**COCHRANE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

COURSE OUTLINE 2017-2018

**Chamber Ensemble 15/25/35** Mr. Talen

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**Pre and Co-requisites:** For students to enroll in Chamber Ensemble, they must have a prerequisite of Choral 9, 10, 20, or 30 and/or approval of the instructor. Students should also be enrolled in Choral 9/10/20/30 during the calendar year as their enrollment in Chamber Ensemble.

**Course Description:**

This is an advanced performance-based program for treble voices. Activities will focus on the development of each student as a well-rounded musician. This will include technique, theory, ear training, observation, sight singing, small ensemble, and large ensemble performance. The development of team-work, individual practice, creativity, musicianship, and complex thinking skills are key to the success of our ensemble and individual musical growth. It is the expectation of the director that students enrolled in Chamber Ensemble will demonstrate a tenacity to grow musically and accept musical challenges beyond that of the regular choral ensemble.

**Course & Class Expectations:**

In addition to the regular school expectations, music students are expected to:

1. Make a positive contribution to any ensemble they perform with

*\*Positive contributions include how you sing, practice, respect others, behave and participate!*

2. Attend all rehearsals, workshops, clinics, dress rehearsals, warm-ups, festivals, and performances

\**Attendance and participation in class are key components of academic & ensemble*

*success. Students are expected to attend rehearsals* ***regularly and promptly****. You are*

*responsible for making up the practice/performance requirements missed due to any absences.*

*Please refer to your "Student Handbook" to review school policy regarding attendance.*

3. Be punctual to all classes, rehearsals, performances, sectionals and workshops/clinics

4. Make the most of every rehearsal opportunity & lesson

*\*Do your best, aim for improvement, listen attentively, be a great team member, and have fun!*

5. Be organized – come prepared with a **pencil, eraser, music, folder**, etc.

6. ***Maintain a regular, individual practice routine***

*\*Students are expected to practice at home, flex or lunch to practice assigned rehearsal and technical work.*

7. Support one another at all times with care, respect and maturity. This includes the respect and care of equipment, instruments & the classroom

*\*Mutual respect is the foundation for* ***all*** *of our interactions in this class. All*

*members of the class are expected to promote and contribute to a positive learning*

*environment. Respect yourself, others and all property.*

8. Students will be expected to keep up to date with the Music calendar to ensure they know important dates, performances, and any changes to the schedule. We encourage all parents to add these items to their devices as well.

*Please ensure you have added the Google Calendar(s) to your devices for up-to-date information*

9. Students must ensure they are checking Remind and/or the Website for any changes to schedules, or important reminders that will go out. We highly encourage all parents to frequently check our website and to register for our Remind messaging system.

*Sometimes we need to send out emergency changes to schedule (rehearsal cancellations due to illness or road conditions). We will also use this program to remind students of important information, when assignments/tests are due, etc. It is very important that students and parents have access to this information in real time. ‘Remind’ is the application we will be using for this on a daily/weekly basis.*

**Evaluation:**

Report card marks for each term will be based on the following:

1. Rehearsal Ownership and Ensemble Skills 30%

*This category includes sectional rehearsals and, if applicable, leading sectionals.*

1. Applying and Refining Music Skills through Performance 20%
2. Creativity and Self Expression through Performance 20%
3. Performance Evaluation, Reflection, and Analysis 30%

\*\* Performance tests and assignments that are not submitted on time will be entered into Power School as a O% with a “Missing/Incomplete” code attached to it. Once submitted and marked, the student’s grade will be updated. Students have up until two weeks before the end of each term to submit late work, or to re-do any test/assignment they wish to improve upon. Practice goals or tutorial time *may* be assigned to help them be successful before they can complete the re-do.

\*\*Since this course is year-long, and not scheduled every day, Power School will be updated monthly.

