**Junior Choir – CHO10G**

Instructor: Mrs. Karen Giesbrecht Email: [karen.giesbrecht@gvsd.ca](mailto:karen.giesbrecht@gvsd.ca)

<http://npcchoirs.weebly.com>

**Course Description**

This one credit course is open to all Grade 9 students who love to sing. The course is mainly rehearsal based, in preparation for performances throughout the year. Students will learn the essentials of good vocal and choral technique, through emphasis on enunciation, good posture, good breath support, reading choral scores, singing in harmony, and singing with energy. Class time is also spent on learning about music theory and history.

*“The overarching goal of the music curriculum is to support, nurture, and inspire the growth of every* ***student as a music maker****. Music-making is valued as* ***an individual and a collective experience****.”*

- Manitoba Grade 9 – 12 Music Curriculum Framework (2013 Draft)

**Learning Objectives:**

There are four Essential Learning Areas in Manitoba’s Grade 9-12 Music Framework. These four ELA’s are intended to centre around the student as an active and full participant in music-making.

Essential Learning Areas:

1. Music Language and Skills
2. Creative Expression in Music
3. Music and Context
4. Perception, Reflection, and Response in Music

Based on these four ELA’s, students should be able to use musical tools to communicate creatively and expressively, connect to context, and reflect on their learning. The Choral room is considered a safe environment, where students are free to step outside of their comfort zone, try new things and take risks.

**Expectations**

The expectations of student attitude, behaviour and commitment are as follows:

1. Students will have a mature outlook on their participation in and commitment to the NPC Choir program. They will accept the responsibility for their performance in and commitment to this course.
2. Students will attend classes prepared with the necessary materials to complete the work at hand. Students will complete assignments thoroughly and thoughtfully, and will hand them in on time. Some “homework” will involve listening to Voice Parts on the choir website and coming to class chorally prepared.
3. Students are expected to give their best effort for every piece of music. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate each piece to the best of their ability i.e. from the heart.
4. Students are expected to maintain sheet music, portfolios, theory and sight-reading books. These are considered our texts. Always bring your choral binder and pencil to class.
5. Performances
   1. Students will attend all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Students are expected to arrange their schedules accordingly. Every member of the choir is vital to the entire group’s success. A positive and professional approach to this art form will greatly enhance individual and group learning.
      1. All students are expected to attend all scheduled performances. In the event that a student cannot make a concert, a written note must be given to me at least 2 weeks prior to the concert (unless there is an illness or family emergency, in which case a note is still advisable a.s.a.p.) Marks are given for attending both the Dress Rehearsal as well as the Concert. In lieu of the missed concert, the student will “perform” his/her portion of the concert for me individually, at an agreed upon date and time.
      2. Any student with significant absences and substantial missed rehearsal time will not be allowed to perform with the choir. This is not fair to the rest of the choir “team” that has worked hard for the performance. In this case, both Dress rehearsal and Performance marks will be “NHI”. The student will be required to catch up on missed assignments and study and practice the missed music, and can “perform” his/her portion of the missed concert for me individually, at an agreed upon date and time. This will be considered an “alternate” assignment and will not take the place of the actual Concert performance mark.

1. All students are responsible for creating an accepting and safe learning environment where every student can thrive.
2. Students will take an active role in their learning by marking their music, following along with parts, asking questions, and spending personal time listening to recordings or rehearsing at home. Students are expected to regularly look on the classroom website for coming events, reminders, and news.

Assessment is ongoing during all choir classes. In addition to traditional written assignments and tests, students will be assessed on each of the four Essential Learning Areas, as discussed above. Some of this assessment will be observational evidence based on the student’s demonstrated abilities and involvement during class/rehearsal time.

The mark breakdown is as follows:

* **Music Language and Skills**  40%  
  Technical abilities, literacy, theory, rehearsal engagement
* **Creative Expression in Music** 40%  
  Performing and expressing through song, conveying appropriate

Style, mood, musical nuances

* **Music and Context** 10%  
  Music History/Music and Culture assignments
* **Perception, Reflection, and Response in Music**  10%  
  Personal written responses, program notes,

Concert Reviews – 1 per semester

**Late policy:**

Each assignment will be given a due date. A late penalty of up to ***2% per day*** may be assessed up to the date assignments are returned, at which point an alternative assignment may be required. There will also be absolute cut off dates for each unit, which will usually correspond to the final unit test.

At NPC, we use a Student Information program called PowerSchool, which is also accessed through our school website (npc.gvsd.ca). From here, you can always be kept up to date with your child’s classes.

**Performance Opportunities**

It is expected that all students will have regular attendance for rehearsals and performances. Performances and performance opportunities throughout the year include:

CMCA Choral Workshop Day-Thursday, Oct. 16- Morden

Choralfest – Nov. 23-27- date t.b.a.

NPC Christmas Concert – Monday, Nov. 30 @ 7:00 p.m.

CMCA Regional Jazz Workshop – Feb. 18

NPC Musical- Mar. 10-12

Brandon Jazz Festival- Mar. 17

Jazz Café- April 2016- date t.b.a.

Spring Concert – Thursday, May 26-7 p.m.

**Contact Information**

Please use the following methods to contact me.

Email: [karen.giesbrecht@gvsd.ca](mailto:karen.giesbrecht@gvsd.ca)

Telephone: 325-8200

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

***Please read the information provided in the Course Outline, then tear off this last page, sign, and return to school this week.***

Email: [karen.giesbrecht@gvsd.ca](mailto:karen.giesbrecht@gvsd.ca)

Phone: 325-8200

Please sign below and send this form back to school with your child to acknowledge that you have read and understood the course outline. Thank you!

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Student Name

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Parent/Guardian Signature