

EMEREAU MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC HANDBOOK

Quentin Lovette, Director

Band and Chorus

Purpose

In chorus and band, we will study the fundamentals of music, how to read it, write it, and how to sing and play it in a meaningful, professional way. The students in this class will represent Emereau in the community in at least two concerts each school year.

Grading and Requirements

Students' grades consist of their participation in our concerts and in-class performance quizzes. On average, students take playing/sight-singing quizzes every week, each worth 32 points. Singers are graded on posture, solfege, pitches, and rhythms. Band students are graded on posture, pitches, rhythms, and fingering/slide positions.

If a student is in class but does not bring their instrument with them for a playing test, they will receive a grade of 0 out of 32 until they bring it and play. They have until the following Friday (our quiz days) to receive any credit. If they have "forgotten" their instrument for an entire week, their zero will be their final grade for the quiz. If a child's instrument is not working properly and needs to be fixed, they will have until it is fixed to bring it and play the quiz. Basically, we are trying to avoid "forgetting" the instrument day after day. Simply "forgetting" to bring it for a week will result in a permanent 0 for the quiz. If a parent/guardian believes their child's grade should be different, they will need to contact Mr. Lovette to discuss the issue. Exceptions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Concerts

All students are required to participate in our concerts. Failure to participate in the concerts will result in the lowering of their overall grade by one letter (an A would become a B).

In the event that a conflict arises, the student's parent/guardian must notify the teacher well in advance of the concert and the teacher will notify the Executive Director. The Executive Director will have the final say on whether the absence is excused or not. If a student is absent and their parent/guardian does not notify the teacher at all, the student's overall grade will be dropped by one letter.

In the event that the school charges admission for a concert or requests donations at a concert, all money will go toward furthering the music program at Emereau, including purchasing sound and lighting equipment, sheet music, instruments, stands, musicals, and the like.

**In the event that there is a scheduling conflict with other Emereau functions which makes it difficult/impossible for multiple student to be in a concert, the Music Director and Executive Director will make a decision on waiving the concert-performance grade.*

Dress Code for Public Performances

BOYS: white collared shirt and black pants (no jeans). Shoes must be dark—black, dark blue, gray, etc. Black dress shoes are preferred if possible.

GIRLS: Black bottom, white top, or all black. Everyone is to wear black at least from the waste up (no white skirts, for example. All-black dresses or black-and-white are acceptable as long as the bottom is black). No flip flops.

Music Theory/Composition

Purpose

In music theory/composition, we learn the fundamentals of music and how to write it. This class is unique to Emereau because of its focus on composing music as its ultimate goal. This lines up with the Emereau music vision as we grow into more creative, independent composers who can write music to be performed by others, even by musicians in our school. At the end of the year, their final compositions are presented in a professional, bound copy and recorded. Our studies come from Ars Nova's Exploring Theory with Practica Musica online textbook, complete with interactive examples and an in-depth look into the musical elements and physics of music. The text is available for free download on their website.

Grading and Requirements

Music theory is not performance-based like band or chorus, so the students are graded on written work, showing their knowledge and application of music theory in composition. This includes writing different rhythms, pitches, dynamics, tempos, articulations, intervals, clefs, and other basic elements of composing. We have a quiz each week, reviewing previously-tested material and new material. We also have graded projects spanning multiple weeks—new music the students write themselves. The end goal is to create their own music, whether instrumental, vocal, or both. If they retain and apply the information from our quizzes, their projects will be high-quality, well-written pieces of music.

Volunteering

We would love for you to help with our musical endeavors! If you would like to volunteer, please let the music director know as soon as possible. Also, if anyone has any instruments, costumes, stands, computers/tablets, cables, sound/lighting or other equipment they would like to donate to the music department, please reach out to Mr. Lovette.

Contact Mr. Lovette

I check my email religiously all throughout the school day and at night, so if you want to reach me and receive a quick response, email me at quentinlovette@emereau.org with any questions/comments/concerns.