**PERFORMANCE, SKILL & LITERACY**

Students are assessed based on their competencies in Performance, Skill and Music Literacy in the music classroom. These are evaluated by looking at the following:

**Process** – Improvement & development of skills; How student collaborates; How they

work.

* Demonstrates an improvement in technical and/or rehearsal skills over each term.
* Contributes to the classroom/rehearsal process, sound and discussions

**Performance** – Evaluation of individual Performance within the ensemble/skill taught

* Perform Scales/warm-ups with correct notes, rhythms, tempo and articulations
* Unify tone, tuning, note length, dynamics and articulations with the full ensemble.
* Follow conductor in appropriate tempo, musical character, dynamics, attacks & releases
* Perform with proper posture and ensemble/performance etiquette

**Ownership** – Personal contribution to process (rehearsal), creativity, and performance

* Student takes personal accountability for their role in the rehearsal process
* How each student takes smart musical risks in creativity and pushing their abilities
* Individual care and contribution to ensemble sound, musicality and performance
* Individual accountability for personal practice and preparation at home and school

**Collaboration/Team Work** – How you work as a group/learn from each other

* Attitude and Effort is everything – students must learn to positively work as a group
* Students are accountable for their own behavior and contribution to the ensemble
* All members of our ensemble are required to follow rehearsal etiquette
* How students work to unify their sound, articulations, technique and musicality together

**Self/Peer Reflection** – How students evaluate and learn from their own process and growth

* Students will be asked to reflect on their learning, their growth and their process
* How students evaluate and make change in their own work and work as an ensemble

**Music Literacy** – Understanding of musical terms, reading notation, musical form & theory

* Ability to read, comprehend and put into action all musical notation and terminology
* Understand musical form, shape and phrasing, and use them correctly in performance

**Demonstration of Skill** – The ability to perform a learned musical technique or skill

* Ability to sing with demonstrate appropriate posture for good vocal production and breath control.
* sing with a free, natural tone and accurate pitch throughout vocal range.
* demonstrate understanding of appropriate diction and vowel production.
* use appropriate vocal inflections for different choral styles.

**A Year with CHS Chamber Choir:**

One year with the CHS Concert choir holds a lot! The following is a sample of what could be involved, there are some events that conflict and might be discarded this year. Some events are mandatory for completion of this course, these are marked with an asterisk (\*). Others, while optional, are highly recommended. Fundraising begins in September, all students are encouraged to fundraise to help with costs associated with optional events.

* **\*\*CHSBPA Band/Choir Parent Night – September 21st 7:00pm\*\***
  + *Important information for the year is disseminated at this meeting. Please plan to have one parent attend.*
* **\*Weekly Wednesday rehearsals (3:45-5:45)\***
* \*Monthly sectional rehearsals (time chosen by section – either at Lunch, flex, before/after school)\*
* Fall Kick-off event (September)
* **\*Choir Camp @ Camp Evergreen (Nov 12-14th 2017)\***
* **\*Fall Concert (November 16th 2017)\***
* **\*Christmas Concert (December 7th 2017)\***
* December Christmas Caroling
* **\*Alberta Choral Festival (March 13-17)\***
* Cantando Edmonton (Early April)
* Choir Tour (Month of May – exact dates TBD)
* **\*Workshop with Choral Clinician (April)\***
* **\*Spring Concerts (May 16th and 31st)\***
* \*Mini-Concerts at Feeder Schools (Spring – Month TBD)\*

***\*IN TONE, IN TUNE, IN TIME, IN TOUCH\****

To master music, is to fully understand and demonstrate the basics of sound, rhythm/time, team (ensemble) work, listening and emotional connectivity. We will work together this year to achieve all of these beautiful skills, as a team and an ensemble.

[**www.cochranehighmusic.com**](http://www.cochranehighmusic.com)

[**https://sites.google.com/site/musicwithmrtalen/**](https://sites.google.com/site/musicwithmrtalen/)

Remind Messaging: Text “@chs-choir” to (587)409-1225