

Musical Mantas Choir

2024/2025



Instructor information

Instructor	Email	Remind Course Information
Mrs. Barber	Gina.barber@yourcharlotteschools.net	On Board-

General information

Description

WARNING! This is a PERFORMANCE-BASED COURSE! Students will be expected to perform; including singing and dancing in the 3 music-based performances for the 24-25 school year (2 cabarets and a fall concert). This will include some after school rehearsals for choreography and music. If you or your student are unwilling to meet these requirements, please email Mrs. Barber or your student's guidance counselor to see if another arrangement can be made.

**Students will also have the opportunity to assist in teching extracurricular events for service hours (optional).*

This course is comprised of introductory and advanced studies in the area of choral music. The study of all choral aspects will be addressed. Students will be auditioning for any solos or available parts as we go throughout the school year.

**** A schedule for after school rehearsals will be provided within the first two weeks of school.***

During the course of the year, we'll be working on basic and advanced skills and putting them into application via various performances throughout the year. We will discuss these events in the first week of class.

Expectations of Employability Skills

- **Communicate:** Effectively and respectfully communicate with teacher and peers.
- **Work Ethic:** Be productive while in class and complete required tasks.
- **Problem-Solve:** Utilize available resources to solve daily challenges.
- **Detail-oriented:** Submit work that has been reviewed and corrected for common mistakes.
- **Time Management:** Effectively budgets time with consideration of other obligations to ensure short- and long-term assignments are completed.

Classroom Rules

- No cell phones, earbuds, or electronic devices used during instructional time
Be on time, be ready for vocal warm ups and Daily 8 Count
- Be responsible for personal area and other areas where you are working. KEEP IT CLEAN. If it's around you seat, it is your responsibility whether you put it there or not. Students will not leave classroom until this is done.
- No talking when teacher is presenting information or instructions. Stay on task during sections or independent work time.
- Students are to stay in their seats until the bell rings, no LOITERING at the door, no leaving early.

- One person may leave at a time to use the restroom with permission, following the 20/10 school policy.
- Be Respectful. We will have occasional speakers and guests in the room from time to time; including our choreographer for the performances. Disrespect WILL NOT be tolerated.
- You are working the ENTIRE class period.

Goals/Objectives

- Work together with others to ensure knowledge of vocal parts for performances.
- Demonstrate a command of choreography for performances (cabaret numbers)
- Analyze, interpret, and implement blocking, choreography, songs, and stage directions for performances.
- Develop and refine skill sets.
- Convey meaning through the various aspects of a performance (vocal intonation, choreography, acting, etc.)
- Interpret intent and meaning in a musical piece and how to bring it to the stage.
- Apply criteria to evaluate creative work.
- Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to aid in developing good vocal habits, understanding concepts and ideas.
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding

Course materials

Required materials

- Simple folder (some place to keep your notes/handouts organized)
- Non-Mechanical or regular Pencils
- Pink Erasers
- Ability to access Microsoft TEAMS (app or online via classlink)
- Highlighter

- ***Dance appropriate clothing - For the cabarets, students will be learning a large group dance number. The days for choreography will be listed on the schedule. Students should have appropriate clothing (i.e. yoga pants, shorts (school appropriate length), t-shirt or tank top (school appropriate) for those specific days.***

Optional materials

- Character Shoes/ Jazz Shoes - These types of shoes are critical to dancing on the stage. They can be purchased on Amazon or at any dance store. Should students need financial assistance in obtaining shoes, please privately reach out to Mrs. Barber. We might be able to help. ****If buying from Amazon, please read the reviews and measure your student's foot before ordering as these sizes can vary.***
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- Sticky Notes/Tabs - These can be handy for marking songs, choreography, etc. in your music

Required text

None

Grade Policy

Total Points

In this course, we will be utilizing a “total points” grading system. This means that each assignment/paper, quiz, project, or activity will be assigned a specific point value, and your final grade will be determined by the total number of points you earn throughout the semester. This approach offers simplicity and transparency, allowing you to easily track your progress and understand how each task contributes to your overall grade.

