



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Course Overview



7805  
*Vocal Music 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**General Information**

Credits: N/A  
Weighted: N/A  
Prerequisite: N/A

Length: Semester (may be taken twice)  
Format: Every Other Day  
Grade: 8th

**Course Description**

The vocal music class is open to any 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy or girl. The goals of the class are to learn proper vocal technique and ear training, maintain independent lines and performance showmanship. Most selections are in three-part harmony and some use motions and/or choreography. All classes of vocal music are combined to form the full 8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus. The chorus performs for school assemblies and evening concerts, usually in December and May. They may also be asked to represent RMS for other functions such as award ceremonies or special events.

**Course Objectives:**

***Students will be able to:***

- Maintain an independent line within a two or three part harmony.
- Sing with appropriate breath control, diction, timbre, and steady beat.
- Respond to conducting gestures of tempo and dynamic markings.
- Demonstrate proper posture and techniques for vocal production.
- Perform from memory and from music when appropriate.
- Sing a varied repertoire representing genres and styles from diverse cultures.
- Demonstrate correct posture for singing
- Recognize melody versus harmony
- Learn music literature in 3-part harmony
- Recognizing different genres and styles of music
- Maintain an independent line while performing in conjunction with other parts
- Listen and adjust pitch for good intonation
- Perform in concert from memory
- Collaboratively stage a scene from a musical for the class
- Discern the differences between various style of music
- Identify a variety of genres by listening to examples
- Perform a variety of musical genres with appropriate stylistic interpretation
- Recognize that movement to music is a natural response
- Identify music's pulse and meter; transfer to movement
- Ability to move your body within your performance space
- Synchronize movement with the ensemble
- Portray the music through movement using appropriate energy and dynamic levels
- Create original choreography that reinforces the audience's response to the music
- Sing in response to conducting gestures
- Sing a repertoire of choral literature with expression and technical accuracy

Perform from memory  
Demonstrate proper concert etiquette  
Work cooperatively toward a common goal  
Respect peers in success and failure

#### ***Common Assessments:***

**Class Participation:** Several times each MP  
**Singing Technique:** Once per MP  
**Concert Evaluation:** After Winter and Spring Concert  
**Theatrical Adjudication:** End of 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
**Choreography:** End of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

#### ***Major Units of Study:***

##### **Vocal Production**

Prepare two complete concert repertoires of music consisting of four to six selections to be performed for their peers and the public.

Vocal warm-ups

Use correct posture for both sitting and standing.

Appropriate breath control, diction, and timbre.

Learn/create choreography that corresponds to the music.

Class discussions and observations

Listening and critiquing recordings of their performances

##### **Singing in Harmony**

Maintain an independent line while singing in groups

Singing provides students with the means of learning musical and developmental skills

Sing in small groups (duets, trios, quartets)

Analyze and discuss the relative importance of melody vs. harmony within a selection, adjust balance accordingly

Harmonize to familiar songs

##### **Styles of Music**

Sing music from various time periods and discuss its' relevance to historical events

Discuss the histories of musical genres and how they influence interpretation

Discuss how music reflects cultural traditions and practice

Listen to recordings of various styles

##### **Theatrical Adjudication (first semester only)**

Collaboratively stage a scene from a musical for the class

Create choreography

Read dialog and sing

Display creativity and originality

Develop stage presence

Demonstrate character development

##### **Choreography**

Teacher-directed movement instruction to learn basic choreography

Memorize a sequence of steps and movements

Have groups of students cooperatively create and perform original choreography to recordings

Add choreography to performance pieces using student suggestions

**Performance**

Rehearse individual vocal parts, alone and in combination with other parts  
Through conducting, convey the composer's/conductor's intent to the audience.  
Rehearse in front of peers to engage and interact with the audience appropriately  
Perform in concerts for students and community

**Materials & Texts**

The choral program has an extensive age-appropriate performance library with literature comprised of many styles and genres.

*Let's Get America Singing*, Vol. 1 & 2

Vocal and instrumental recordings of a variety of styles/genres

Classroom stereo and boom box

Yamaha Grand – choral room

Steinway Grand - auditorium

Choral Risers – choral room and auditorium