

CHORUS



Summary:

Chorus is a performance-based class that helps students to develop musical skills in a group learning structure in which students of all ability and experience levels can be successful. In chorus, students will learn about vocal techniques and how their voice(instrument) works, musical theory (how to read and write musical notation), the cultural/historical background of songs performed and ensemble techniques such as blend, balance, intonation, musical expression and working as a group towards a concert. After concerts, we evaluate our performances and celebrate our successes as well as discuss what we can work on to make improvements for the next performance.

Key Topics: Vocal health/techniques, musical theory, sight-singing and rhythm reading, cultural and historical backgrounds of pieces including foreign languages, ensemble techniques, responding to conductor's cues, listening to and evaluating other groups' performances as well as our own.

Expectations: Chorus meets every other day for 50 minutes. There are no homework assignments for chorus...all work/performance is done during class time with the exception of two concerts that are a course requirement. There is one concert in the Winter (December) and one concert in the Spring (typically May). Concerts take place at Hereford High School in the evening and last about one hour. These performances are a way for students to share their hard work and musical accomplishments with family, teachers and friends. Concerts give students the opportunity to experience performing in a large group in front of a live audience. Throughout each quarter, students will be assessed through small group performances (students are never required to sing alone in front of the class), short written assessments and group projects. Although students will not be required to sing alone in front of the class, if students want the opportunity to sing solos, those opportunities can be nurtured as well.



About the Instructor:

Mrs. Livingston has been teaching music in Baltimore County for 20 years. She holds a **B.S. in Music Education** from West Chester University and a **M.S. in Music Education** from Towson University. She started her teaching career at Ridgely Middle School as a choral long-term sub and then went to teach vocal music at Sparks Elementary for 3 years before coming to Hereford Middle. At Hereford Middle, Mrs. Livingston has directed the 6th, 7th and 8th grade choruses as well as taught 6th and 7th grade world music and 8th grade American music.