



Dexter Community Schools

Vocal Music Department Handbook -DHS

Course Name: Concert Choir, Descant Choir and Chamber Choir

Grade Level: 9-12th Grade

Teacher name: Mrs. Julie Bassett

Teacher Contact Information:

Email: bassettj@dexterschools.org **Phone:** 734 424-4240 ext. 7134

Choir website: www.dexterchoirs.org

Due to the unique restrictions and influences that personnel has on performance ensembles (instrumentation, balance, part assignments, etc.), music performance classes at Dexter High School are year-long courses, and students electing to enroll in them are committing to a full year.

Course Goals, Topics to be Covered:

The curriculum goals of the Dexter Community Schools Vocal Music Department are as follows:

- To assist all members in becoming responsible musicians and informed music consumers. Students will experience music through singing, listening, moving, evaluating and studying works of different genres.
- To develop positive self worth, musical interests and leadership skills practiced on a daily basis.
- To identify the elements of music in the works studied such as: form, style, rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, and expression.
- To perform choral music as accurately and as expressively as possible. Members will achieve successful performance through focusing on intonation, rhythm, diction, balance, dynamics and phrasing
- To learn to read music through basic sight-reading and theory drills

Folders:

Each student will be given a choir folder. Folders will be used for daily class as well as performances. Students are in charge of maintaining their folder and having at class each day. Replacement folders cost \$20.

Grading system and Criteria for Evaluation:

Rubrics will be used to evaluate each student throughout the school year through quizzes and performances. A combination of these, as dictated by our performance schedule, will make up the student's grade for each semester. Some written and singing quizzes will also make up a portion of each semester grade. Students are required to check their school email and log into Canvas at least once a week to keep up with announcements and assignments. This will be particularly important if a student is absent for an extended period of time.

Uniforms:

DHS Choral robes (schools provided) Each student will need to provide a shirt with no collar, black dress pants or skirt and black closed toe dress shoes. Flats are preferred.

Concert/ Festival Attendance:

When you appear at a public performance as a DHS musician you represent yourself, your organization, your school, and your community. Conduct yourself in such a way that you will reflect well on both you and the choir.

A choir depends on every member of the group for a successful performance. The concert is the final evaluation of all the weeks of preparation. It is expected all students will be at the concert. If a student is unable to perform due to illness or family crisis, Mrs. Bassett must be contacted immediately (Preferably in advance or at a bare minimum, the day of the performance). E-mail, phone message or parent letter – delivered to Mrs. Bassett are all acceptable.

Concert Absence Make-up:

Option 1 - Two hours of service to the choir program arranged with Mrs. Bassett
Option 2 - Five page paper about a choral composer or our concert literature
Option 3 - Perform your part of the concert for Mrs. Bassett

Make-up work must be completed a week before the end of each quarter.

Rehearsal Procedures:

Rehearsal time is very valuable and every moment of it must be utilized to the fullest advantage of the choir. The following regulations are used in all fine musical organizations and will be the foundation of our rehearsal procedures. **What has been done in the past will have no bearing on what will be done in the future.**

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY. This will eliminate any misunderstanding on your part.

1. Bags, purses, homework and all personal property should be left in the hall as you enter the choir room. The only thing you should bring with your seat is a pencil and your choir folder. Water bottles are also acceptable.
2. All choir members must be in their assigned seats for attendance promptly at the beginning of class. Conversations may continue until Mrs. Bassett cues you for warm-ups. Tardies will be filed and will be followed up with by administration.
3. When you have been cued for warm-ups, all talking should stop at once. Your full attention must be given to the director and the warm-up process. Distractions are not allowed. Inattentive students will be removed from rehearsal.
4. It is expected that students will use the restroom and get a drink during passing periods whenever possible. Students will be given the opportunity to use the restroom as needed. If a student is abusing the use of this pass, their privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the semester. Exceptions will be made for students with special medical needs.
5. Food and gum chewing will not be permitted from the time the tardy bell rings until Mrs. Bassett releases you at the end of class. All food and gum will be confiscated and thrown away.

Consequences

Students who repeatedly do not follow these procedures will be temporarily removed from class and will have a meeting with Mrs. Bassett and their parents in order to develop an individual discipline plan for the remainder of the semester. **Depending on the severity of the infraction, a student may be removed from the choral program for the remainder of the school year.**

There is absolutely no use or possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, or tobacco while in uniform or when in the company of the choir, in or out of uniform. PENALTY IS IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM CHOIR. The school administration, along with directors, may determine special conditions for each student who wishes to return to choir after being dismissed for the year.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones that are out during class, during outside rehearsals or during a concert will be confiscated. Students will be given one warning where the phone will be returned to the student at the end of class. The second offense will result in an immediate referral for insubordination. Additional disciplinary action will be handled in the school office.

Private Lesson Requirement -Chamber Choir Only

All students who are in Chamber Choir should complete 5 or more voice lessons during the school year. If the student is unable to meet this requirement, they will be given an alternate assignment of 5 extra quizzes to be completed in October, December, February and March. These quizzes will be posted in Canvas by the 1st of the month and are due by the 30th of each of the five months. Students who are able to complete the lesson requirement should fill out the private lesson form no later than April 30th.

Choir Boosters

All choir parents automatically become members of the Dexter Choir Boosters. Each choir member should urge their parents to attend the Choir Booster meetings which are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM, via Zoom. This group supports the activities of our choir, which cannot function to its greatest advantage without parental involvement. The zoom link can be found on the Dexter Choirs website, www.dexterchoirs.org and will be in a Canvas announcement the day of the meeting.

2025-2026 Concert Schedule

MSVMA Musical Theatre Solo and Ensemble-November 8th, Oxford High School Time TBA (OPTIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY)

DHS and Mill Creek Winter Concert-December 16th, 7PM DHS CPA 6PM Student Call This concert features Descant, Chamber, Concert and Mill Creek Choirs

MSVMA Solo and Ensemble - January 31st, Time TBA, Whiteford or Pioneer High School (OPTIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY)

DCS All Choir Concert- February 24, 7PM DHS CPA 6PM Student Call

MSVMA District Choral Festival

March 12th or 13th Chelsea High School Time TBA - Most likely during school hours

Broadway Review May 19th, 7PM DHS CPA 6PM Student Call