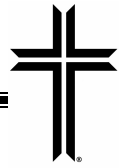




Great Plains Lutheran High School



Celebration Choir

Mr. Eric Martens

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<http://gplhsmusic.googlepages.com/celebrationchoir>

1 Year – .5 Credit

Meeting Schedule

- Mondays, Tuesdays, and alternating Fridays
- 7:55 a.m. – 8:39 a.m.

Course Description

Celebration Choir is a one year elective open to all sophomore, junior, and senior students. Choir members study the basics of ensemble technique, music reading, and theory; perform in several concerts and other appearances and are also eligible for solo/ensemble contest and various elite ensembles. Emphasis is on individual growth and group experience.

Course Goal

It is the goal of the Great Plains Lutheran High School Choir to glorify our Lord and Savior by training the musical gifts He has given us to their highest possible potential and using them for service in His kingdom.

Rationale

As the psalmist wrote, “It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name” (Psalm 92:1). Music daily provides people the chance to express their gratitude to God both with the head and the heart. This gift allows the full expression of emotions that often cannot be expressed simply with the spoken word. Music holds the power to evoke emotional, personal, and spiritual responses that have a profound impact on participants and audience members alike. It truly is good to make music to the Lord.

Music serves as a frame of reference to the culture and the environment that created it. Music is basic for students of all ages and abilities. Music provides opportunities for self-expression, creativity and aesthetic awareness through appreciation, active classroom participation, creative production and performance. People of all cultures, beliefs, and societies are connected through music as a form of universal communication. Musical instruction develops awareness and understanding from a cultural and historical perspective. (www.doe.sd.gov)

Required Text/Supplies

- Students are required to bring:
 - Pencil
- Supplied by the school:
 - Music and a music folder
 - Students will be responsible for each piece of music that is given to them. Any music that is lost should immediately be reported to the director. Students will be charged for each piece of lost or destroyed music.
 - Lost or destroyed leatherette folders are \$15 each.

Objectives

The GPLHS Choral Program strives to meet the following objectives:

- To be reflections of Christ's love and messengers of the Gospel;
- To represent and promote Great Plains Lutheran High School in and around the community, sharing our gifts through music and giving glory to God at all times;
- To nurture the development of music appreciation and understanding through performance of quality sacred and secular repertoire;
 - National Standards 1, 2
 - State Standards 1, 2
- Develop individual and ensemble skills through daily practice
 - National Standards 3, 4, 5
 - State Standards 1, 2, 3
- To develop music skills through theory, sight reading, and score study;
 - National Standards 6, 7
 - State Standard 4
- To create interested and discriminating listeners and provide a well-rounded musical background for all members;
 - National Standards 6, 7
 - State Standard 4
- To expose students to musical styles outside the Lutheran tradition and develop appropriate stylistic performance practices for each music genre
 - National Standards 8, 9
 - State Standard 5
- To recognize the connection between body, mind, and spirit in the performance of music.

Evaluation

Students' semester grades are determined as follows:

- 45%- Quarter 1 or 3 grade
- 45%- Quarter 2 or 4 grade
- 10%- written/playing exam

Quarterly grades are determined by the following criteria (outlined in reverse order below):

- Rehearsal Expectation (40%)
- Concert Attendance, Performance, and Assessment (30%)
- Daily Assignments—(10%)
- Quizzes, Assessments, and Singing Tests—(10%)
- Responsibility—(10%)

Responsibility

The Responsibility component of a student's grade encourages individuals to be mature and reliable contributors to the ensemble. Unlike other courses, being a member of an ensemble requires a student to trust his/her peers because they have direct control over the final outcome. Each student begins the quarter with 50 points. However, a student is penalized as incidents occur. The following guidelines will be used:

- Leaving a folder out after rehearsal results in a three-point penalty;
- Forgetting a robe or stole results in a six-point penalty;
- Not following dress code for a performance results in a six-point penalty;
- Not having all rehearsal materials results in a three-point penalty.

At the end of the quarter, each student will receive a grade for the total points they maintained.

