Thomas A. Edison High School

**Concert Choir**

# Handbook & Syllabus

**2019-2020**

TAE Concert Choir (Grades 9 – 12)

This class meets every day and focuses on proper vocal technique, choral technique, and music reading. Emphasis is given to age-appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and the responsibilities associated with membership in a performing organization. Choral literature of various forms, periods and genres will be studied and performed. Students are responsible for making up information and class work that is missed during absences. Students joining performing ensembles are to be aware that performances outside of the school day announced as part of the course are required and constitute a part of the student's grade/evaluation.

**2 semesters; 1 credit**

This is an outline of the course with its objectives, and your responsibilities. Your individual contribution to the ensemble is vital to the success of the whole group. First off, here are the concert dates we have so far. You will be notified of any additional dates as soon as they are set. It is your responsibility to inform me immediately of any conflicts. Your attendance at all performances, in their entirety, is mandatory.

ALL CONCERTS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 p.m., UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED. SINGERS WILL REPORT TO THEIR DESIGNATED AREA IN CONCERT ATTIRE NO LATER THAN 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, December 12, 2019 December Concert @ TAE (Alternate: 12/19)

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 District Arts Festival

Thursday, June 4, 2020 TAE Spring Concert

Thursday, June 25, 2020 Graduation Rehearsal/Brush-up 1:00 p.m.

Friday, June 26, 2020 TAE Graduation \*REQUIRED\*

## CONCERT ATTIRE

Solid black dress pants (NO SKIRTS, DRESSES, or SHORTS) with solid white dress shirt/blouse **with sleeves**, tie. Any under-garments (cammies, tanks, t-shirts, etc.) must also be solid white, dress shoes, NO FLIP FLOPS. Clothing should be clean and pressed, if needed.

Although our primary concern is with our **sound**, and not our appearance, we should take pride in presenting ourselves in public as both representatives of the school and of our own families. If you do not own what you need and cannot borrow, please see me as soon as possible. Non-adherence to the required concert attire will result in a lowered grade for the concert. Thank you for your cooperation!

### GOALS

1. **To utilize our talents and abilities in conjunction with a working knowledge of the principles of music.**
2. **To display the love and joy of music making to each other and to the people for whom we sing.**
3. **To display excellence in choral sound and interpretation, involving:**

**a.** **energy:** vitality, animation, and intensity within flexible dynamic range, accurate notes and precise rhythms.

**b.** **freedom:**  unhampered vocal production, expressive singing.

**c.** **beauty:** resonance, blend, wide range of color, uniform vowels, and impeccable intonation.

**d.** **understanding:** knowing and interpreting the texts, collective expression from rehearsals and personal experiences.

1. **To develop the basic aspects of choral singing:**

**a.** **vocal skills:** warm-up exercises, accurate vowel production, range extension, greater control of dynamics, manipulation of various vocal colors, improved resonation.

**b. musical knowledge:** identification of basic musical terms, familiarity with score mechanics, perception of forms, identification of harmonies, understanding of historical and stylistic relationships.

**c.** **musicianship:** competency in sight-reading, identifying similar and contrasting tonal patterns, sense for adapting proper articulation, phrasing without obtrusive breathing, ability to arch phrases, sensitivity to rubato.

**d.** **ensemble:** individual/sectional sensitivity to balance and blend within/between sections, precision in attacks and releases, adjustment of intonation, interplay between sections, active nonverbal communication between performers and with the conductor.

**e.** **social skills:** familiarity with organizational policies and procedures, empathetic response to group concerns, sense of belonging, sense of commitment to group, willingness to sacrifice and endure.

**ATTENDANCE**

No matter what individual levels of proficiency may exist among us, **EACH** member is important to the sound, interaction, and learning process of the **WHOLE GROUP**. Therefore:

1. **PROMPT** attendance is required at all classes. Being prompt means being in place at the beginning of the period.
2. There are no excused absences, other than absence from school.
3. Attendance at concerts is **NOT** optional! You must be there for the entire concert or your grade will suffer.
4. Missed performances will result in a zero (0) grade, unless the absence is excused AND is followed by a written excuse from the parent/guardian, at which point the make-up will be at the discretion of the teacher.

### GRADING

1. Attendance and participation in class and at concerts. This class is graded almost exclusively on participation. For each class, you earn a grade based on what I see and hear from you. An average grade is 85. If you want a higher grade, make certain I am seeing and hearing above average effort from you. If you are not in the room, you are not participating. This includes being late, and time spent in the bathroom.
2. Preparation: I will be checking your progress occasionally through various methods (solo work, small groups, overall attentiveness and responsiveness within the rehearsal setting, etc). Your cooperation is appreciated.
3. The breakdown for grading is as follows:

* Classwork (materials, participation, attentiveness, effort) 50%
* Major Projects (Performances, Assessments, etc.) 35%
* Other (quizzes, homework, in-class assessments) 15%

1. The grade for performances is calculated by averaging the cumulative student classwork to date and may be adjusted based on what the teacher sees and hears during the evening.
2. Students assigned to ISS may be given work to do for this class. The work will be graded in lieu of your participation for that day and is due before you leave that day.
3. Missed performances will result in a zero (0) grade, unless the absence is excused AND is followed by a written excuse from the parent/guardian, at which point the make-up will be at the discretion of the teacher.

Assignments will be accepted by students who are absent the next class for which they are present without penalty.  Late assignments are 10 points off for each class late.  After 2 class periods assignments will be recorded as a zero (0) grade. ISS work is due on the day of ISS; if it not turned in before you leave for the day, you will receive a zero (0).

### REHEARSAL RULES & GUIDELINES

1. No foreign objects in your mouth (gum, candy, lozenges, etc).
2. Use the bathroom before or after class.
3. Each member must have his/her **own** folder and music at each class and performance. At the end of each class, put your folder back where it belongs.
4. Each member will have at least one pencil in their folder and will use it as instructed.
5. When the director is at the stand or the piano, the choir is either making sounds that have been requested or silent. When members talk during class, time is wasted and others have difficulty paying attention.
6. Each member is responsible for all information given during class, whether present or not. Any information given may, at any time, be required for accounting and/or performing, both alone and in small groups.
7. We are a **TEAM**, but not a democracy. The director makes decisions. Members with differences of opinion may see the director **PRIVATELY**.
8. Each member must come to class with notes and rhythms of specifically assigned pieces learned. Individual demonstration of preparation may be required.
9. All repertoire studied and performed during the course of this class are chosen for their musical qualities. Students and their participation are NOT biased against or in favor of in regard to race, gender, religious affiliation/beliefs, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, IEP’s, etc.

**DISCIPLINE**

1. Verbal comment/reprimand by the teacher
2. Student moved within the classroom
3. Student sent to the Office or to another teacher’s room

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

<http://www.good-ear.com/>

<http://www.musictheory.net/>

**Return this page with signatures to Mr. Cornell by the end of the week**

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the ideas as outlined in the TAE Concert Choir Handbook. I understand my responsibilities and am willing to commit myself for the 2019-2020 school year.

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(Student signature)

I/We have read and understand the ideas and expectations as outlined in the TAE Concert Choir Handbook. I/We will do our best to encourage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to honor their commitment to the Choir by following the rules and guidelines and by making sure that they are present at all required rehearsals and performances, and encouraging them to put forth their best effort.

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(Parent/Guardian) (best phone number)

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(Parent/Guardian) (best phone number)

Parents e-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Check here if you desire to have notification to 2 separate households, and provide any/all contact information on the back of this form. Thank you!

rcornell@gstboces.org