

# School District of Springfield Township

## Springfield Township High School Course Overview

**Course Name Mixed Chorus**

**Grade level(s) 9 - 12**

### Course Description

Mixed Chorus offers students the opportunity to perform a variety of contemporary music, including Broadway, pop and rock, jazz, as well as inspirational and patriotic selections. The chorus performs at the Winter Concert, Festival of the Arts, and Commencement. Attendance at these performances is mandatory. The class meets twice a week before school.

### Course Prerequisites

Student audition and/or teacher recommendation

### Unit Titles

Unit One: Introduction to Vocal and Physical Warm-up Exercises, Introduce Show Choir music, Sectional Rehearsals (sopranos/altos and tenors/basses)

Unit Two: Section Rehearsals (Cont'd), Introduction of Choreography

Unit Three: Combined Rehearsals (SATB), Preparation for Concert(s)

### Essential Questions

- What is needed to produce a good vocal sound?
- How do we achieve a well-blended, uniform sound appropriate for a mixed chorus and not a soloist?
- How do we incorporate the dance with the music and not lose the integrity of the vocals?

### Big Ideas/Enduring Understandings

**Unit One: Introduction to Vocal and Physical Warm-up Exercises, Introduce Show Choir music, Sectional Rehearsals (sopranos/altos and tenors/basses)**

- Understand the mechanics needed to produce a good choral tone
- Reading music is an important form of communication
- Ensemble singing is an essential skill to acquire in the mixed chorus class

**Unit Two: Section Rehearsals (Cont'd), Introduction of Choreography**

- Communicating the meaning of the music through the singing voice
- Understand the importance of a good rehearsal techniques to produce an outstanding final performance
- The final performance(s) is the main goal of the class. (Winter Concert, Festival of the Arts, Senior Awards, Graduation performances)

### Key Competencies/Skills/Procedures

#### **Unit One: Introduction to Vocal and Physical Warm-up Exercises, Introduce Show Choir music, Sectional Rehearsals (sopranos/altos and tenors/basses)**

- Learn various exercises for breathing, vocal production, diction, blended sound
- The sopranos and altos will learn and rehearse show choir repertoire in a treble choir setting
- The tenors and basses will learn and rehearse show choir repertoire in a bass choir setting

#### **Unit Two: Section Rehearsals (Cont'd), Introduction of Choreography**

- Rehearse and refine show choir repertoire music for the concert
- Learn and rehearse movements/dance steps to the show choir repertoire
- Recognize and understand the relationship among the three disciplines of music, dance and theatre in the performing arts

#### **Unit Three: Combined Rehearsals (SATB), Preparation for Concert(s)**

- Rehearse the show choir repertoire in an SATB setting
- Memorize mixed chorus repertoire in preparation for the concert
- Perform the mixed chorus repertoire at a public concert(s)
- Informally evaluate a dress rehearsal and/or the final performance

### Core Vocabulary

#### **Unit One: Introduction to Vocal and Physical Warm-up Exercises, Introduce Mixed Chorus music, Sectional Rehearsals (sopranos/altos and tenors/basses)**

*diaphragmatic breathing, larynx, diphthongs, palate (soft/hard), articulation and diction (vowels/consonants), phrasing, legato, staccato, dynamics*

#### **Unit Two: Section Rehearsals (Cont'd), Combined Rehearsals (SATB), Preparation for Concert(s)** *vocal blending of male/female voices, vocal projection, musicianship, critique*

### Core Resources

A variety of popular musical selections are chosen by the teacher

Videotaped performances of amateur and/or professional mixed choruses

### State Standards and/or Anchor Standards Guiding Course

#### **PA State Arts and Humanities Standards:**

#### **9.1. Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts**

9.1.12A Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities.

9.1.12B Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate arts elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts.

9.1.12C Integrate and apply advanced vocabulary to the arts forms

9.1.12G Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions

#### **9.3. Critical Response**

9.3.8. A Know and use the critical process of the examination of works in the arts and humanities.

9.3.8. B. Analyze and interpret specific characteristics of works in the arts within each art form

9.3.8. D. Evaluate works in the arts and humanities using a complex vocabulary of critical response.

Prepared-MF

Approved –chr 5.13.13