



Ovation! Choir Disclosure Statement

Mr. Michael J. Mills, Instructor
mmills@morgansd.org
morganschoir.weebly.com
(801)829-4678

Course Objectives

1. Develop a free, healthy singing tone
3. Read and understand music
4. Possess the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully sing in a choir
5. Appreciate music from different cultures, styles, and time periods
6. Be a strong, confident, and independent singer
7. Learn to work in a cooperative environment

Required Materials

1. Assigned Music Folder (Will be kept in the choir room)
2. Pencil

Grading Procedures

Every student's grade will be determined through daily participation in classroom rehearsals (30%), performances (30%), assignments (10%), quizzes/tests (19%), and sectional practices (11%). Assignments, quizzes, and tests will be comprised of both writing and singing elements.

1. **Classroom Participation:** Classroom participation is vital to the student's individual progress and learning as well as the success of the entire ensemble. For this reason, rehearsals are considered assignments and students will receive a grade for their participation in rehearsals.

Much of what we will do and learn takes place during class. We do not have a textbook from which you can learn the material. When you miss rehearsal, you are responsible for getting that information from another student, or scheduling a time with me during Wednesday consultation time.

Students may miss **three** rehearsals without taking a penalty to his/her participation grade. Those students who miss less than three rehearsals will be rewarded with the following extra credit points:

- No absences – 30 points
- 1 absence – 20 points
- 2 absence – 10 points

Students will earn 10 points each rehearsal if the following criteria are met:

1. S/he is on-time with materials in hand (2 points)
2. S/he demonstrates correct singing position (2 points)
3. S/he actively participates in classroom activities (6 points)

Students may make up all school-excused and 5 parent-excused absences by completing 30 minutes of independent practice of our current repertoire outside of class. Students must complete the absence make-up form and return it to Mr. Mills within **2 weeks** after the student's return to school.

2. Performances: Because of the nature of this class, concerts are the equivalent to final tests. **Concert attendance is mandatory!** A calendar of scheduled concerts will be given at the start of school.

If you have a conflict, you are responsible for talking to me as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Students will be excused from the performance only for a scheduled region activity, serious illness, or a serious family emergency with no grade penalties. **However, shopping, ballgames, work, parties, family outings, forgetting the concert, etc. are not valid excuses for missing a performance.** Students in these situations will not be allowed to make up those points.

In the event of a valid conflict, the student's parents must contact the teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the performance. In cases of emergencies, your parents need to contact me as soon as possible. Students under these circumstances will have 2 weeks to complete the concert make-up assignment.

3. Assignments: Assignments will be given throughout the quarter to help students solidify concepts learned in class. Most assignments can be completed during class while others may require some outside time to finish. You may also access many of your assignments on the choir website.

4. Quizzes and Tests: We will have both written and vocal tests periodically throughout each quarter assessing your knowledge of the various subjects covered in the course.

5. Sectional Practices: As a member of Ovation!, you are required to participate in two sectional rehearsals per trimester. A sectional rehearsal is when the member of your section get together outside of school for a 30 minute practice. I will appoint a section leader, but everyone is responsible for making sure the rehearsal takes place. It is a graded assignment.

I understand that everyone is involved in several different things and that your time is short. Make every effort possible to ensure that everyone can attend you sectional. The purpose of a sectional rehearsal is to build your section, not just learn your music.

Sectionals do not have to take place at the school. They can happen at any time and anywhere that you can adequately practice. These will make a huge difference in our sound as a choir.

Sectionals can be made up. Students that miss a sectional are responsible for scheduling an additional schedule and inviting the other members of the section. Those students who attend both scheduled sectionals as well as the make-up sectional will receive extra credit.

Grading Scale:

95-100% = A	80-83% = B-	67-69% = D+
90-95% = A-	77-80% = C+	64-66% = D
87-89% = B+	74-76% = C	60-63% = D-
84-86% = B	70-73% = C-	>60% = F

Concert Attire:

Men: Students may either rent a tuxedo from me or choose to purchase one from a retailer. Rental fee is \$50. If you choose to purchase one, you may rent the tie and vest from the school for \$15.

Women: Cost is generally around \$80 for a new dress. Women must also wear closed-toe black shoes as well as nylons (I know you hate them, but they look stunning on stage). Used dresses may also be available for \$60

T-Shirts: Students are also required to purchase a less-formal performance attire including a t-shirt we will order within the first few weeks.

Extra Rehearsals: Occasionally, extra rehearsals will be required in order to adequately prepare for performances. Students will be notified well in advance and will be expected to attend.

