



## **Dexter Community Schools** **Vocal Music Department Handbook- Mill Creek**

**Course Name:** Mill Creek Singers

**Grade Level:** 7th and 8th

**Teacher name:** Mrs. Julie Bassett

**Teacher Contact Information:**

**Classroom Phone:** 734 424-4240 ext. 7134

**Teacher email:** bassettj@dexterschools.org

**Choir website:** www.dexterchoirs.org

**Remind texts:** text @dg8f62 to 81010

**Google Classroom:** Mill Creek Singers - zywwig

**Course description:**

Seventh and eighth graders join together to sing! In this course you will prepare music for performances for school and parents including the Fall For the Love of Music Concert, Winter Showcase, the All Choir Concert and the Broadway Review. Mill Creek Singers also participate in MSVMA Solo and Ensemble Festival and MSVMA Choral Festival.

Performances are an exciting and essential part off your class grade. Your knowledge of music theory, sight-reading and choral singing will improve and prepare you for singing in highschool choir.

**Course Goals, Topics to be Covered: The curriculum goals of the Dexter Community Schools Vocal Music Department are as follows:**

- a.) To assist all members in becoming responsible musicians and informed music consumers. Students will experience music through singing, listening, moving, evaluating and studying works of different genres.
- b.) To develop attitudes which will encourage further student growth and enjoyment throughout adult life.
- c.) To develop positive self worth, musical interests and leadership skills through musical experiences.
- d.) To learn to read music through basic sight-reading and theory drills practiced on a daily basis.
- e.) To identify the elements of music in the works studied such as: form, style, rhythm, melody, harmony, texture, and expression.
- f.) To perform choral music as accurately and as expressively as possible. Members will achieve successful performance through focusing on intonation, rhythm, diction, balance, dynamics and phrasing.

**Textbook or other required materials:****Folders:**

Each student will be provided one choir folder, pencil and sheet music to use in choir class each day. Students may keep their folder in the choir room folio cabinet or may take it home to practice as long as they return it to school the following day. Students will sign as to the condition of the music when they receive it. It must be returned in the same condition. If music is not cared for, is lost or is returned in unusable condition, students will be charged replacement costs. (approx. \$2.50 for each selection) Additional folders may be purchase from Mrs. Bassett for \$.50 or students may bring in a replacement folder.

**Uniforms:**

Plain black shirt with short sleeves or longer.

Plain black dress pants, or black skirt with leggings or tights.

Plain black closed toe dress shoes (preferably flats) Shoes must be ALL black

Maroon flower lapel pin (available for purchase \$10) or Maroon tie (available for purchase \$10)

Flowers and ties are available for purchase on pay schools.

**Grading system and Criteria for Evaluation:**

Grades should represent the level of mastery of an instructional objective. The instructional objectives for 7th and 8th grade level subjects are aligned with the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations, (GLCE's), and benchmarks. The objectives address the skills required for successful performance in the next grade or in a sequence of courses. Assignments, tests, projects, classroom activities, homework, and other activities are designed to allow a student's performance to indicate the level of mastery of the designated objective.

Rubrics will be used to evaluate each student throughout the school year through quizzes and performances. A combination of these, as dictated by our performance schedule, will make up the student's grade for each semester. Some written and singing quizzes will also make up a portion of each semester grade. Students must log in to the google classroom at least once a week to keep up with announcements and assignments in our virtual classroom. This will appear as part of their formative feedback and will be a part of their work habits.

**Concert/ Festival Attendance:**

A choir depends on every member of the group for a successful performance. The concert is the final evaluation of all the weeks of preparation. It is expected all students will be at the concert. If a student is unable to perform due to illness or family crisis, Mrs. Bassett must be contacted immediately (Preferably in advance or at a bare minimum, the day of the performance). E-mail, phone message or parent letter – delivered to Mrs. Bassett are all acceptable.

**Concert Absence Make-up:**

Option 1 - Three hours of service to the choir program arranged with Mrs. Bassett

Option 2 - Paper answering specific questions about the selections we are performing

Option 3 - Perform your part of the concert for Mrs. Bassett

More details on all three of these assignments are available in google classroom or from Mrs. Bassett. Make-up work must be completed a week before the end of each quarter.

**Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phones that are out during class, during outside rehearsals or during a concert will be confiscated. Phones will be turned into the office and a SPC referral form will be filed in agreement with the Mill Creek Cell phone usage policy.

**Rehearsal Procedures:**

Rehearsal time is very valuable and every moment of it must be utilized to the fullest advantage of the choir. The following regulations are used in all fine musical organizations and will be the foundation of our rehearsal procedures. What has been done in the past will have no bearing on what will be done in the future. READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY. This will eliminate any misunderstanding on your part.

Rehearsals proceed as follows:

1. Bags, purses, homework for other classes and all personal property should be left in your lockers. The only thing you should bring with you to choir is a pencil and your choir folder.
2. When the tardy bell rings, all choir members must be in their assigned seats for attendance. Conversations may continue quietly as you work on your bell work and until Mrs. Bassett cues you for warm-ups. Most days there will be bell work on the smart board for students to complete during attendance. Tardies will be filed and will effect your work habits grade as well as your citizenship.
3. When you have been cued for warm-ups, all talking should stop at once. Your full attention must be given to the director and the warm-up process. Distractions are not allowed. Inattentive students will be removed from rehearsal.
4. Always make sure you have a pencil for rehearsal. Pencils are provided for each student at the beginning of the year.
5. It is expected that students will use the restroom and get a drink during passing periods. Each student will be given three passes for each semester. Procedures for using choir hall passes will be explained in detail the first week of school. If a student is abusing the use of the pass procedure, their privileges will be revoked for the remainder of the semester.
6. Food and gum chewing will not be permitted from the time the tardy bell rings until Mrs. Bassett releases you at the end of class. All food and gum will be confiscated and thrown away.
7. The rehearsal room must be kept clean and orderly at all times. This is each member's responsibility. This is especially important since we are in a shared space.

**Students who repeatedly do not follow these procedures or are removed from class will have a meeting with Mrs. Bassett and their parents in order to develop an individual discipline plan for the remainder of the semester.**

**Work Habit Performance** - Students will be assessed in their daily work habits and will receive an assessment based on turning work on time, use of classroom work time, and other work habits within the classroom:

- E - Exceeds Standards
- M - Meets Standards
- P - Progressing towards standards
- N - Not Meeting Standards

**Citizenship Performance** - Students will be assessed in citizenship and the ability to demonstrate traits such as, (courtesy, teamwork, respect, appreciation, responsibility, honesty, cooperation,... and so on):

- E - Exceeds Standards
- M - Meets Standards
- P - Progressing towards standards
- N - Not Meeting Standards