



Dexter Community Schools Vocal Music Department Handbook - Mill Creek

Course Name: Mill Creek Singers Grade Level: 7th and 8th

Teacher name: Mrs. Julie Bassett

Teacher Contact Information:

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Email: bassettj@dexterschools.org

Choir website: www.dexterchoirs.org

Course description:

Seventh and eighth graders join together to sing! In this course students will prepare music for performances for school and parents including the Mill Creek and Dexter High School Winter Concert, the All Choir Concert and the Broadway Review. Mill Creek Singers may also participate in MSVMA Solo and Ensemble Festival and MSVMA Choral Festival. Performances are an exciting and essential part of your class grade. Your knowledge of music theory, sight-reading and choral singing will improve and prepare you for singing in high-school choir.

Course Goals, Topics to be Covered: The curriculum goals of the Dexter Community Schools Vocal Music Department are as follows:

- a.) 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.
- b.) To develop attitudes which will encourage further student growth and enjoyment throughout adult life.
- c.) To develop positive self worth, musical interests and leadership skills through musical experiences.
- d.) To learn to read music through basic sight-reading and theory drills practiced on a daily basis.
- e.) To identify the elements of music in the works studied such as: form, style, rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, and expression.
- f.) 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.

Textbook or other required materials:

Folders:

Each student will be provided one choir folder, pencil and sheet music to use in choir class each day. Students may keep their folder in the choir room folio cabinet or may take it home to practice as long as they return it to school the following day. Additional folders may be purchased from Mrs. Bassett for \$.50 or students may bring in a replacement folder. Materials will also be available via canvas for students to practice at home.

Uniforms:

Plain black shirt with short sleeves or longer.

Plain black dress pants, or black skirt with leggings or tights (all black dresses are also allowed)

Plain black closed toe dress shoes (preferably flats) **Shoes must be ALL black**

Colored scarf or tie (school provided)

Grading system and Criteria for Evaluation:

Grades should represent the level of mastery of an instructional objective. The instructional objectives for 7th and 8th grade level subjects are aligned with the Michigan Music Standards and benchmarks. The objectives address the skills required for successful performance in the next grade or in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, homework, and other activities are designed to allow a student's performance to indicate the level of mastery of the designated objective.

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 must check their school email and log in to canvas on a regular basis to keep up with announcements. All rubrics are available to view in Canvas.

Concert/ Festival Attendance:

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

Option 2 - Short paper answering specific questions about the selections we are performing at the concert.

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.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones that are out during class, during outside rehearsals or during a concert will be confiscated. Phones will be turned into the office and a SPC referral form will be filed in agreement with the Mill Creek Cell phone usage policy.

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.

Rehearsals proceed as follows:

1. All personal property should be left in your lockers. The only thing you should bring with you to choir is a pencil and your choir folder.
2. All choir members must be in their seats for attendance. Conversations may continue quietly as you work on your bell work and until Mrs. Bassett cues you for warm-ups. Most days there will be bell work on the smart board for students to complete during attendance time.
3. When you have been cued for warm-ups, all talking should stop and your full attention should be given to the director and the warm-up process.
4. Always make sure you have a pencil for rehearsal. Pencils are provided for each student at the beginning of the year.
5. It is expected that students will use the restroom and get a drink during passing period. Students may use the restroom by signing out as needed. If a student is abusing the use of the pass procedure, their privileges will be revoked for a short period of time.

6. Food and gum chewing will not be permitted from the start of class until Mrs. Bassett releases you at the end of class. All food and gum will be confiscated and thrown away.
7. The rehearsal room must be kept clean and orderly at all times. This is each member's responsibility.

Students who repeatedly do not follow procedures will be sent to SPC. If issues persist the student will have a meeting with Mrs. Bassett and their parents in order to develop an individual discipline plan for the remainder of the semester.

2025-2026 Mill Creek Choir Performance Schedule

First Semester:

Winter Concert- December 16th, 7PM DHS CPA 6PM Student Call

2nd Semester:

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

MSVMA Middle School District Choral Festival - March 5th or 6th
Time and Location TBA

Spring Concert-May 13th, 7PM DHS CPA 6PM Student Call