# Geneva CUSD 304 Content-Area Curriculum Frameworks Grades 6-12 Choral Music

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Mission Statement	It is our belief that the human spirit is elevated to a broader understanding of itself through the study and performance of Choral Music. A Choral Music Education should provide academic and aesthetic challenges for students within the framework of efficient choral rehearsals, foster healthy and age-appropriate vocal production, and promote stylistically correct performances.  Choral Music Education should:  1. encourage active listening 2. incorporate the singing of a variety of literature, both as a soloist and an ensemble member 3. provide students the ongoing opportunity to grow as musicians through the study and implementation of the elements of choral music which include: notation, pitch, rhythm, intonation, dynamics, phrasing, diction, healthy tone production, and proper breath support 4. promote vocal health and beautiful tone quality through the application and understanding of appropriate singing technique 5. provide the opportunity to prepare and perform literature from a variety of musical style periods 6. allow students the opportunity to sing music in various languages 7. develop increasing musical proficiency through the continuing practice of sight reading, scales, chords, and tonal memory exercises 8. develop and reinforce the ability to maintain the integrity of separate voice parts in an ensemble setting 9. develop student ability to respond effectively as individuals of a musical community		
Course Sequence	MIDDLE SCHOOL		
(Grades 6-12)	General Music		
	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir		
	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir		
	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir		
	HIGH SCHOOL		
	Concert Choir (2 separate ensembles)		
	Treble Choir		
	Varsity Choir		
	Viking Ensemble Jazz Choir		

# Course Framework

Course Title	Varsity Choir	
Grade Level	(9-12)	
<b>Semesters (1-2-3-4)</b>	(2 semesters)	
Prerequisite	Individual audition with the instructor	
Course Description	Varsity Choir is a singing organization designed for advanced vocalists. This ensemble performs a variety of advanced choral literature from all style periods. The main objectives of this group are to familiarize the student with advanced vocal and ensemble techniques, develop fluency in foreign language diction, present public performances, and provide a solid foundation for further vocal study. Students are selected through a private audition which incorporates sight singing, tonal memory, scales, intervals, and an assessment of breath support and tone quality.	
District-approved Materials and/or Resources	Various choral octavos chosen on a yearly basis that will challenge the members of this auditioned ensemble	
	Teacher-designed materials used to reinforce the elements of choral music and singing  Lives of the MusiciansGood Times, Bad Times (And What the	
	Neighbors Thought) 1993: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers	

# **Unit Frameworks**

Unit of Study: major topics	Holiday Program Art Institute Program Touring Program (every other year) Spring Program Baccalaureate Program Graduation Program	Resources that will support instruction: Choral octavos Teacher supplements		
Illinois Learning Standards, Benchmarks,	Singing a varied repertoire of music  Understanding choral music in relation to its history and culture			
National Standards Assessment Frameworks, or	Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts			
other standards that will be taught in this unit	Evaluating music and musical performances  Listening to, analyzing, and describing music			
	Appropriate movement			
	Reading, notating, and interpreting music  Understanding the elements of music  Understanding basic vocal anatomy			
	Understanding basic breathing anatomy  Dynamic stage presence			
	Concert etiquette			

# **Objectives**

- o Conceptual
- o Factual
- Procedural
- 1. Present intelligent and musical performances of selected choral literature
- 2. Discuss and identify specific musical time periods, composers, and stylistic concerns
- 3. Critique musical performances of their own and other performing ensembles
- 4. Demonstrate appropriate physical movement as an accompaniment to vocal performance
- 5. Aurally identify and vocally reproduce intervals, chords, and scales
- 6. Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette, as both a performer and audience member

### **Assessments**

# Performance Tasks

- 1. Listening test over intervals, scales, and chords
- 2. Solo and/or small ensemble performances of selected sections of studied musical literature
- 3. Individual auditions consisting of sight reading, tonal memory, scales, and intervals, as well as an evaluation of tone quality
- 4. Final performance(s) of literature studied at scheduled events

# Other Evidence

- Intelligent classroom critique and discussion of key concepts and ideas
- 2. Participation in extra-curricular activities such as the Musical or Variety Show
- 3. Intelligent classroom critique and discussion of various performances throughout the year