Quizzes, Assessments, and Singing Tests

Any material covered in class is subject to a quiz. Even having a pencil in class might be counted as a quiz. Occasionally we will have short tests on concert music, theory, or singing techniques. It will be the student's responsibility to come in and take these tests. Due to the large class size and the discomfort of singing in front of many peers, the tests will be done outside of the class period. Normally they will be about 5-10 minutes long.

Daily Assignments

Students will be graded daily on the basics of ensemble technique, music reading, and theory. Daily assignments will also include marking music and personal reflection.

Concert Attendance and Performance

The concert grade is 30% of the final grade for all ensembles.

It is very easy to earn full credit:

1. Arrive and be in place before the assigned call time. Since our warm-ups and rehearsals are completed together, it is important you respect other people's time.
Consequently:
 - Up to 10 minutes late: one letter grade reduction;
 - 10-20 minutes late: two letter grade reduction;
 - 20-30 minutes late: three letter grade reduction;
2. Exhibit proper rehearsal etiquette during warm-up rehearsal.
3. Wear appropriate concert dress (see "Concert Dress" section).
4. While performing, focus on the music at all times. Appropriate behavior on stage is expected for members of all choirs.
5. As an audience member, your attention is directed to the ensemble performing. Respecting and appreciating other group's performances means that there is no talking during any ensemble/solo performance. You should remain in your assigned seat until after the concert is officially over. Your response to the performance is to be appropriate to a formal concert setting.
6. Your robe is properly hung and returned to its proper place either the day of the performance when this occurs on campus or at the next rehearsal when the performance is off campus.

Concert Responsibilities

Because you are a member of a performing group, attendance is required for all mandatory performances both during and outside school time. A complete performing schedule is included with this syllabus. Work or not having a ride are never acceptable excuses for leaving early from or missing a performance. Also note that sudden family trip which conflict with a performance should be avoided if at all possible. Please plan ahead. Your final grade will be lowered one full letter grade for each unexcused concert absence. In the case of illness or sudden emergency, a written excuse should be submitted at the first rehearsal following the performance. Make-up points for a concert will be available if proper procedure is followed.

Concert Dress

Women: A black skirt/pants, low black dress shoes (sandals are not acceptable unless they are dress sandals), a dress blouse/shirt that meets school dress code. Flesh toned nylons are to be worn. Hair should be pulled back from the face when possible.

Men: Black dress pants (not jeans), black dress shoes (no athletic shoes), black dress socks, a black dress belt, and a collared shirt (polo or button-down dress shirt—no t-shirts). On occasion, men will be allowed to wear a t-shirt under the robe, but all men should come fully dressed for the call time.) Hair should be pulled back if it may be in your face.

Rehearsal Expectations

Rehearsals begin promptly when the bell signals the start of the hour. Students should pick up their folder and be in their seat when the bell rings or they will be marked tardy. Students should use the restroom prior to rehearsal; passes are only given in the case of an emergency.

Rehearsals start with a brief warm-up, a skill building activity, and then move to preparation of choral works. There should not be audible talking within the rehearsal as it distracts other members and inhibits students from remaining an engaged member of the rehearsal. Students are expected to display a high level of professionalism and focus each day. At the end of rehearsal, students should place all music inside their folder and return the folder to the cabinet.

1. Always come prepared with your music and a pencil with an eraser. Only share music and folders if you are assigned a partner.
2. Mark your music as instructed. Be prepared for unannounced music checks.
3. Be ready for rehearsal with your folder and in your seat when the bell rings.
4. No gum, food, soda, or candy is allowed in the music room at any time. Only water is allowed.
5. When another section is rehearsing, silently follow along, should you be called up to join in or critique a performance. This also provides constructive rehearsal time.
6. When rehearsing, remain quiet when we stop to polish or make corrections. It is not a time to begin socializing or talk about what just happened – something important is about to happen. This is known as podium etiquette.
7. Be supportive of your fellow choir members at all times! This includes inside and outside of rehearsal. Participate in class discussions.

If a student is unable to participate in a rehearsal because of illness, he/she should complete a rehearsal observation form and submit this at the end of the rehearsal. This will allow the student to earn full credit for that day's rehearsal. Meeting these expectations is part of the grading process.