Travel Fee: All students that participate in extra-curricular activities that require transportation are required to pay a \$50 travel fee. You will not travel with the choir until that fee is paid.

Student Expectations

I expect Ovation! to become the best chamber choir in the world. In order to reach this goal, I need each student to come to rehearsal prepared to work hard from bell to bell. I will help guide that process, but without the cooperation of each student, we will fail. Every student must take responsibility for the success of the choir.

Expectations

1. Arrive on-time to rehearsals, prepared to fully participate
2. Stay focused and work hard during rehearsal
3. Follow directions the first time
4. Arrive on-time and prepared for each performance
5. Take care of your own music and folder
6. Treat each person as a valued member of the ensemble and work to help them realize their potential

Music and Folders

The music you use in this class does not belong to you. Your folder is like the textbook of your math class. You must take good care of the music and its folder. Students who fail to do this will be required to pay the cost to replace it (this also applies to lost music). Do not take anyone else's music or folder!

Performance Etiquette

You are required to stay for the entire concert in which you perform. Because you will spend more time in the audience than you will on stage, it is important that you behave appropriately for the event. You must be a respectful audience member by:

1. Listening intently
2. Silencing and putting away your cell phone
3. Not talking to your neighbor while someone is performing
4. Remaining in your seat while someone is performing
5. Applauding appropriately at the conclusion of a performance (no cat calls)

In addition to being a good audience member, I expect that you will also be a respectful performer by:

1. Not talking to your neighbor between numbers while on stage
2. Looking professional in the way you enter and exit the stage
3. Graciously accepting applause from the audience

Cell Phones, iPods, Electronic Devices

Students' cell phones, ipods, or other electronic devices must be stored away for the duration of class. Students will receive one warning to put away his/hers cell phone. If the student brings it out again, I will confiscate the phone for the remainder of class. If cell phone use occurs again with the same student, the phone will be taken to the assistant principal for the remainder of the day on the first incident and will drop your citizenship grade.

Tardies

Tardies will not be tolerated in this class. Students who are tardy lose valuable warm-up time and information besides being disruptive to other students. A student will be considered tardy if s/he is not in his/her assigned seat with materials in hand when the bell rings and class begins. Students will not be penalized for the first two tardies. Unexcused tardiness after 2 will result in the loss of 2 of the student's participation points for the day. Unexcused tardies more than 25 minutes into class will result in the loss of all participation points.

Late Work

Assignments will be given periodically throughout the class. I expect these to be completed on time. Should you need more time to complete the assignment, you may turn it in late with penalty. If you turn your assignment within a week after its due date, 10% of the assignments point value will be deducted from the final score (ex: if an assignment is worth 50 points, 5 points will be deducted from your earned score). With each week after the due date, up to 3 weeks, an additional 10 percent will be deducted from your score (2 weeks = 20%, 3 weeks = 30%). 3 weeks after an assignment's, I will no longer accept the assignment for credit.

Classroom Discipline

Students are expected to be active learners in the classroom and avoid disruptive behavior. In the event of disruption, I will follow the following action plan. Depending on how often and severe the behavior occurs can change the order which I utilize these consequences.

1. Warning
2. Loss of Participation Points
3. Contact with Parents
4. Administrator Intervention

Other Performance Opportunities

Students will have many opportunities to perform. Some extra things to look for include:

1. School Musical – This year, we are putting on Peter Pan. Auditions will take place on August 27-28 after school. If you are interested in taking part in the musical, please see me for more information.
2. All-State Choir – MHS is allowed to send 8 singers (4 men/4 women) to participate in the Utah All-State Choir. This choir is made up of the best singers from everywhere in the state to sing difficult music under the leadership of a world-renowned conductor. Students must be willing to commit to learning music on their own time as well as commit to 2 school rehearsals, 2 region

rehearsals, and the 3 day rehearsal performance time in Salt Lake.

3. National Anthem – I am frequently asked to find students to perform the national anthem at MHS sporting events as well as other community events. In order to be considered, you must schedule an audition with me. Once you have successfully completed the audition, I will announce opportunities and will disperse them on a first come, first served basis.

4. Honor Choir – MHS takes part in the Utah State Honor Choir in January of every year. This is a great opportunity to perform great music under great conductors as well as to be able to socialize with other choir students from other schools. Space is more limited for women because many more women want to participate and will be determined by grade. On the other hand, I can send as many men as want to participate.

5. Solo and Ensemble Festival – This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their musical talents by themselves or in smaller groups. There, students will receive feedback and ratings from professional music adjudicators and have the chance to represent MHS. This opportunity comes in February, so begin practicing now (music is limited to classical style)