**CASTAIC MIDDLE SCHOOL**

7/8 Choir Mr. Chandler

 Room M6

 dchandler@castaicusd.com

 1+(661) 257-2207 (ext. 2206)

Hi, my name is Mr. Chandler, and I am your child’s choir teacher. I am very excited to have your child in my class! This class is designed to teach each student about the joy of music through the use of the voice. Students will have daily opportunities to engage with music in a unique and significant way, learning not only how to use their voice but also what it means to be a musician. The environment of this class and the daily lessons will be centered on building a greater love for learning and making content relevant to daily life. Students will learn how work diligently, persevere, be patient, and work together as a team. Students will be able to answer essential questions such as “How does music elicit emotion? How do composers use markings and symbols to create expression?  What does it mean to sing expressively? How does the structure of a musical piece create its order and clarity? What does harmony add to music? This class will be covering the 5 common core standards for visual and performing arts, which include the following:

1. Artistic Perception
2. Creative Expression
3. Historical and Cultural Context
4. Aesthetic Valuing
5. Connections, Relationships, Applications

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

7/8 Choir provides each student opportunities to interact with music in diverse and meaningful ways. Students will not only receive vocal training, but they will also learn the 7 main elements of music, the fundamentals of music notation and the foundations of music composition. As they learn about these concepts, they will be able to apply them routinely and develop their skills as a vocalist and musician. Throughout the year, students will be working out of following book, in addition to specific choral literature: *Essential Musicianship – A Comprehensive Choral Method*. This book will be provided for students in class and will not be necessary for purchase. This year long class allows students the following opportunities:

1. Learn the basics of reading and writing music.
2. Develop range and proper technique of the voice.
3. Learn vocal warm ups and specific vocal literature.
4. Perform at the CMS Guitar/Choir Winter and Spring Concerts.

**PERFORMANCES**

There will be numerous required public performances that will occur during the school year. Major concerts include our fall, winter, spring, and combined middle/high school public performance at Castaic High School. Dates for these concerts will be announced at back to school night on August 24th.

**Concert Dress Code**

Every student in band at Castaic Middle School is expected to follow a set of guidelines for dressing appropriately at band concerts. The uniform for a concert is as follows:

* Men: BLACK dress pants, WHITE dress shirt, BLACK BOW TIE, BLACK dress socks, BLACK dress shoes
* Women: Long BLACK dresses below the knee, or BLACK dress pants and BLACK dress blouse with sleeves, BLACK dress shoes. Please wear shoes that you can move up and down stairs safely (while carrying your instrument). Hose are optional but encouraged.

Why such a strict dress code?

* Our MUSIC is the focus of our concerts, not the personal fashion choices of any individual.
* What we achieve as an ensemble, we achieve TOGETHER. Our uniform is an expression of that sentiment.
* As musicians, our entire energy in rehearsal and performance is spent in the world of sound. However, the visual world always takes precedence in the human brain. We need to dress and act in a way that puts the audience's focus on our MUSIC.
* If you have any questions about our dress code policy, please contact me early in the year so that appropriate clothing can be found for your child.

**CLASSOOM RULES**

The rules of my class are simple:

**Be on time:** You have until the tardy bell rings to be in your seat ready to work. If you are not in your seat at that time, you will be tardy.

**Be prepared:** You need to have all necessary school supplies (paper, something to write with and something to write ON since we don’t have desks). I know there may be days you forget or run out of supplies, in which case they will be provided.

**Be attentive:** Your time in class is your time. Listen well, participate eagerly, and ask questions appropriately. Each class we will have much to accomplish as a group, and the more each individual focuses, the more progress we will make together.

**Be respectful**: An important part of growing as a musician is being able to learn in a comfortable and secure environment. Treat others with respect and offer help to those who need it. If I am giving directions, please be quiet. If other students are not following directions, please set an example for them and listen respectfully. Everyone’s full cooperation will make this class more fruitful for each person. Disrupting the class repeatedly after receive a warning will result in a demerit or a referral to the principal’s office. Being respectful also means that you should always give your best effort when singing/performing music. Treat each piece of music as if the composer is there listening.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY** – If a student knows they are going to be missing class, it is their responsibility to come by during my office hours to ask for work ahead of time. If they are unable to notify me in advance of their absence, I am more than happy to let them know what they missed. Students who are tardy without a pass from the office will be marked late and will receive a demerit.

**CLASROOM TEXTBOOKS** – *Essential Musicianship – A Comprehensive Choral Method* (will be provided in class)

**TEACHER CONFERENCE PERIOD and EXTRA ASSISTANCE**

My conference time is during my 1st period. Because CMS runs on a rotation block schedule, my 1st period falls on every even day.

Odd Day 1: 9:30-11:00

Odd Day 3: 1:30-3:00

Odd Day 5: 11:20-12:50

**PARENTS!**

If your child needs any additional help or needs to come by to pick up or make up an assignment due to an absence, I am available during my office hours, which are every day from 8:00-8:30. If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet with me in person, you can see my conference period hours, as listed above. The quickest and easiest way to get in touch with me is through email or Jupiter Ed. My email address and phone extension are listed at the top of this syllabus. Please feel free to contact me anytime you have questions or concerns.

This is your first super easy homework assignment of the year! All you have to do is sign and return this sheet showing me that you have read and understand this syllabus☺

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Comments or concerns?

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