

White Hill Middle School Choirs

Erin Bouayad, Director

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rvsdmusic.org/white-hill-chorus



Syllabus and Grading Policy

Materials

All choral students are assigned a numbered binder and sheet music. Students are responsible for the care and return of the binder and music. A sharpened pencil with an eraser should be in hand at all rehearsals.

Rehearsals

Singing in a choir is a team activity. Stay focused and on task! Be willing to try all activities, especially things that are new to you. Don't worry about making mistakes; we're all learning together.

Gum, food, and beverages, with the exception of water, are not to be consumed in rehearsals or performances. Regular attendance at rehearsals is very important! Students should consult with Ms. Bouayad following an absence to catch up on missed work and materials.

Google Classroom Website

Ms. Bouayad will regularly update a class website at classroom.google.com with the latest course information.

Google Classroom join codes: Concert Choir (0 pd): **2ybqfl**
Bella Voce (1st pd): **vf2ly2u**
Coro Forte (2nd pd): **wsf5apj**

Concerts

Concerts and other performances are the culminating activities for the classroom rehearsals. Students should arrive on time dressed in performance attire and exhibit proper performance behaviors and concert etiquette.

Performance Attire (unless otherwise indicated)

6th Grade Concert Choir (0pd) White Hill Chorus t-shirt, black pants, black closed-toe shoes
(*\$10 requested donation for the chorus t-shirt will be collected in the fall*)

7th/8th Grade Bella Voce (1st pd) and Coro Forte (2nd pd):

Option 1: black formal dress issued by WHMS Chorus, (*should be kept clean, properly hemmed with needle and thread, not tape or staples, and on a hanger until returned at the end of the school year*), black closed-toe dress shoes

Option 2: tie issued by WHMS Chorus, black long-sleeve dress shirt, black dress pants, black dress shoes

Coro Forte and Bella Voce students may also be asked to wear a White Hill Chorus t-shirt for some informal performances and field trips. 7th and 8th graders new to White Hill Chorus will have the opportunity to order a chorus t-shirt.

*Singing in a choir is a fun and energizing way to start or end the day! It also requires dedication, focus, and self-discipline. **Each quarter grade will be determined by the elements listed below:***

Weekly Grade (40% of quarter grade)

Students will receive a weekly grade based on the following criteria:

1. Treat others with courtesy and respect.
2. Be seated and ready to complete daily music theory classwork with music and pencil in hand at the beginning of class.
3. Participate fully in all aspects of the rehearsal, including warm-ups, music theory classwork, sight-reading, and other activities.

Performance (30% of quarter grade)

Performances are the product of our project-based learning in class. A performance calendar will be distributed at the beginning of the year and kept up to date on Google Classroom and the Music Department website (rvsdmusic.org/calendar). If a student must be absent from a concert, please notify Ms. Bouayad **at least two weeks in advance** . The following reasons will generally not be considered excused absences: athletic practices, rehearsals for extracurricular arts organizations, lessons, homework, babysitting, transportation or attire. Excused absences may be made up by completing a written assignment. In the case of illness or emergency, please notify Ms. Bouayad by email (ebouayad@rossvalleyschools.org) or phone as soon as possible.

Daily Music Theory Classwork (20% of quarter grade)

Students will complete a short written music theory assignment during the beginning of each chorus rehearsal. Daily music theory classwork missed due to excused absence does not need to be made up at a later date.

Chorus Binder Care and Organization (10% of quarter grade)

Students are expected to treat sheet music with care and make all necessary markings in *pencil*. Chorus binders will be checked for organization and condition at least once each quarter.



A note about \$:

The YES Foundation, with the support and contributions of our community, funds the entire choral program at White Hill, including credentialed teaching staff, all sheet music, purchase and maintenance of formal concert attire, piano tuning, choral festival fees, and a piano accompanist for rehearsals and performances. There will be 3 requests for voluntary donations over the course of the school year to help cover the following additional program costs:

- 1.) \$10 donation for a White Hill Chorus t-shirt (6th grade and new 7th/8th graders),
- 2.) approximately \$15-20 to hire bus transportation to the CMEA Festival (7th/8th graders only), and
- 3.) approximately \$90 for the Music Dept. Spring Trip on May 4 (TBC, optional for 6th-8th grade).

All chorus students will receive necessary materials and be able to participate in all events regardless of donation amount. Collection details will be communicated at a later date.