RMS Choir 2017-2018  
Welcome to choir! I am excited and look forward to making music together this trimester. This syllabus will help you understand what is required to make this experience fun and successful!

***My Information: Needed Items:***  
Mrs. Jenna Rasmussen -folder with pockets  
Work email: jrasmussen@sd251.org -pencil  
Choir website: rigbymiddlechoir.weebly.com

**Objectives:**  
 The purpose of this class is to acquire a choral music experience while working with others and to perform for others. I will be using a variety of choral music to teach musical ideas and to represent different periods of music history that may include Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and modern day composers. I will include sight-reading and music theory, so you can become a competent musician with music reading skills.  
        I have scheduled 1 concert this trimester. The concert is **MANDATORY** and is a large portion of your grade. After rehearsing and perfecting the music in class, it is essential that all members of the choir be present to perform it.  
  
***Christmas Concert: Thurs, Dec. 14, 2017 in RMS Aud. @ 7:30 pm***

***Combined Concert: Tues, Feb. 27, 2018 in RHS Aud. @ 7:00 pm***

**Classroom Expectations:**  
Every student is essential to the overall sound of the ensemble. My expectation is that every student comes to choir with a positive attitude and willingness to learn. There are five guidelines that will help us to be a successful choir.  
        1. Attitude is everything!  
        2. Be here on time and be ready to work!  
        3. Communication  
        4. Support and encourage each other!  
        5. Never be afraid to try.

Christmas Concert attire:

1. Black and white with red and green accents
2. Gentlemen: white button up shirt and tie and black slacks
3. Ladies: black slacks or skirt with a nice blouse, or a dress
4. Hair out of the face, no big, shiny jewelry
5. Black, closed-toed dress shoes

Concert attire is:  
                        1. Hair out of your face.  
                        2. Choir t-shirt

                        3. **Blue** jeans, no holes or frays.  
                        4. Closed-toed **dark** shoes. NO FLIPFLOPS!  
                        5. No big, bling jewelry.

The choir t-shirt will ***cost $8.00***. You may choose to pay for it yourself or you can fundraise to cover the cost.

**Rules:**1. Respect and self-discipline: music requires daily participation and cooperation to be successful.  
2. Tardy: COME TO CLASS ON TIME! When you are tardy, you are disrupting the momentum of the class and rob other students of learning.  
3. **NO** **GUM, soda or food** is allowed in the room. You will lose participation points. Please bring bottled water, if you wish.  
4. No **electronic devices** out during class unless I direct otherwise. I will take them away.  
5. Make-up work: You are allowed to make up work for illness and school excused absences. You have the number of days missed plus one additional day to turn in work. If you know you will be absent request homework in advance of absences.  
6. Always bring a pencil to class!  
  
***Concert Critique:*** 1-2 trimesters= 1 critique 3 trimesters= 2 critiques  
        You are required to attend one concert over the course of the trimester. The concert **MUST** be a musical performance (band, orchestra, symphony, choir, vocal, etc.); you must be an audience member of the concert (no concerts you performed in). Acceptable concerts would include: high school concerts, college/university concerts, church concerts NOT during Sunday church service, community concerts, musical theatre concerts, and professional solo or group concerts.  
        The critique must be typed, at least one page with one-inch margins, Times New Roman or Cambria, 12 point font, double spaced, no heading, and put your name and grade in the header. Critiques must be submitted in class within one week of concert attendance, and ***must include a concert program or ticket stapled to your critique***.  
  
What to include in your critique:  
1. When and where the concert took place, who was the conductor, who was performing, and why you chose to attend.  
2. Observations about the performers' stage presence, performance attire, and professionalism.  
3. Discuss musical elements such as: blend(vowels), balance(do voices or instruments stick out), intonation(pitch), style, and interpretation  
4. Summarize your overall feelings about the concert (do NOT recount the concert order or storyline)  
5. The purpose of this assignment is to get you listening with critical, musical ears.

Composer Research Paper:

1. If you are unable to attend a concert for the concert critique, this is another viable option.
2. Choose a composer among Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, George Frideric Handel, Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms, Richard Wagner, Claude Debussy, Antonio Vivaldi, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Eric Whitacre, Ola Gjeilo, Dan Forest, or Benjamin Britten.
3. Type up a 1 page, double-spaced research paper discussing the life and works of the composer: where they were born, what kind of music did they compose, do you like their music, etc.
4. Include an extra page listing the sources for your information. Use Times New Roman in 12-point font.

**Grading Policy:** (roughly)  
Daily Participation:                    42%  
Concerts:                               38%  
Theory and other Assignments:   20%

A 94-100% B- 80-82.9%

A- 90-93.9% C+ 77-79.9%

B+ 87-89.9% C 73-76.9%

B 83-86.9% C- 70-72.9%

**Citizenship Grade:**

1. Students will receive a citizenship grade for student behavior every week.
2. Satisfactory: turns in assignments on time, on task, arrives on time prepared for class, models good behavior, and shows respect to teachers, students, and others’ property.
3. Unsatisfactory: does not turn in assignments on time, off task, arrives late to class, behavior detracts from learning, does not follow classroom rules, and disrespects teachers, students, and others’ property.

***Sign, tear off, and get back to Mrs. Rasmussen by the end of the second week of the trimester!***

Circle the following that apply.

Shirt Size: Youth M Youth L Adult S Adult M Adult L XL 2XL 3XL

I will buy a choir shirt. $8.00

I already have a choir shirt

I will fundraise for a shirt.

***Christmas Concert: Thurs, Dec. 14, 2017 in RMS Aud. @ 7:30 pm***

***Combined Concert: Tues, Feb. 27, 2018 in RHS Aud. @ 7:00 pm***

I have read and understand what is expected of me this trimester in choir.

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand what is expected of my student this trimester in choir, and I know when the concerts are and what they need to wear.

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_