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Points Possible}} = \text{Final Grade}$$

Category	Point Value
Cabaret Solo/Ens. Selections	10 - 30
Concerts/Performances	100
After School Rehearsals	25
Daily 8 Count	10
Sectionals/Rehearsals	20

Make Up Work

Completion Deadline

In accordance with our school policy, students are expected to submit assignments by the designated due dates. However, we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise that could hinder the timely completion of work. It is the STUDENT’s responsibility to collect any missed work. Per county policy, a student will have two days to make up work from one absence. Students with an excused absence will not incur a deduction in points within this timeframe but unexcused students may have up to 30% deducted. **Late submissions will not be accepted past three weeks from the original due date at the discretion of the teacher and with possible point deductions.** Students need to communicate any difficulties they encounter in meeting deadlines with their teachers as soon as possible. This policy aims to foster responsibility and accountability while still providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning and mastery of course material.

Test Repair

At our school, we believe in the importance of continuous learning and improvement. Therefore, all students are provided with the opportunity to make test repairs following their initial assessment. This policy allows students to reflect on their performance, identify areas for improvement, and strive for mastery of course content. It’s essential to note that this opportunity is not extended to essays or projects that involve rough drafts or progress checkpoints, as these assignments already provide ample opportunity for revision and feedback. Students have one week from the date of receiving their graded test to initiate the repair process. Repair sessions may be scheduled before or after school, but not during regular class time. Additionally, students have the option to complete their repairs under the supervision of a proctor in the media center during tutoring sessions. Upon successful completion of the repair, students will earn points at the discretion of the teacher. This provides a tangible incentive for engagement in the improvement process and reinforces the value of ongoing learning and growth.

Attendance

Attendance is vital for student success and engagement in our learning community. As per our school policy, students are expected to attend all classes regularly and punctually. In the event of unavoidable absences, it is the responsibility of the student and their guardians to notify the school promptly. **Students who miss more than 20% of instruction will be prohibited from participating in school events such as extracurricular activities i.e., homecoming, prom, athletics, band, ROTC, theatre,**

and chorus. Research has shown that 10% or more of instructional time missed by students (Pre-K to grade 12) is an early warning indicator for possible academic struggles; this measure is used to define chronic absenteeism nationwide. Florida Statute 1003.24 and School Board Policy 5200.

After the first seven days of absences, a letter will be issued to the student and their parent/guardian as a reminder of the importance of consistent attendance. This communication serves to encourage students to prioritize their education and take proactive steps to address any barriers to attendance they may be facing.

Should a student accumulate ten or more days of absences, a second letter will be issued, emphasizing the need for immediate action to improve attendance, the need for documentation, and the potential consequences of continued absenteeism.

***Please note that for AICE and AP courses, a student who misses more than 20% of period attendance will be responsible for the cost of the assessment and possible removal from the class.**

Furthermore, it is crucial to note that excessive unexcused absences will result in a significant impact on academic performance. Any assignments or assessments missed during unexcused absences will incur a penalty of up to 30% off their grade. This policy underscores the importance of regular attendance and emphasizes the correlation between consistent attendance and academic success. It is our collective responsibility to support students in maintaining attendance habits that foster their learning and development.

Classroom Policies and Procedures

Course Requirements and Grading

FOCUS AND GRADE REPORTING: Please note that your grade on Focus can be inaccurate without all grades recorded, especially during the beginning of a quarter. Many of the projects take multiple weeks or more to complete and are a big part of your grade! I record project grades as they are completed. If a major project is not completed by the deadline, you will receive an NHI until completed.

TEAMS: I use Microsoft TEAMS to post rehearsal calendars, audition information, choral/group music tracks, handouts, and any other relevant information. This is available via an app and via classlink. Students log into TEAMS with their student email and password. We will also be going over how to access TEAMS in class as the first time logging in through classlink can be tricky. If you have missed class presentations/instruction, you will be able to catch up using these resources.

