**Performance Choir Syllabus**

Congratulations on making the Mingus auditioned choir! I truly believe this will be an excellent year! What this choir will become is up to us. We have this year to collectively shape and create the path to grow the choir program to the vision we see together. I am positive we will be beaming with pride and tears on our final cut off of the year. This year we are proud to produce our 6th musical revue with “Broadway: From Screen to Stage”. This show is will combine a few great movies that have been turned into musicals. Additionally, throughout the year the choir will be working on real choral literature as well and preparing for many more concerts and competitions. This class will take place in the Music Room every day unless otherwise directed. All main concerts will take place in the Auditorium. Occasionally we have some other concerts and obligations, but I will be sure to announce those as far in advance as I know about them. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail with any questions that you have at [jball@muhs.com](mailto:jball@muhs.com). I am also available during lunch and after school as well, but be sure to let me know ahead of times so I can make sure to be there. My phone number is 928-634-7531 x1142.

**What do we do?**

In Choir class…WE SING! We will also spend a considerable amount of time learning how to read music. Additionally, it is my goal to spend more time teaching music theory lessons so you can not only learn how to sing, but how to read and appreciate music. It might seem tedious at times, but the better you can understand theory, the faster it is for you to learn a piece and perfect it. By the end of the course a student should be able to do the following:

* Name key signatures
* Name notes in treble and bass clefs
* Sing Grade 5 music in 4 part harmony
* Understand the basics of breathing
* Learning correct vowel sounds and when to modify those sounds
* Support their sound
* Self Confidence
* Sight Read in 4-part harmony
* Sight Read some more
* Keep sight-reading!
* Know the basic terms found within a piece of music.
* Sing a varied repertoire in multiple languages

**Grades**

Credit for this class will be earned through performances, both within the class and outside as well. You will also be graded on your writing assignments, tests, and participation. There will be 4 categories of grades for the semester:

* Performances – 40% of your grade
* Theory Assignments – 30% of your grade
* Tests – 20% of your grade
* Final – 10% of your grade

**Late Work Policy**

Work must be turned in on time, every time! If you are absent, please turn in your work the following day. Late work will be accepted up to one week late for 75% credit. After a week, there will be a loss of credit for the assignment.

**Tests**

There will be a couple of tests throughout the semester. These will vary between theory tests and singing tests. There will be times where you will have to record yourself singing your part and send it to me. If you do not have a phone to record you may borrow a friend’s phone or if you prefer, you may come in and do it in person during lunch.

**Academic Overtime**

If you find yourself with a D or and F in this class, you will be assigned academic overtime during the power hour lunch. Please come into the class during the first part of lunch (A), as this will be my designated time for academic overtime. You will be assigned academic overtime until you have turned in all assignments. Please sign in on the clipboard when you enter. Should you fail to attend academic overtime, consequences will follow as outlined in the Mingus Union Student handbook.

**Grade Book**

I strive to maintain an update gradebook. If ever you go on-line and have a question, don’t hesitate to e-mail me or ask me during lunch or after school.

**Performances**

Being in the Honors Choir means that there will be a variety of performances throughout the schools year. All performances are mandatory and with over a month notice, work is not a reason to miss a performance. Should you miss a performance you may automatically FAIL my class. This is the easiest and quickest way to fail and many students have failed in previous semesters. If you are not in the musical, or helping backstage, you will be required to attend at least one performance. The dates for the performances are included, so ask off of work now. If you need a ride, let me know – I can always arrange transportation. If there is a death in the family, that is excused, but short of that – no other exceptions or excuses will be allowed.

**Rules**

1. No GUM! I don’t like it and it inhibits your speech and singing.
2. No Food or Drink but Water.
3. Be on time. A tardy means the loss of your daily points!
4. Don’t make excuses and if you do, make it an adventurous one.
5. Respect each other, the Auditorium, myself, and the classroom
6. Bring Pencil and music EVERY DAY to choir

**Tardies**

Please be on time for every class period. The tardy policy in the school is as follows:

1st tardy: teacher warning

2nd tardy: teacher warning and parent phone call from teacher

3rd tardy: teacher-assigned lunch detention

4th tardy and beyond: office referral

For concerts, every minute you are late is 10 points off your performance grade. Please plan to be on time!

