



## South Eugene High School 2019-2020 Choir Program Syllabus

### Course Information

Course: Tyro Choir Experience, Concert Choir, Dorians Jazz Choir    Course Fee: \$15 per trimester  
Instructor: Chris Dobson    Phone: (541) 790-8072    Website: [www.SouthEugeneMusic.org](http://www.SouthEugeneMusic.org)  
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Office hours during fourth period, or by appointment

The South Eugene High School Choirs are performing ensembles that rehearse in preparation for various performances and events throughout the school year. Through collaboration, members of the choirs strive to create and present artistic performances that are musically and educationally excellent. To do well in choir, students must come to class on time, with a positive attitude, ready to sing. Students are expected to follow directions immediately. Choir is a class that relies on each student's willingness and ability to collaborate well with other students. Students are expected to actively participate in rehearsals and in every scheduled performance with a positive, respectful attitude. Please read the following information and return the attached form to choir by **the second Friday of the first trimester you are enrolled in the program.**

### Auditions

Auditions are required to participate in Concert Choir and Dorians. Auditions for Concert Choir will be held the first day of class each trimester, by appointment during the school year and Dorians auditions are held in June for the following school year. Auditions may be limited to particular voice types as needed. Students may be re-auditioned at the director's discretion at any time, and for any reason.

### Required Course Materials

- Students will be issued a white view-style 3-ring binder the first week of class. Students are expected to bring the folder to class daily and keep the folder in performance condition (free of rips, unsightly marks and unauthorized decorations). Should a student need a replacement, one can be purchased for about \$5.00 in most office-supply stores. Folders may not be stored in the choir room after class.
- Students are expected to keep a useable pencil in their folder at all times.
- Sheet music is **loaned** to students while enrolled in choir and must be returned at the end of the trimester. Each student assumes responsibility for their music. Lost or damaged music will need to be replaced at the music publisher's current selling price plus applicable shipping and handling. If the lost music is out of print, the student is responsible for contacting the publisher to seek permission to make a copy.
- Students will need to purchase and maintain a performance uniform. Every effort will be made to keep the price of the uniform below \$50 and assistance will be offered to families in need. More information about the performance uniform will be distributed via email and in class.
- Any student wearing improper performance attire will be required to find, purchase or borrow the correct attire before the concert begins. If proper attire cannot be acquired, the student will not be allowed to perform and as such, cannot complete associated assignments.

### Learning Outcomes

Choir is a performing art. This class will give students the opportunity to sing a diverse variety of music from many historic periods, perform on stage before an audience and improve individual musical abilities. Students will work to develop their skills to meet these National Core Arts Anchor Standards:

- MU:Pr5.1.E Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- MU:Pr6.1.E Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.
- MU:Re9.1.E Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

## Grading in Choir

As a performing arts class aimed at preparing students for possible further study and careers in the arts, choir assignments and graded curricular components are designed to foster and strengthen skills needed to succeed in a professional performing ensemble.

Rehearsals: In the professional performing arts world, performers are expected to attend and participate fully in all scheduled rehearsals. There are no “excused rehearsal absences” in the professional world and any absence may be cause for dismissal from the ensemble and could limit employability in the future. This, however, is a high school performing ensemble, so certain allowances will be made. Please read the following policy carefully:

**Students are expected to be at every rehearsal on time. Missed rehearsals cannot be made up. Rehearsal Skills points lost due to an unexcused absence or tardy cannot be made up. Points lost due to absences that are excused through the front office can be made up. Please note that absences can only be excused through the front office up to TWO DAYS from the date of the absence! After that, unexcused absences cannot be excused. Students will be awarded rehearsal skills points just for being in class on time.**

The graded components of choir are outlined below:

Grade %	Title	Abilities	Assessment
60%	Rehearsal Skills	Students demonstrate understanding of professional responsibilities, including timely attendance. Students will work to improve music-reading abilities Students use sheet music and pencils as tools to rehearse and perform with accuracy.	Students can receive 1 point per day out of 60 points possible. To receive full credit, a student must arrive to class on time, ready to sing, with their music folder and a pencil. They must attend to their duties professionally, and with a positive attitude. Half points may be assigned based on merit.
16%	Performance Skills	Students memorize choral music. Students perform rehearsed music, incorporating techniques and concepts learned during rehearsals. Students clearly communicate a personal reflection each main performance. Students demonstrate understanding of professional performance etiquette.	Students are authentically assessed at all performances. Students are required to submit a reflection for specified choir performances, due on the Tuesday following the performance, or on the day of Finals, whichever comes first. Missing a performance for any reason will automatically result in the student's inability to complete the assignment. Special accommodations may be made at the director's discretion in emergency circumstances only.
24%	Skills Assessment	Students practice choir music, learned skills, and performing techniques outside of class time. Students perform with increasing musicianship.	Once every two weeks, students will be individually assessed in class on their performance of a selected excerpt from the music or on their sight-reading ability. Grades will be given according to a rubric which will be given before the assessment.

