

NMS Syllabus

Materials include school owned musical scores/octavos. Also each 7th and 8th grade choir student will be provided with a three-ring binder. The musical scores/octavos will remain the property of the Portage North Middle School Choir Department. Bringing a pencil, choir binder and student planner to each class/rehearsal will be the responsibility of the choir student. All other materials will be provided.

Objective: Special emphasis is placed on the promotion of healthy singing, excellence in performance, music literacy, sight singing including the use of solfège and Curwen hand signs, introductory knowledge of the piano keyboard, music composition, critical music listening skills, music mapping, and written expression. Teaching strategies and media will include vocal modeling, instructor and student lead instruction, small group cooperative learning, kinesthetics, student composition of word and music, keyboard modeling, audio recordings, video recordings, two and three dimensional works of art, live performances, the appearance of guest musicians/artists, guest clinicians, attendance of Portage Northern High School performances and rehearsals when possible.

Technology: There will be significant emphasis on the incorporation of technology including web based music literacy software, Voiceprint™ Software, Google Voice, a cutting edge digital piano with Midi Interface and USB capability, audio and video recording technology, and internet based sight reading software/generators. Estill Voice International says, "Voiceprint™ is a real-time spectral analysis program that can record, analyze, and play back the voice. Highlights include real-time pitch tracking, dual screen option for matching voice models, and spectrogram or power spectrum analyses. Voiceprint™ provides spectacular and meaningful feedback about pitch and voice quality to the singer, teacher, clinician, and voice patient that is sure to enhance the learning and rehabilitation process."

Teaching strategies and media will include vocal modeling, student centered inquiry, instructor and student lead lecture, small and large group cooperative learning, written and verbal reflection, kinesthetics, student composition of word and music, keyboard modeling, audio recordings, video recordings, two and three dimensional works of art, live performances, the appearance of guest musicians/artists, guest clinicians, and attendance of Portage High School performances and rehearsals when possible.

Education for the Arts - Aesthetic Education: The seventh and eighth grade choirs will be integrating Aesthetic Education into their curriculum. Aesthetic Education is an educational philosophy and practice in which students further develop their capacities for observation, analysis, questioning, and meaning making through hands-on workshops designed around professional works of art that the students will experience. Through Aesthetic Education students will be able to deeply engage with and experience works of art while also making connections to their personal lived experiences, the outside world, and beyond.

<http://www.efa-rep.org/ae>

Respect: The lessons and projects in this class will be presented in a safe environment. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated, and the students and teachers will work hard to provide a welcoming environment for this performance class. Because this class presents skills and knowledge of a performance medium, vocal music, individuals will participate alone and in groups to practice the skills specific to this kind of work.

Assessment: Students will be assessed in many ways. Students will be asked to present constructive critiques and praises of others' performances as well as their own. The instructor will also provide helpful guidance and demonstrate the skills discussed in class. Students may have little or much knowledge of the subject area; it is important for each student to put forth their best effort and advance their skills at a reasonable rate.

Grading: In a class such as this, the final grade will be an average of active engagement points, Focus Correction Areas assessed weekly, assessment of individual or small group vocal performance which could include sight singing, completion of class projects, verbal or written responses to performances, recordings, samples of visual art, or other appropriate stimuli. Assessments will also include participation in NMS Choir Concerts and Choral Festivals, worksheets or other projects related to vocal performance, music literacy assessments, sight singing or any other subject important to the study of music and the creation of well-rounded individuals. Each assignment will have a predetermined number of points possible or other grading device assigned (rubric). The total points earned by the student divided by the total number of possible points will determine the student's final grade in this class.

Active Engagement: (3 points per week) Each student will need to participate actively in class each day to the satisfaction of the instructor. Each week each student has the opportunity to earn three points.

- active participation in singing, moving, answering questions, etc.
- following instructor's directions willingly; efficient use of class time
- respectful behavior of classmates and instructor
- bringing music and binder to class/rehearsal
- bringing a pencil and student planner to class/rehearsal

If a student is asked to leave the classroom after a warning, the student forfeits that day's active engagement points. The student will report to the office for consequences.

Weekly Focus Correction Area: (3 points per week) Each student will be assessed once a week on a weekly focus correction area which will include but not be limited to posture, breathing, diction, tone, mouth shape, rhythmic accuracy/steady beat, and pitch accuracy.

Grading Scale: refer to the student's Code of Conduct in the Student Planner for the grading scale.

Homework Policy: care will be taken to not over-burden a student's homework load. Most assignments will be completed in class, but occasionally work will need to be completed at home.

Late and Missing Homework Policies: Please refer to the section on “Concerts” for the make-up policy concerning performance attendance. All other homework or projects given during the year will have a due date. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for policies concerning make-up work.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities throughout the year for students to earn extra credit. They may take on many forms, but one that will always be in effect is this. Students will receive extra credit (point total to be determined by the instructor) for attending art shows, plays, musicals, concerts, dance recitals or other activities where an artistic form of expression is the main event. If the student is a participant in the event, they may receive extra credit for one of the performances of the same work of art. The sponsors of these events include but are not limited to the following: any of the area high schools or middle schools, community or professional theatres, musicians in concert or recital, visual artisans presenting exhibits of their work, dancers in concert or recital or similar artistic organizations or artists. This does not include the shortened performances that the students enjoy during the school day a.k.a. “teasers.” This extra effort to experience art outside of the school day is worthy of extra credit added to their academic grade for the marking period during which the activity takes place. The student must turn-in a program, flyer, or other documentation from the event plus a written reflection of the experience (minimum of ten complete sentences) to Mr. Jordan for credit. Sometimes the amount of this credit will be determined ahead of time, or Mr. Jordan will assign an amount of extra points for the activity at his discretion. Mr. Jordan will determine if the event attended constitutes an event where art is the main focus, e.g. seeing the Marching Band at a football game does not constitute an event where art is the main focus.

