



August 16, 2016

Dear CLCS Junior High Choir Students & Parents,

Welcome to choir class. I cannot express to you how glad I am that you are here and am excited to be working with you. I firmly believe that music education is necessary and beneficial to all students. The concepts that are taught in music class have further applications in mathematics, English, science, and even history.

I have few rules in my classroom, but I expect them to be followed precisely:

- 1) Be seated, working on daily assignment when the tardy bell rings.
- 2) Be respectful to all in the room
- 3) Be completely cooperative with all classroom activities

Choir is not an automatic "A", but it is not necessarily a difficult "A", either. Students must put forth effort on a daily basis in order to succeed in my class. Grades will be determined as follows:

Each student will begin the class period with the availability of 10 points possible for that class.

- The music theory sheet that will be completed in class is worth 5 points every day. It must be completed, accurate, and turned in with name on the paper (in pencil only) within 5 minutes after the tardy bell. Papers not completed in pencil will automatically lose two of the 5 points possible.
- Periodically, the music theory sheet will be replaced by a music theory quiz.
- 5 other points per day will be available through active, energetic, and respectful participation in the classroom singing and vocal study exercises
- Student will lose one participation point for each infraction during the period should they:
 - not be in their seat when the tardy bell rings working on their music theory sheet
 - decide to not eagerly participate
 - show disrespect for the teacher or other students
 - cause any type of classroom disruption.
 - not come to class prepared with materials (notebook, pencil and music)
- Classroom participation cannot be made up. Absences will result in 0 daily participation points for the day. Theory sheets and quizzes can be made up.

All performances are worth 50 points. Students will be graded on their performance the same as they would for classroom participation.

Students may gain 10 extra credit points through school-related performances (e.g. Singing National anthem at CLCS events, Solo / ensemble performances during CLCS choir performances, Solo / Ensemble performances at Fine Arts Festival, etc.)

Music literacy is a must. Today's society is replete with unnecessary musical illiteracy. You will learn to read music in this class. The daily class activities will include the following:

- Music theory in the form of daily classroom lectures and worksheets
- Sight singing - learning to sing melodic and harmonic parts as written on the page without the assistance of an instrument
- Hymn singing - learning the parts written in the hymnal and mastering the ability to sing them at sight
- Performance literature. We will (eventually) study choral works by the great masters of music along with new choral literature. Works in this class will be both secular and sacred and geared to the level of the group with the abilities of the individual singers taken into consideration.

Music is not only academic as performance is a necessary aspect for successful music education and a successful music program. The following performances have been scheduled for the CLCS Junior High Choir. Please be sure to be present for these performances, and notify me IMMEDIATELY in writing should you have a conflict. Absences will only be excused for true emergencies (deaths in family, severe illness on student's part, etc.)

Christmas Concert & Tree Lighting	December 5, 2016	Cross Lanes Christian School
WVCEA Fine Arts Festival	April 20-21, 2017	Cross Lanes Christian School
CLCS Spring Concert	April 18, 2017	Cross Lanes Christian School
Kings Island Competition	April 21-22, 2017	Schools local to Kings Island

There will also be performances during school hours throughout the year; details will be given on these later. The choir will have at least one performance per 9 weeks. Unfortunately 3 performances are clustered together in April 2017.

The official CLCS choir uniform will be worn at functions listed above. The cost of the student portion of the uniform is approximately \$50.00. Performance Uniform will consist of the following items:

Ladies: maroon top, black long skirt (ordered through Fine Arts Department)
black tights, simple black 1" heel pump (student purchases)
ivory pearl necklace (provided at each performance by Fine Arts Department)
no other jewelry may be worn (no earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, anything.)

Gentlemen: Ivory pleated shirt, black slacks (ordered through Fine Arts Department)
black socks and black dress shoes (student purchases)
maroon long tie (provided at each performance by Fine Arts Department)
no jewelry may be worn (no earrings, bracelets, rings, anything.)

I look forward to working with all of you as we begin this journey together. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan French
Music Director
Cross Lanes Christian School
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