**Concert Dress**

MUHS will be providing matching choir dresses for the girls and tuxes for the Men. You must pay a $20 costume deposit fee for the year (payable to the book store by SEPTEMBER 7th). If you need help, scholarship funds are available. Please see Mr. Ball personally to apply. Additionally, men must have black socks and black dress shoes (no tennis shoes). Girls must have black hoes and black close toed character shoes. For the musical Revue, there will be a shirt required that costs $10. Scholarship money is available for those that need it.

**Concerts**

There will be many performing opportunities for this group. Below is a short list of the concerts and activities already planned, but there will be more that pop up throughout the year. I’ll be sure to let everyone know of these as far in advance as possible. All concerts and performance activities will be for a grade.

~ Thursday, August 22nd – Be Me Night at 6pm

~ Fall Choral Festival – Wednesday or Thursday October 22nd or 23rd (During school)

~ Saturday, November 30th – Tree lighting in Jerome, 3:00-7:00

~ Saturday, December 7th – Marching in the Cottonwood Christmas Parade

~ Tuesday, December 12th at 7pm – Winter Concert

~ January – Broadway Revue – see dates below

~ Saturday, January 25th – Regional Auditions – Location and time TBD

~ Thursday, March 5th at 7pm – Jazz and Pops concert with the bands

~ Tuesday, March 24th – State Choir Competition – TBD (during School)

~ Thursday, May 14th at 7pm – Final Concert

**Broadway: From Screen to Stage – Musical Revue**

One of the highlights this year in choir is the musical revue, “Broadway: From Screen to Stage”. We will be performing selections from Oliver, Little Shop of Horrors, Kinky Boots, The Wizard of Oz, Jersey Boys, Waitress, and Frozen. It does require a lot of outside work, but the feeling of doing a full show is amazing and you’ll remember it for the rest of your life. If you’d like to dance in one of these numbers, whether this choir is singing it or not, rehearsals start Monday, November 4th and run up until the dates below. The schedule of what dance rehearses on what days will be released in September, but in the past, those who didn’t get involved or didn’t do more dances always regret not getting involved in more. NO AUDITION OR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Just show up and we’ll take care of the rest!

If you are involved in a school sanctioned event or have another reason for not being present, you must give a parent letter to Mr. Ball know before Wednesday, January 8th with any conflicts. There can be make-up assignments passed out the week before, but not the week of, or the week after. Note: Work is not an excuse, please submit these dates to your employer now and let me know if there are any issues I can help take care of.

Below are the dates required as being a part of this class that is putting on this show. Being a MUSICal revue – the must and you come first and YOU are the ones who make that happen! ☺

**Required Rehearsals**

Monday, January 13th 5:00-9:00

Tuesday, January 14th 5:00 – 9:00

Wednesday, January 15th 5:00 – 9:00

Thursday, January 16th 5:30 call, 6:30 – Parent Night performance!

**Performances**

Saturday, January 18th at 7pm

Sunday, January 19th at 3pm

Friday, January 24th at 7pm

Saturday, January 25th at 7pm

Sunday, January 26th at 3pm

**Musical Performances**

One of the best ways to learn about singing is to watch and critique other singers. There will be two musicals this year at Mingus; one in September/October and the other in April. Each student is required to see ONE performance and provide a verbal critique afterwards. Please sing out on the rosters located at the Attendance office at the END of each performance. If you leave early, you may not receive full credit.

**Shrek: The Musical**

Saturday, April 18th at 7pm

Sunday, April 19th at 3pm

Friday, April 24th at 7pm

Saturday, April 25th at 7pm

Sunday, April 26th at 3pm

**Extra-Credit**

Extra-credit will be awarded throughout the semester and announced well in advance. The theatre department puts on a number of shows that if you may attend and write a review, you may receive extra-credit. Additionally, there are band concerts and orchestra concerts both here and around the Verde Valley that if you attend and write a critique, you may receive extra credit. In general, if you are seeing a show or a concert that is classical in nature and has choir-like singing involved, ONLY if you get pre-approval, you may write a review and receive some extra-credit as well. As stated before, one of the best ways to improve your singing is to hear and learn from other performers.

**Web Sites**

[www.mingusperformingarts.com](http://www.mingusperformingarts.com)

I have created a website for the theatre and choir program to help both students and parents. Here you will find rehearsal schedules and performance dates. Additionally, students will be able to find rehearsal tracks and other resources to help them practice. Please visit it for answers to a lot of your questions.

Also, I maintain a teacher website at <http://James_Ball.MyTeacherSite.com> that has daily updates of what we did in class. If you ever want to check what we did in class or if you lose this syllabus, check there for daily updates!