Bathroom and Hall Passes: please see the Student Code of Conduct for policies concerning passes.

Dismissal: The instructor, not the bell, will dismiss the students from their seats.

Binders and Music: Our binders of music are the equivalent to other classes’ textbooks. We must take care of them so that generations to come may use them also. Music is not consumable. The School has provided each student with original copies of their vocal music. If the student loses or damages choir music, the student’s family will reimburse the school \$2.00 per original copy of music. The student must have these materials with them each day. Each day without their binder and music will cause a loss of a portion of the days active engagement points (see above).

Concerts: Concerts are a mandatory part of each student’s experience in choir and an important measurement of the student's understanding and growth. Each student's understanding of the material taught in class is assessed (graded) during the evening concerts

much like a major exam in another class. Each student will stay for the entire concert and the warm-up period before it. When a student misses a concert, these missed points will not be able to be made up unless the student's absence was caused by an emergency. The student must bring a parent note describing the emergency. Mr. Jordan will then decide if the absence is excused or unexcused. If it is excused, the student can make arrangements with Mr. Jordan to complete a research project and written essay of two typed pages in length. This project will focus on a musical topic determined by Mr. Jordan with input from the student and will make up for the points lost by the student's absence. If the make-up project is not completed by the end of the nine week marking period, the student will lose these points.

An effort will be made to keep concerts running smoothly and as short as possible. See the [Choir Calendar](#) for more information on choir concerts dates and times. In the highly unlikely event that any performances are added to the choir calendar, the students involved will need to obtain parent permission in order to attend, and their inability to attend one of these added concerts will not harm the student's grade. Once a student has committed to participate in one of these added performances with their parent's written consent, the student should see the commitment to its completion and participate to the fullest of their ability. Thank you in advance for your help in promoting safe and orderly concerts.

Concert Etiquette: Please follow this link to learn more about how members of the audience should behave at concerts. <https://musiced.nafme.org/resources/concert-etiquette-home/>

What to wear for concerts: A concert is a special event in a child's life, and we dress differently for them. The school dress code is in effect, but these guidelines may add to what is expected in the dress code. Please refer to the students' Code of Conduct. Here are some additional guidelines to follow.

Sixth Grade Choir Members:

Boys: pants (not denim) with no writing or pictures on them, a collared shirt (not a tee shirt) tucked into their pants, a belt if pants are large, and dress shoes (not athletic shoes)

Girls: a knee length or longer dress, or pants or a knee length or longer skirt (not denim) with no writing or pictures on them combined with a blouse (no tee shirts), and dress shoes (no athletic shoes; no dress shoe heels over one inch)

Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir Members:

Boys: black dress pants (not denim), a long sleeve dress shirt in black, black belt and black dress shoes (not athletic shoes).

Girls: any combination of a knee length or longer black skirt, black blouse, black dress pants, or a knee length or longer black dress and black dress shoes with closed toes and one inch heels or less (no athletic shoes or flip-flops).

We understand that it may be difficult for every family to have these clothes available to their children. Mr. Jordan has a supply of appropriate clothing to wear to concerts that the students may use free of charge. Please notify Mr. Jordan at least three weeks before a concert if you need the school to provide a suitable outfit for your student. It is the parent and student's responsibility to have this worked out well in advance of the concert date.

Festival Attendance: Each year the students in seventh and eighth grade will participate in District Choral Festival. This is a chance for the choirs and instructor to receive helpful guidance and praise concerning vocal performance from leading conductors and teachers in the field. It is required for each 7th and 8th grade student to be at this performance like any other concert. Details concerning this performance will be sent home in February. See the [Choir Calendar](#) for this event date. It may occur during the school day or after. The school will provide bus transportation to District Choral Festival.

Select Choirs: The choirs who meet during the school day are non-auditioned and are part of the school curriculum. Mr. Jordan will be forming an extra-curricular choral ensemble this year for sixth graders depending on interest and best educational practices. The students who audition for the sixth grade select choir must be able to attend a one-hour rehearsal once a week beginning at 3 PM on each Tuesday that school is in session beginning in October or November. There is not a set size for this group, and admittance to the group will be determined by a hard working attitude, behavior in their regular music class, vocal health, vocal skill, a vocal audition, and two teacher recommendations. The teacher recommendations are to make sure students do not become overwhelmed with extra-curricular responsibilities that take away time from completing their school work. Attendance is mandatory; the choir will meet weekly while school is in session during the school year. Poor behavior or poor attendance (two unexcused absences) will result in a parent/teacher meeting or phone call, and if the problems do not improve the student will be removed from the group. You should have a ride home arranged with a family member or someone you trust to transport your child.

Parents: You may contact Mr. Jordan via e-mail at rjordan@portageps.org or by phone at 323-5742 with any questions, concerns or praises. Thank you for your involvement in your child's education!

Portage North Middle School

MR. JORDAN

classroom goals



RESPECT

Use polite words



RESPONSIBILITY



100% Participation 100% of the time

BUILD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Make good choices for yourself and the group

classroom consequences

1st Time	2nd Time	3rd Time
You choose	We choose	I choose

- verbal apology
- written apology
- student calls parent(s) and explains behavior
- Mr. Jordan calls student's parent(s) and explains behavior
- student moves to another spot as determined by Mr. Jordan
- student goes to an alternative classroom
- student writes letter to parent and returns it signed by parent
- detention
- office referral