

## **CHOIR CURRICULUM Grades 7-12**

### **Text:**

Various scores. Students are instructed in music from the music itself.

### **Prerequisites:**

None.

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide the rudiments of healthy and beautiful singing in the practical environment of an active liturgical choir. In that context, students will also learn about liturgy and the theology of worship to a limited extent.

### **Course Goals:**

- To familiarize students with choral repertoire and the tradition of Catholic liturgical music.
- To instill in students an appreciation for music as a good to be achieved through hard work.
- To teach students how to sing with confidence and without damage to their voice.
- To promote and foster talents of the students.
- To learn the art of singing in parts.
- To promote social skills of listening to one another and acting as a group.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To examine the way in which breath is taken and vowels are formed.
- To understand the difference between beauty and banality in art music.
- To appreciate the viability of music from all periods and not just our own.
- To learn to sing with an accompanist without losing time.
- To develop sight-singing skills.

### **Course Sequence:**

-Cyclical. Prepare once weekly for a performance at Mass the same week. Discuss the liturgy to come and the reasons behind the choice of music. Rehearse each piece (after warming up the voice) with a focus on whatever problems arise or skills require emphasis. Prepare in remaining time for any concerts forthcoming. Teaches the theoretical through the practical demands of a highly active liturgical choir.

### **Evaluation:**

-Students are evaluated on the basis of attendance at events, participation, and occasional written assignments. They are not examined for skill. This is a 100 point scale semester grade.

## String Ensemble

Grades:

7-12

Textbook:

1. Essential Elements for Strings 2000 (for your instrument)
2. O'Connor Orchestra Method Book (for your instrument)

Prerequisites:

Previous experience or weekly private lessons required for viola, cello, and bass. No previous experience needed to learn violin. Outside private lessons strongly encouraged for all students.

Course Description:

Strings students will improve their skills through regular practice at home and school rehearsals in preparation for the end-of-semester concert. The music we perform will reflect the classical tradition of CLS together with new genres from other time periods. Along the way we will learn all that goes in to being a successful musician – musicality, theory, proficiency, and smart practice habits. Students will be graded on their practice records, monthly skill assessments appropriate for their level, and concert participation. While not required, private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will perform string orchestra music of various genres and periods.
2. Students will gain proficiency on their instrument through developing good practice and rehearsal skills.
3. Students will gain knowledge in music theory and note-reading.
4. Students will learn how to play musically and as an ensemble under the direction of a conductor.
5. Students will understand rehearsal and concert etiquette.
6. Students will gain solo and ensemble performance experience.

Course Sequence:

Each class will involve a warm-up, scales, and rehearsal of selections from Essential Elements and O'Connor Method in preparation for the end of semester concert. Each month students will be graded on a scale and/or music selection, which will be announced.

Evaluation:

1. Assessments (practice checks, scale quizzes, etc.) (10 points each)
2. Weekly practice chart (30-50 minutes/school day) (5 points each)
3. Winter and spring sectionals, dress rehearsals and concerts (50 points each)