### Religious Music in Choir

Music with religious text is a foundational element in building a well-rounded choral program in America. The traditions and historical values around religious music will be studied, but the class will remain non-religious. Students will never be asked to adopt any religious beliefs or practices, will never be asked to perform as part of a religious rite or church ritual, and will never be asked to profess faith. Music with religious text that is selected for the choir's study and performance will be chosen through a rigorous process, during which the musical and educational value of the work is carefully considered. If the director believes the musical and educational value of a work is beneficial to the choir, it will be selected, as long as a balance of religious and non-religious music is performed throughout the year. The school adheres to the stance of the National Association for Music Education:

"It is the position of the National Association for Music Education that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of a comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience."

For more information about the laws regarding the study and performance of religious music in public schools, please visit:

<https://nafme.org/about/position-statements/sacred-music-in-schools-position-statement/sacred-music-in-schools/>

### Cell Phones in Choir

The use of cellular telephones and other electronic devices will generally not be allowed during choir class. If the use of such devices is necessary in extenuating circumstances, please provide a signed note or make sure it is part of an education plan that is adopted through the official process for such plans.

### Assignments

#### **In-class Skills Assessments**

Students will complete skills assessments in class every two weeks. This may take the form of group singing assessments, but no student will be required to sing alone for their assessment, except as is necessary for make-up work. Other possibilities include, but are not limited to: sight-reading assessments, quizzes, tests, group activities, etc. Students will be instructed on the content and grading of the assessment at least one day before the assessment is set to occur. Each assessment is worth 2% of the student's final grade. Assessments can be made up following an excused absence, and efforts will be made to schedule make ups for groups of students, but it might be necessary for a student to perform their make-up assessment alone.

#### **Performance Self-Reflections**

Students will be required to submit a performance self-reflection following specific performances throughout the year. This reflection may be delivered orally in person, written, or submitted electronically as an audio, or video recording that is 2-10 minutes in length. Reflections will be graded as either "meets" for full points, or "does not meet" for no points. This is a required component of the "Performance Skills" portion of the grade, and as such, is valued at 16% of the student's overall grade each trimester.

#### Content:

- General narrative of the performance. How did you feel? What did you experience?
- What skills or techniques did you use that you learned in class?
- What went well? What would you change? How did the performance meet your expectations?
- Include a conclusion to wrap up your narrative.

Due: This assignment must be submitted to the Google Classroom by 11:59 PM on the Tuesday following the performance.

**PLEASE READ AND FILL OUT ALL SECTIONS COMPLETELY. Return this page only.** Choir: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

Occasionally, the director will notify choir families of upcoming engagements and important choir-specific information. Emails will be sent directly from Synergy. Please make sure you have supplied your most current contact information, including phone numbers and email addresses to the school. Also, make sure 4j.lane.edu is in your trusted domains so school messages go to your inbox. **If you do not use email, please indicate which method you prefer:**  Phone call  Paper notice sent home  Other (indicate below)

\_\_\_\_\_

Volunteers

We need volunteers! A volunteer choir parent council may be established to help the director with planning and execution of trips, events, and fundraising. The choir parent council would meet a few times throughout the year for planning and brainstorming. Choir parent council members might be asked to plan, prepare or execute specific tasks outside our meeting times.

Are you willing to volunteer to help the choir this year? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you willing to join a parent council? \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Assistance

Some choir activities will cost money. If your family cannot afford some or all of these expenses, we still want to make it possible for your student to participate in these experiences. **Please read each statement carefully and initial by the statement that best describes your family's situation.**

\_\_\_\_\_ My family **will not** need financial assistance this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ My family will need **partial** financial assistance (40% or less) this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ My family will need **significant** financial assistance (Greater than 40%) this year.

**We need donations!**

Our choir has been a powerful experience for many students over the years, yet for some, it can feel like they aren't really part of the group when they can't afford to participate in the trips and other experiences. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to help these kids have a positive, inclusive experience in choir this year. Our goal is 100% participation in every choir experience. If families like you and local businesses invest, we can reach this goal. Even \$20 can make a difference. You can submit a check directly to the director along with this page, made out to "South Eugene High School Choir" with "General Fund" in the memo line, or have your business contact us for tax ID information.

Certification

"I hereby certify that I have read the choir syllabus in full and understand that I am required to adhere to the policies therein."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of student (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date