A. Cabaret Solo/Ens. Selections: Each cabaret that we do (Winter and Spring) will require students to do AT LEAST one solo, duet, or ensemble musical piece. Students are highly encouraged to do more than one piece. Selected pieces must be in keeping with the theme of the cabaret. Each cabaret will also have a mandatory large group number that all class students will learn.

B. Class Rehearsals: This is a PERFORMANCE-BASED class. Punctuality, time management, behavior, room maintenance, respect, and overall professionalism comprise a significant part of your final grade. Students are expected to work at all times. Being off task (doing homework for other classes, inappropriate behavior, wandering around classroom socializing, cell phone use, abuse of materials and not cleaning up) will result in loss of points. We will be doing a lot of rehearsing in class.

Note: Your attendance may be averaged into this grade, if you are not here, then you are not being productive in class. You may re-earn these points from absences by making up

the work following school policy, this may mean you'll need to stay after school. Speak to me about arrangements and special situations.

C. After School Rehearsals: Students are expected to be at ALL rehearsals they are called for. Dress rehearsals are MANDATORY (Cabaret performances). Missing any of these rehearsals will result in loss of points. A tentative rehearsal schedule will be sent home with students within the first few weeks of school and other schedules will subsequently follow. Emergencies or concerns should reach out to Mrs. Barber directly. I will try to be as flexible as possible. Life does happen, but choir is a team effort, and when people are missing it affects everyone involved.

**NOTE: We will also have a google form if a student needs to request an absence. This form will send a formal copy of the request to Mrs. Barber and the parent. Submitting the request DOES NOT guarantee the absence will be fully excused. Please refer to the code of conduct for what is deemed an "acceptable" excused absence. This form can be found in TEAMS, lbhstheatre.net, and <https://www.yourcharlotteschools.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=30626>).*

D. Concerts/Performances: We have 3 performances during the school year that choral students are REQUIRED to be a part of. This means they will also be responsible for being at all assigned rehearsals.

**NOTE: Please understand that by being in a choral group there is an entire group of people who are dependent upon students showing up to do their part. It takes a lot of time and effort to put concerts and performances together, so students are expected to be active, prepared participants, be respectful and be a team player.*

**There will be choreography and music to be learned in this class (large group cabaret pieces). If there is evidence that a student is unprepared (i.e. does not know choreography, vocal part incomplete) then that student will have their performance piece pulled or the student will be pulled from the show entirely and points will be deducted. Laziness or "the bare minimum" will not be tolerated.*

E. Daily 8 Count: Daily 8 Count is a weekly choreography grade. Students learn parts to a routine over the course of 5 days, and will be assessed on the following Monday (or Tuesday, depending). Students do have the ability to practice this outside of class. They will need to check TEAMS weekly for the password.

DON'T FEED REMY (aka ROOM MAINTENANCE): Students are responsible for keeping their chair areas clear. Any food, drinks, etc. are to be thrown away. Failure to follow this policy will result in WATER ONLY for all students. We don't Remy and his buddies making a home in our room.

BEHAVIOR: Choir is a challenging, yet rewarding experience that may call for new degrees of patience, imagination and cooperative working. Students are expected to be respectful, responsible and cooperative. Students are expected to follow the directions and to complete tasks as instructed by the teacher, using good taste and judgment.

**Projects containing subject matter relating to gangs, inappropriate slurs to a group of people, drugs or alcohol, vulgar or violent imagery will not be accepted for grading. If you are not sure about your idea, ask before spending a lot of time on a project.*

For the safety of all students, throwing of any objects, is forbidden at all times. Any student who throws an object will receive a referral to the dean's office. If a second incident occurs, it will be requested the student be permanently removed from the class. This policy has been discussed with the class as a whole and reminders are posted.

Choir is not an “easy A”

This class is interactive and requires proper time and preparation, and your ability to apply knowledge from other disciplines.

It takes hard work, but hopefully you will find that work enjoyable and rewarding!

I look forward to getting to know you and seeing how you will solve those creative challenges ahead!