When rehearsal expectations are met, students can expect certain rewards:

- We will make incredible music
- Students will accomplish and learn more
- Class will end before the bell rings.
- Class will be much more fun

When a student chooses to disregard any of these expectations, the following plan will be put into action:

- 1st time- The student will be removed from class and will discuss the problem with the instructor following the class period
- 2nd time- The consequences above will be carried out and the student will also be asked to sit out at the next rehearsal
- 3rd time- In addition to the previous consequences, parents will be contacted about the chronic behavior problem
- 4th time- The student will meet with the teacher, dean of students, and the parents in person to discuss the situation and develop a plan to solve the problem. The student will not practice in class until this meeting.
- 5th time- The student will be removed from the ensemble.

** When a student is removed from the class, he/she is no longer participating and therefore is not receiving points for that rehearsal. Each day of participation is worth 20 points.

Final Exams

At the end of each semester students may have a singing exam over scales, concert music, and knowledge of music studied. Written tests will be given during class time and playing tests will be done out of class. Criteria for singing tests will be given at least one month prior to tests.

Choir Tours/Contest

Celebration Choir may take a brief tour during the year. The purpose of this trip is to broaden the student's experience in God's gift of the arts, offer our abilities to service other Christians, and enjoy Christian fellowship. Students who display a lack of commitment (misses rehearsals, misses performances, etc.) may be ineligible to attend the trip. More information regarding outings will be sent home as necessary.

Practicing

Individual practice is one of the most important aspects to improving an ensemble. Each student in the program is expected to practice on a regular basis each week (Ideally 5 days/week, no less than twice). If students have difficulty fulfilling this requirement a practice log may be assigned and required to be handed in each week (this will affect their overall participation grade). All music handed out is expected to be practiced and playable within 2 weeks. Please ask any questions you have of your music or practicing techniques so you don't waste any of your time. Any student may practice in the music room during study halls or after school any day of the week.

Sectionals

On occasion, Celebration Choir members will be required to participate in a 20 minute sectional before or after school. Dates and information will be provided in advance so students can make the appropriate plans. All students are expected to be at sectionals. If a student is unable to fulfill this class requirement, they should speak with Mr. Martens to arrange an assignment alternative.

Attendance

In order to perform at our highest potential, we must rely on each other to work hard. Therefore, **attendance** at all performances and rehearsals for any group of which a student is a member **is mandatory**. If a student has a conflict with a performance, written notice should be given at least 2 weeks prior to the performance. Only extreme circumstances will be counted as excused absences. If a student has a conflict with a rehearsal, she/he should discuss the matter with Mr. Martens as soon as possible. No last minute excuses will be accepted. A student missing a concert for any reason will receive a writing assignment from the instructor that will require approximately 4-5 hours of work (the equivalent time it takes to put on our concert).

Lesson Information:

Rehearsals are an opportunity for students to study music, expression, and the art of choral singing. However, it is not ideal for giving individual instruction. It is highly recommended that serious students—especially those considering a future in music—pursue voice lessons. This will help them develop more quickly as a singer as well as develop pride in what they do.

There are instructors that are willing to come to the GPLHS campus to offer their services to our students. These lessons are facilitated solely through each individual instructor, so prices and availability can vary, but the savings in transportation and time will make it a great value for our GPL musicians. To sign up for these lessons, please speak with Mr. Martens and he will put you in contact with an instructor. The lesson teacher will work out a time and day where the student can have their lesson. The options are, in order of preference, study hall, after school, before school, or any music class (band, choir, theory, etc). You are more than welcome to seek a teacher other than the ones coming to GPL.

Dates and Times 08-09:

Celebration Choir

Date	Event	Location
October 5 th	Oktoberfest	GPLHS Gym
December 14 th	Christmas Concert	GPLHS Gym
March 22 th	Sacred Spring Concert	GPHLS Gym
April 4 th	Region III Solo/Ensemble Contest	Watertown HS
May 6 th	Region III Large Group Contest	Milbank HS
May 22 nd	Kaleidoscope Concert	GPLHS Gym

