



Birchwood School
of Hawken

2017-18 Birchwood Choir Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Chu

Rehearsal times: Tuesdays, 1:30-2:15 pm. Extra times will be announced before performances.

Goals: I hope through singing, individually and with others, each student will understand the significance of music as a form of universal communication, and that its quality of expressing emotions are beyond other communication forms like speech and movement. I would like to see each student develop a proper, healthy vocal technique to produce a natural, beautiful sound with their voice. While singing, students will learn to listen to others, and their shared goal of achieving harmony will develop teamwork. Concepts covered will include tone production, breathing techniques, counting skills, intonation, and song interpretation.

Materials: Music scores will be provided in class, but students are required to bring a three-hole, 1-inch black binder to class to store materials.

Expectations: Students must bring their binder and a pencil to rehearsals. Arriving on-time and being ready in assigned seats is necessary for a productive rehearsal. If students are repeatedly late or unprepared, points will be deducted from their grade. They should respect and pay attention to the director, never talk during the lesson, mark corrections and entrances on their binder sheets, and keep trying and never give up.

Assignments: Parts in the music and exercises for counting and melody-singing will be assigned to students to practice at home and will be tested for fluency.

Required performances: Music Concert, Eighth Grade Graduation, and possible additional performances (dates and details TBA).

Grading: 50% attendance and class participation; 20% assignments and preparation; 30% performances (attendance and demonstration of vocal skill).

Violations: Any single violation against the above regulations will be notified to the homeroom teachers, principle, and parents, and will result in a grade deduction. After three violations, qualification for performance will be taken away.

Questions: Please contact Mrs. Chu, Choir Director, at chu@birchwoodschool.org.

Please read the above regulations carefully and print, sign, and return the slip below by Tuesday, September 5.

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I have read the regulations for participation in choir for the 2017-18 school year and agree to obey the rules in all choir lessons:

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Email: _____

Parent Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____