers each year to make sure that we can attend all the events at a free or reduced cost. We will start the year off with a sponsorship fundraiser, a bake sale at 1 football game & 1 basketball game, another fundraiser at the end of February/beginning of March, and then we will host a Talent Show right before Spring Break. We expect 100% participation for each fundraiser so we can improve the choir program and continue to give students experiences they can't get elsewhere.

Spring Musical Trip

Every year we see a musical together as a group. This year we will be seeing "Boop! The Musical" on Friday, January 29th @7:30pm. We plan to leave school right after lunch for Memphis, have dinner at Huey's, then see the musical. We typically won't get back until past midnight. Money fundraising throughout the year can go towards the cost of this trip, but the rest is on the student.

SR HIGH PERFORMANCES

***Sr High All-Region Auditions: Saturday, October 10th @Jonesboro High School**

Region 1 Sr High All-Region Clinic: Saturday, November 7th

@Jonesboro High School Fine Arts Center

***Veteran's 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**

***Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 8th @6pm in the Community Center**

***The National Anthem: TBD but after school**

***Kiwanis Luncheon: During the day in the High School Library**

***Night on Broadway/Night at the Movies:**

Tuesday, February 9th @6pm in the Community Center

All-State Auditions: Friday, February 5th @Henderson State University in Arkadelphia

All-State Clinic: February 18th – 20th @Hot Springs Convention Center

***Region 1 Solo & Ensemble: Saturday, March 6th @Greene County Tech High School**

***Nursing Home Visits: TBD; Expect one before each main concert**

***Spring Concert: Tuesday, April 20th @6pm in the Community Center**

***Baccalaureate Service: Sunday, May 9th @7pm**

at Manley Chapel on Williams Baptist University campus

REQUIRED PERFORMANCE FOR ALL SR HIGH CHOIR STUDENTS

Sr High Choir

Through the signatures below, you acknowledge that you have read, understand, and support the rules and policies set forth in the Sr. 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	