

Northwestern Middle School
7th Grade Choir
Course Outline

August

- A. Students learn basics of good posture.
- B. Students learn correct placement of tone.
- C. Students learn solfeg syllables and apply to major scale pitches.
- D. Students learn basic rhythmic notation.
- E. Students listen to and select music for Christmas, Contest and Spring Performances.
- F. Students learn expectations for good rehearsal ethic.
- G. Students are evaluated and placed in sections according to voice type.
- H. Students begin singing rounds and harmony in thirds.
- I. Students sing warm-ups and exercises concerning range, agility, ear training, breath support, phrasing, diction, vowels.
- J. Students do weekly theory worksheet.
- K. Students will learn expectations for 7th Grade ensemble rehearsal, performance and year calendar.

September

- A. Students continue solfeg development by adding hand signs, singing and signing
- B. Students sing major and minor triads.
- C. Students are given opportunity for Circle the State with Song Festival
- D. Students are given opportunity to learn and record an audition for All-State Honor Choir.
- E. Students begin work on Veteran's Day piece and National Anthem.
- F. Students begin work on ISSMA Organizational Contest literature.
- G. Students sight read rhythmic exercises with 8th, quarter, half and whole symbols
- H. Students apply the solfeg syllables to the staff and sing short melodic lines.
- I. Students do weekly theory worksheet.
- J. Students will continue to study all aspects of vocal tone, increasing breath support and ability to focus tone on all vowels.

October

- A. Students begin rehearsal on Christmas Concert literature.
- B. Students sight read melodic and rhythmic lines in small groups.
- C. Students are given the opportunity to audition for solos for upcoming concerts.
- D. Students continue to improve vocal technique learning body parts that directly affect vocal tone.
- E. Students study the historical and cultural significance of Veteran's Day and the chosen performance piece.
- F. Students will sing in 2-3 parts in rounds, simple harmony and 3 part mixed literature.

November

- A. Students are given an opportunity to participate in ISSMA solo and ensemble contest.
- B. Students perform in NMS Veteran's Day Program.
- C. Students write a paragraph based on lyrics or Veteran support.
- D. Students will recognize warm-up and exercises and their relation to a specific vocal technique.
- E. Students will sing in small groups to learn parts, audition for solos, or to demonstrate mastery of literature.
- F. Students will build chords based on understanding of the tonic triad.

December

- A. Students will rehearse for Christmas Concert.
- B. Students will select music for Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- C. Students will reflect on semester goals/challenges/successes and write about each.
- D. Students will perform at the Christmas Concert.
- E. Students will use movement in warm-ups according to Dalcroze ideas to help development of tone and technique.
- F. Students will listen to any given performance and be able to identify musical concepts such as good tone, intonation, dynamic changes, diction, etc.
- G. Students will respond to director cues for music concepts studied throughout the semester.
- H. Students will sing and be able to adjust sound to affect balance, intonation, enunciation.
- I. Students will understand and sing with awareness of various idioms and historical styles.
- J. Students will watch and analyze the Christmas Concert performance and recognize successes as well as areas for improvement.

January

- A. Students will rehearse individually and in small groups for Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- B. Students will continue to sight read, increasing difficulty in melodic lines with skips and triads and rhythmic lines with addition of 16 note groupings.
- C. Students will recognize choral problems with tone quality and vocal performance and provide an effective physical solution to correct the problem.
- D. Students will sing major, minor and chromatic scales.
- E. Students will sing 3-4 part chords and move ascending and descending by half steps.
- F. Students will listen to student performances prepared for contest and evaluate each on given music concepts.
- G. Students will perform at solo and ensemble contest.
- H. Students will write short rhythmic line and perform it in small groups for the class.
- I. Students will begin preparation for Organizational Contest.
- J. Students will study C key signature and be able to locate the major triad and all scale degrees in that key.

February

- A. Students will prepare for and participate in Circle the State with Song Festival.
- B. Students chosen for All-State will perform with the All-State Honor Choir.
- C. Students will sing second and third sequence in the Kodaly method.
- D. Students will correctly place the tone on all vowels.
- E. Students will understand and correctly perform diphthongs.
- F. Students will demonstrate an understanding of good rehearsal ethic as it relates to success in an upcoming performance.
- G. Students will demonstrate good posture and technique without being prompted by the director.

March

- A. Students will listen to recordings and watch video performances of various choirs performing the contest literature.
- B. Students will compete at ISSMA Organizational Contest.
- C. Students will watch the video from contest and analyze the performance.
- D. Students will rehearse music and dance for Spring Concert.
- E. Students will compose a short melody, rehearse it, and perform it for the class.
- F. Students will correctly perform a festival piece in a foreign language.

April

- A. Students will study G Major and be able to locate Do and all scale degrees in that key.
- B. Students will recognize, rehearse, and perform music of differing styles including spiritual, gospel, classical, folk, popular, jazz, and traditional festival choral.
- C. Students will sing short melodies with solfeg syllable and Kodaly hand signs.
- D. Students will participate in planning costume, dance and accompaniment elements for the Spring Concert.

May

- A. Students will rehearse for and perform in the Spring Concert.
- B. Students will study ISSMA sight reading materials to prepare for future contest performances.
- C. Students will participate in end of the year evaluations, individual growth inventory, goal setting the future.