

Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School

# Vocal Music Department

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## Performing Choir Syllabus

(8th - Blue Notes, 7 - Silver Sounds and 6 - Hero's Harmony)

Shea L. Twenter, Director

Shea.Twenter@raypec.org www.singinglady.weebly.com

816-388-4000

## 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 practice music literacy.
2. The student will be able to apply age appropriate vocal skills through performance.

**Learning Targets: build to the Power Standard.**

- 1.1 I can interpret rhythmic values appropriate to my grade level.
- 1.2 I can read notes.
- 1.3 I can identify grade level appropriate major key signatures by sight.
- 1.4 I can sight read grade level appropriate melodies.
  
- 2.1 I can practice proper rehearsal skills (being prepared for class, following rehearsal instructions and classroom procedures, staying focused during rehearsal).
- 2.2 I can sing with proper tone, expression and musicianship (vocal formation, projection, support, diction, part acquisition, memorization, stylistic appropriate attributes).
- 2.3 I can apply vocal and rehearsal skills in a performance setting.

## 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 and music will be provided. Lost or destroyed music will result in a fine.
- **Concert Dress:** Concerts are mandatory, and students will receive a grade for wearing the appropriate attire. Students are encouraged to use what is in their closets or to borrow from others to reduce cost. If there is a financial need, the Department does have some items for loan. Concert Dress for RPEMS includes: Dress Pants, Dress Shirts or a Dress (dress must touch the ground when student is standing on their knees) along with dress shoes. THERE IS NO COLOR REQUIREMENT. Students may choose what color to wear, however, Concert Dress does not include the following: T-shirts, shorts, capris, leggings, joggers, flip flops (sandals with a strap around the ankle are permitted), tennis shoes, sweats, etc.
  - Fall Concert 2018 is on December 20th at 6:30 PM
  - Spring Concert 2019 is on May 9th at 6:30 PM

## Rehearsal Standards

This is a performing choir, so students are expected to demonstrate proper rehearsal skills. Proper rehearsal skills include:

1. **Being prepared to start class on time.** Warm-ups 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 rehearsal.** The student's eyes 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 in the rehearsal room.** Students will utilize rehearsal rooms in order to efficiently use our rehearsal time. Active rehearsal of vocal parts should be happening at all times and excessive talking or distractive/rude behavior will result in removal from the rehearsal space. Students should be kind and respectful to all who are in the rehearsal room. Students who do not exhibit proper rehearsal room behavior will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal room practices and will have to complete their practice at home.

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 rehearsal due to improper rehearsal skills 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](http://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 two 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 student's best score out of the two takes will be recorded.

## Additional Opportunities

The RPEMS Vocal Music Department offers additional music opportunities throughout the year. These are completely optional, but are very beneficial to the student's personal music growth

- **ACDA/MCDA Honor Choirs.** This year we have two honor choir opportunities. In the Spring of 2019, the ACDA Convention will be held in Kansas City and along with it the Youth Honor Choir event and every year in July, the MCDA organization sponsors a Youth Honor Choir event that coordinates with their convention. Students may audition to participate. See the ACDA and MCDA Honor Choir flyers for more details.
- **Kansas City Mavericks National Anthem Performances.** The RPEMS choirs will perform the National Anthem at three Kansas City Mavericks Hockey games this year. Participation is optional, and requires the purchase of a ticket and a choir t-shirt. 6th Grade performs at the day game on November 13th, and the 7th and 8th Grade Choirs will perform on December 7th and February 8th. Discounted tickets for family, friends and the community will be available. See the RPEMS Mavericks flyer for more info.
- **Kansas City Royals 6th Grade National Anthem Performance.** The 6th Grade Choir will perform the National Anthem at the Kansas City Royals game. Specific details are not available right now, but the game will be in the Spring of 2019.
- **RPEMS 8th Grade Music Theatre Program.** RPEMS offers a well sought after course for 8th grade students called 'Music Theatre'. 7th grade students will have the opportunity to audition for their 8th grade class in the spring of their 7th grade year.
- **Variety Show.** Every year, on the very last day of school, the RPEMS Vocal Music Department hosts a talent show called 'The Variety Show' students may audition their act during open audition times in advisory and those chosen will perform for their peers on the last day of school.

