

PETERS TOWNSHIP MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: 8TH GRADE CHORUS

Course Information	Teacher Information
<u>Course Length:</u> Full Year/Semester	<u>Name:</u> Larry Lucas

Course Overview and Essential Skills

In Eighth Grade Chorus more specific attention is given to gender and vocal range as students enter the most challenging stage of their voice change. The student's vocal folds are growing so rapidly that their range will change from week to week. The students will experience a limited range as their voices settle into a Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass. Independent singing skills continue to be developed with an increase in solo singing in the classroom setting. Gender specific pieces are used to challenge the students and highlight the differences between the male and female voices. Some areas of focus in this class are proper posture and body position (with routine reinforcement), proper diaphragmatic breathing, proper vocal embouchure, & proper tone production. Daily vocalizes applicable to the choral practice and performance literature for development of a healthy tone are a routine part of this class. Another focus of this unit is vocal tone with varying degrees of pitch, dynamics, timbre, duration, and vibrato which are stylistically appropriate to the selected repertoire. More opportunities for solo performance based on the practice and performance literature are also a part of this class. There is also a large emphasis on developing a comprehensive set of musicianship skills to prepare for high school choir. The students serve the community by performing at a local nursing home and another performance venue during the holidays and springtime.

Course Textbook, Supplemental Resources and Required Materials

“Alfred’s Essentials Elements of Sight Singing” Volume 2 Various selections from the Concert Literature

Various supplementals

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Course Activities/Resources	Timeframe
Singing Basics and Ear Training	“Alfred’s Essentials Elements of Sight Singing” Volume 1 & various supplementals	36 weeks intermittently
Winter Holiday Concert	Various songs from the concert literature	10-12 weeks
Spring Themed Concert	Various songs from the concert literature	14-16 weeks
Professional Performance Unit	TBA Annually & various supplementals	3-4 weeks
Individual Vocal Progress Assessment	““Alfred’s Essentials Elements of Sight Singing” Volume 1 & various excerpts from the concert literature	2-4 weeks
Choral Ensemble Vocal Adjudication	Various songs from the concert literature	4-6 weeks

**Depending on the needs of the class or changes in the school year, the course outline is subject to change.*