

Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School

Vocal Music Department

Experiencing Music Syllabus

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Department Mission

The RPEMS Vocal Music Department's mission is to provide an instructional and engaging environment that enables middle level learners to advance their musical and leadership skills all while investigating the rich cultural heritage that is found within musical history.

Program Standards: represents what a student should know at the end of a course.

1. The student will be able to develop an appreciation for music.
2. The student will be able to apply musical skills in a variety of settings.

Learning Targets: build to the Power Standard.

- 1.1 I can identify musical notation using music literacy knowledge.
- 1.2 I can identify a variety of musical styles and time periods.
- 2.1 I can practice musical citizenship.
- 2.2 I can play an instrument using musical skills.

Supplies Needed

- **Daily Classroom Supplies:** Students are to bring their agenda and a writing utensil (pen or pencil) with them to every class. They will write daily activities in their agendas, as well as use them for hall passes. Music folders, music and ukuleles will be provided. Lost or destroyed music or ukuleles will result in a fine. Ukuleles are only to be used in the classroom and will not be checked out. Student may choose to bring their own ukulele if they wish.

Rehearsal Standards

This is a general music course which will experience different aspect of musical study from performance to history and literacy. Appropriate classroom behavior will include:

1. **Being prepared to start class on time.** Instruction will begin as soon as the bell rings. Students who are not in the class at the bell will be counted tardy unless they have a pass from a teacher. Students who take an excessive amount of time getting ready for class will receive a warning. Multiple warnings will result in a lowered rehearsal score, removal from that day's rehearsal, or both.
2. **Displaying a focused attention during instruction.** The student should be focused on the director and they should be actively participating in whichever activity the choir is doing. Any other behavior will be viewed as distracting and warnings will be given. After two warnings in a class, the student will be removed to a buddy room, will receive a reduction in rehearsal score and a phone call will be made home.
3. **Being respectful and productive during individual practice.** Students will participate in individual practice times while in class. Students are expected to work on their own (after receiving instruction) to gain progress during these practice sessions. Excessive talking or distractive/rude behavior will result in removal from the rehearsal space. Students who do not exhibit proper practice skills will not be allowed to participate in the lesson and will have to complete an alternative assignment.

Frequent breaks are planned in the lesson to allow for socializing, stretching and rehydration. NO food or gum is allowed in the Choir room, and the only beverage that is allowed is water that does not have a mix in it.

Students who are removed from class due to improper behavior will be required to complete an alternative assignment that has them focus on what skills they are lacking. Once that assignment is completed, they will be allowed to return to the classroom.

Rehearsal tracks and study guides are located on the Department's web page: (www.singinglady.weebly.com)

Testing Standards

Music Literacy is a vital proponent of musical performance. In order to become a better performer, students must know how to read music. In order to support their music literacy training, students will participate in three google form testing units: Rhythm Identification, Pitch Identification and Key Signature Identification.

1. Material will be covered in class using powerpoints and digital tools that will be shared through the student's Vocal Music Google Classroom. Students are expected to review the material and practice the worksheets while at home if extra support is needed.
2. Practice tests that contain the same questions as the actual tests will be provided through the student's Vocal Music Google Classroom in order to provide additional support. Students may take these practice tests as many times as needed.
3. Tests will occur only in class, and students will be allowed to take the test 2 times only. Tests will be given via a google form and students will have full access to their graded answers as soon as their form is submitted. The students best score out of the two takes will be recorded.

Music History is an important part of music instruction because it allows the student to understand the different stylistic transformations that music has withstood over time. Students will participate in a unit that investigates the varied characteristics of specific musical time periods. They will create a presentation that includes a specific set of requirements and will be graded on their ability to include those requirements into their presentation.

Performance tests will be administered on a frequent basis. Most of these performance tests will be on the ukulele, but some will include singing. Students will have classroom time to prepare, and will be given two chances to earn full credit with verbal feedback from the instructor being given at both times.

Rehearsal skills will be observed by the director and evaluated on a monthly basis. Students who are sent out of class due to poor behavior, or who do not demonstrate effective practice skills will see a reduction in their rehearsal skill grade.