

Edison High School Choirs

Mrs. Melodie Henderson

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Intermediate Mixed Chorus (Impact)

This chorus is open to experienced choristers who would like to further develop their skills, as well as those with little or no experience. In this course, students will not only sing a lot, but they will also increase their personal level of musical literacy, understanding of the elements of music, musical expression, ensemble awareness, and performance skills. There will also be emphasis on the historical and cultural backgrounds and significance of the music we sing. This class prepares students for upper level choruses, and can be repeated.

Advanced Mixed Chorus (Innovation) and Advanced Women's Chorus (Ingenuity)

Admission to these choirs is by audition only. Students in these ensembles will perform challenging music from a wide variety of musical periods and styles. In addition, students will increase their personal level of musical literacy, understanding of the elements of music, musical expression, ensemble awareness, and performance skills. Students will become familiar with the historical and cultural backgrounds and significance of the choir's selected repertoire.

Required Materials

Pencil – *Bring one and leave it in your folder.*

Water Bottle – *If you plan to drink water during rehearsal, bring a water bottle. If you forget one, you may purchase water for \$1.*

Folder and Music – *These are provided. You may leave this on your assigned shelf in the choir room. If you choose to bring your folder home, you must remember to bring it with you to every class. If you lose your folder and/or music, you will be charged a replacement fee. Music is approximately \$2 per copy.*

Classroom Expectations

Be: Prompt, Prepared, and Polite

Don't Be: Distracted or Distracting

Not Allowed: Food or drink (except water), gum, candy, cell phones, electronic devices

Consequences

Students who do not follow the classroom expectations as outlined above will receive the appropriate consequence listed below to help them correct their behavior.

- 1st offense or mildly disruptive behavior
Student will correct behavior immediately.
- 2nd offense OR more disruptive behavior
Student will write his or her name in the refocus book and wait in the refocus area for the teacher's invitation to rejoin the rehearsal.
- 3rd offense OR very inappropriate behavior
Student will complete a Behavior Reflection Form and hand it to the teacher at the end of class. Student may be required to get a guardian's signature on the form (due the next class period).
- Extreme behavior OR many offenses
Student will be sent to the office and a referral will be written. The rest of the consequence will be determined by an administrator and will be dependent on the offense.

Grading

Graded assignments will include written work as well as performances presentations, and will include occasional rehearsals and performances that take place outside of class. Please familiarize yourself with the calendar so that you will not miss any of these events.

Grades for missed chorus events cannot be made up; missing events without an pre-arranged excuse will result in a grade of 0. If you need to be excused from a chorus event, you must submit a Chorus Event Excuse Form at least 2 weeks before the event to be missed. Failure to notify me at least 2 weeks ahead of time will result in an unexcused absence, and a grade of 0.

*Please be advised that I do not grant excused absences from chorus events liberally, and work is RARELY an accepted

excuse - you will always have plenty of time to notify your employer of the dates you need off. I understand emergencies (car accidents, illnesses, deaths in the family, etc.) happen - if such a situation arises, be sure to talk to me as soon as possible, rather than taking an automatic "F" for the concert.

Grades will be based on a point system. The final grade will be calculated by averaging the percentage from each marking period.

FCPS Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
92.5 – 100	89.5 – 92.5	86.5 – 89.5	82.5 – 86.5	79.5 – 82.5	76.5 – 79.5	72.5 – 76.5	69.5 – 72.5	66.5 – 69.5	63.5 – 66.5	0 – 63.5

*Grading and make-up work policies will follow and adhere to the "FCPS Grading and Reporting for High School" regulations.

Mastery Learning Policy

In order to enable all students to demonstrate mastery of the concepts and skills to be learned and demonstrated in this course, the following policies regarding late work, retakes, and make-up quizzes has been established:

Late Work

Late work is accepted anytime between its original due date and one week prior to term grades. However, you may not take a test until you have completed each assignment for that unit, and you must take each test within one week of the day it was given in class. A maximum of 20% will be deducted for late assignments.

Retakes and Make-up Work

Retake and "Make-Up" quizzes will be administered for 2 weeks following the original quiz date. In the case of retakes, students will receive their higher score. It is up to the student to schedule their retake or "make-up" quiz with the teacher.

Final Exam

All students will have a graded assessment during the designated final exam period. Final Exams will not be administered to students prior to the scheduled exam and time except as noted below:

Permission to Take a Final Exam Early

Teacher must receive requests for missing a scheduled final exam at least one week prior to the exam. The request must be in the form of a letter from the parent, and must include the reason to warrant a deferral. If approved, the student will take their final exams at the teacher's discretion.

After School Assistance

Students may stay after school for extra help. Arrangements should be made with Mrs. Henderson at least one day in advance. Late bus transportation for students is available on Mondays (3:30 pm) and Thursdays (4:30 pm). Other transportation arrangements for getting home should be made on days that bus transportation is not available.

