



Erie High School  
Mrs. Rebecca Laquidara, Music Teacher  
RLaquidara@eriesd.org

## Chorus

### Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce and develop foundational singing techniques (including good posture, tone quality, breath support, diction) sight-reading skills, and basic music theory concepts. The chorus performs in a concert near the end of each semester. Attendance ***required*** at all performances. This class meets for the entire semester.

### Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn proper posture, tone quality, breath support, and diction.
2. Students will learn to read basic musical notation.
3. Students will learn to practice effectively.
4. Students will learn to sing as an ensemble.
5. Students will gain confidence through performance.

### Course Materials:

- Computer
- Pencil
- Folder

### Class Expectations:

- **BE ON TIME:** Students are expected to be at the computers and logged into the class meeting at the start of the assigned class time.
- **BE RESPECTFUL:** Students will treat their teacher and their peers with kindness and respect. If you can't be anything else, at least be kind.
- **BE INVOLVED IN ALL ACTIVITIES:** 60% of your grade is participation - you cannot pass unless you participate. Music is a hands-on experience and active involvement in your learning is expected. This means, at times, you will have to have your camera and microphone on so I may evaluate your singing. Please be mindful of this.
- **TREAT EQUIPMENT PROPERLY:** Computers are extremely expensive and need to be treated as such. Please follow all instructions for proper care.
- **USE CLASS TIME WISELY:** As I am not available to help you at all hours of the day, it is expected that you will use the time I give you in class to practice.

### **Topics to be covered:**

- Correct vocal techniques and singing posture.
- Letter names of the lines and spaces for bass and treble clefs.
- Basic rhythms using eighth, quarter, half, and whole notes, and rests.
- Basic musical markings and symbols.
- The solfege system as it relates to the major scale for beginning level sight-reading exercises.

### **Grading:**

#### **ALL MUSIC GRADES ARE BASED ON EFFORT AND IMPROVEMENT, NOT MUSICAL ABILITY!**

**Participation:** Students will participate in ALL classroom activities. Phones will be put away during class. Talking will not be permitted during instruction. Class time is to be used to work on music activities. Students will remain engaged and on task. Participation is graded every day, but points are awarded weekly. Students start each week with TEN participation points. Failure to properly participate in class will result in a loss of points.

**Do Now:** Students are expected to participate in a Do Now activity when they enter the classroom. Failure to participate in the Do Now for the day will result in a loss of points.

**Singing assessments:** This class is based around learning to sing and perform. It is expected that each student will make an effort as new material is introduced. Singing assessments happened periodically throughout the quarter. There IS a final singing assessment at the end of the semester. A grade will be given based on effort and improvement (not ability.) You cannot learn if you do not try.

**Performance:** In a typical year, near the end of each semester, the chorus performs at a concert. This normally takes place in the evening in the Erie High School auditorium. Attendance at each concert is mandatory! This is a performing ensemble and we are a team. We rely on one another to make these performances work and we need everyone there to do their part. I understand that sometimes there are unforeseen circumstances. If this is the case, the student will be given an alternate assignment that must be completed to receive credit for the concert.

**Technology in the Music Class**

Technology during class time is to be used *solely* for **educational purposes**.

Examples include:

- YouTube tutorials
- Looking up the definition of a word
- Listening to music when directed by the teacher
- Research for a project

The use of headphones, cell phones, chrome books, tablets, or other technology, for purposes of social media, watching movies, phone calls, or texting during class time, is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. If you are found to be watching movies, making phone calls, doing live-streams, sending texts, OR on Facebook, Facetime, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, OR ANY OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM during class time, you will be written up and you will lose all participation points for the day.

Please sign below and submit by September 11, 2023.

I have read the above syllabus for Chorus and understand what is expected of me/my child.

---

PLEASE PRINT STUDENT'S NAME

---

PLEASE PRINT PARENT'S NAME

---

PARENT'S SIGNATURE AND DATE

---

PARENT'S EMAIL ADDRESS

---

PARENT'S PHONE NUMBER