



## **Dexter Community Schools Vocal Music Department Handbook**

**Course Name:** Concert Choir, Descant Choir and Chamber Choir

**Grade Level:** 9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Teacher name:** Mrs. Julie Bassett

### **Teacher Contact Information:**

Classroom Phone: 734 424-4240 ext. 7134

Teacher email: [bassettj@dexterschools.org](mailto:bassettj@dexterschools.org)

Choir website: [www.dexterchoirs.org](http://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 through musical experiences.
- To learn to read music through basic sight-reading and theory drills 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

## **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 log into Canvas at least once a week to keep up with announcements and assignments in our virtual classroom. 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 your lockers. The only thing you should bring with you to choir is a pencil and your choir folder.
2. When the tardy bell rings, all choir members must be in their assigned seats for attendance. 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 or are removed from class 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.

## **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 in the DHS Choir room. This group supports the activities of our choir, which cannot function to its greatest advantage without parental involvement.