Standards of Learning

All students will participate in District X Performance Assessment in the spring. This is the equivalent of SOL testing for ensemble courses.

Academic Integrity

There will be absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Cheating is giving or receiving unauthorized aid on any assignment. It is important that students do their own work to maximize their learning. Portable communication devices found in use during any testing environment will result in confiscation of the device and an automatic grade of zero on the test or quiz.

Attendance

All teachers follow Fairfax County Public Schools regulations for attendance. Please refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities Regulation 2601.25P on page 10.

24-7 Learning (Blackboard) and the Chorus Website (www.ehschorus.com)

24-7 Learning (Blackboard) will be used as a contact between school and home, so families can be informed of what is going on in school. Students' logins are their student ID numbers. For students new to FCPS, their original passwords are also their student ID numbers. Blackboard will also direct you to the Chorus Website, www.ehschorus.com, where more detailed announcements, calendars, recordings, forms, and policies can be found.

Back to School Night

Please plan to attend this event, held on September 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Edison Choral Guild

All parents/guardians of chorus students are encouraged to become members of the Edison Choral Guild. The Choral Guild is a group of adults who are committed to ensuring that students are offered a high quality choral experience. The group plays an important role in fundraising, planning field trips and activities, and promoting the Edison Choral Program. Meetings take place throughout the year, and sub-committees are formed to organize specific tasks.

Please plan to attend the **Edison Choral Guild's first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 pm** in the chorus room. Whether you can commit to helping on a task that takes 15 minutes, 5 hours, or a few months, we can use you!

Spring Trip

The choirs take a major trip every other year, and this year is a trip year! In the spring, the choirs will be travelling to New York City and Boston to participate in a choral competition and other relevant musical and educational experiences. All chorus students are strongly encouraged to participate in this trip.

The cost is projected to be about \$650. Fundraising opportunities will be provided, starting with Tag Day on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Last year, students who worked for 4 to 5 hours at Tag Day earned \$50-\$60 in one day – enough to cover the trip deposit!

Concert Attire

In order to perform in our concerts, students must be in proper concert attire. At some concerts we will wear one of our casual uniforms, while at others we will wear our formal attire, as outlined below.

Casual uniforms

- Chorus T-shirt (included in class fee)
- Chorus Polo shirt (included in class fee)

Formal uniforms

- Men's uniform
 - Tuxedo pants, jacket, shirt, bow-tie, and vest
 - Black socks and shoes
- Women's uniform
 - Formal dress
 - Black closed-toe shoes (heels and flats are both acceptable)

Other uniform considerations

- Hair should be styled away from your face.
- Do not draw attention to yourself and away from the choir by your appearance.

Class and Uniform Fees

Contingent upon Regulation 5922 being updated, the Chorus Department fee will not exceed \$150 per student in any given school year. The fee covers uniforms (which must only be purchased one time), as well as a T-shirt and class supplies. Your individual fee amount can be determined by filling out the Chorus Fees Form, and then paid for with cash or check made payable to Edison High School.

Student Name _____

Chorus _____

- We (parent/guardian and student) have read and discussed the information on the chorus syllabus.
- We understand what is expected of my student as a member of this chorus as well as how my student will earn their grade.
- We understand that if my student must miss a chorus event, they should submit the Chorus Event Excuse Form at least 2 weeks prior to the event.
- We agree to pay the class fee, as determined on the Chorus Fees Form (see back of this page), and in accordance with FCPS Regulation 5922, using cash or a check payable to Edison High School. We understand that if this is too great a financial burden that we can contact Mrs. Henderson about the situation to work out a solution.
- We have filled out the Emergency Care Information Form, which is required for participation in chorus field trips, and submitted it with this form.
- We agree to allow photographs, videos, and news showcasing my student's participation in chorus classes and events to be shared publicly, including in print and online.
- We know we can subscribe to Mrs. Henderson's text-messages for updates and reminders about chorus events. We recognize that subscribing to this service is not required.
 - Innovation: text @innovate to 703-972-2344
 - Ingenuity: text @ingenuity to 703-972-2344
 - Impact: text @impact to 703-972-2344

Please sign below and return this form, the Chorus Fees Form (printed on the back), the Parent Volunteer Form, and the Emergency Care Information Form during our next class period - Sept. 5th (Day 1) or 6th (Day 2).

REMINDERS:

- If you plan to participate in the spring trip to New York City and Boston, your \$50 non-refundable deposit will be due Sept. 10 (Day 2) or 11th (Day 1).
- Class fee payments are due no later than October 17th (Day 2) or 18th (Day 1), 2013, and should be delivered to Mrs. Henderson in a labeled, sealed envelope.

Student name (Please PRINT)

Student signature

Student email (Please PRINT)

Date

Parent/Guardian name (Please PRINT)

Parent/Guardian signature

Parent/Guardian email (Please PRINT)

Parent/Guardian phone number(s)

Date