

COURSE NUMBER:	704
COURSE TITLE:	Varsity Choir, Full Academic Credit
COURSE LENGTH:	Year, Two Credits
PREREQUISITE:	None
GRADE LEVEL:	11, 12

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class open to all students grades 11-12 that demonstrate a sincere desire to sing. Students will learn to read music, and will learn good singing techniques. They will prepare and present four major concerts a year. Students demonstrating exceptional abilities may audition for All-State in the fall semester and Solo/Ensemble contest held in the spring semester. This choir also participates in State Large Group Contest held each May. Vocal lessons (private or group) are required for all students, and will be scheduled during the day or after school. One credit per semester is given for this course.

COURSE RATIONALE:

The ultimate goal of vocal music education is to develop lifelong appreciation and participation in the musical arts. Music is a form of communication which stimulates and develops higher-order thinking skills and the aesthetic experience. Research indicates that music contributes to overall academic achievement by combining language skills, mathematics, and scientific skills, aural and visual imagery, and problem solving abilities. Music education provides for perceptual motor development and enhances understanding of attitudes and concepts that enrich the quality of life. It encourages teamwork and cohesiveness, yet is uniquely suited to fostering creativity and individuality. Participation in performing groups adds to the self-worth of participants through achievement and recognition. Music education helps students explore their feelings and improve their ability to respond to their cultural environment with sensitivity. Music education serves as a primary tool for promoting the positive characteristics of our students, our school district, and our community.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Daily music rehearsal and weekly individual lessons include performance goals, teacher input, modeling, assessment of understanding, guided practice, and independent practice.

ASSESSMENT:

Letter grades are earned on the basis of tests and daily assignments, performance abilities, lesson and concert attendance, attitude and participation.

CRITICAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Reading music.
 - a. notes
 - b. rhythms
 - c. symbols
2. Performance Technique
 - a. tone production
 - b. intonation
 - c. rhythmic accuracy
 - d. blend and balance
 - e. technique (breathing and vocal production)
 - f. interpretation and musicianship
 - g. diction
 - h. poise, posture, facial expression, and discipline