

## **PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT**

## **CONCERT CHOIR: COURSE #873**

### **Contact Information**

Mark W. Hickey, Director  
Performing Arts Department  
Acton Public Schools and  
Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools  
36 Charter Road  
Acton, MA 01720  
Telephone: (978) 264-4700, x3415  
Fax: (978) 266-1133  
E-mail: [mhickey@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:mhickey@mail.ab.mec.edu)

### **The Department's Educational Philosophy**

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of educational impact: societal, instructional and individual. Societally, students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. Instructionally, the arts may help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. Individually, the arts can provide the means for communicating thoughts, emotions, and ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed.

### **Guiding Principles**

For those students interested in developing skills in vocal, instrumental, and drama performance, the Performing Arts Department offers courses and activities of considerable variety. Performance material is selected to meet the varied needs and skill levels of the students, provide cultural enrichment for the students, provide aesthetic value for the students, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

## **CONCERT CHOIR: COURSE # 873**

**Course Frequency:** Full-year course, alternate days

**Credits Offered:** Two and a half

**Prerequisites:** None

### **Background to the Curriculum**

Concert Choir is a long-established course offering. It has played an integral role in the development of the individual musical skills of our students and has provided our school and community with an outstanding support vehicle. Over the course of the school year the choir performs in a number of public performances, including Cabaret Night, a Winter Concert, a Pan Choral Concert, and a Spring Concert. Additional performances are scheduled at the director's discretion for community events, performance tours and educational evaluation. Throughout the years the Concert Choir has earned many honors and awards for their vocal performance.

The Concert Choir curriculum is aligned with standards 1 (Reading and Notation), 2 (Singing) and 5 (Critical Response) of the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework. In addition to the frameworks, our choral program encourages tremendous personal growth in the form of teamwork and leadership skills.

### **Core Topics/Questions/Concepts/Skills**

- Read music
- Sing with pleasant tone quality and a sensitive manner.

A variety of musical selections will be used to develop the following skills and qualities:

- accurate sight-reading and interpretation of musical notation
- clear diction
- pure vowel sounds
- accurate intonation
- expanded vocal range
- secure part-singing
- ability to follow the conductor
- secure entrances and releases
- proper breath support
- clear and resonant head tone
- appropriate ensemble blend and balance
- proper rehearsal and concert etiquette
- knowledge of musical styles and periods

## Course-End Learning Objectives

<u>Learning objective</u>	<u>Corresponding state standards, where applicable</u>
1] Students will sing with proper vocal technique.	Standard 1 – singing
2] Students will read music.	Standard 2 – reading and notation
3] Students will demonstrate knowledge of musical styles and periods.	Standard 5 – critical response
4] Students will demonstrate appropriate ensemble skills.	Standard 1
5] Students will think critically about music.	Standard 5

## Assessment

Students will be assessed on their preparedness, musicianship, attendance, attitude and care of equipment.

## Technology Learning Objectives Addressed in This Course

**(This section is for faculty and administrative reference; students and parents may disregard.)**

Not Applicable

## Materials and Resources

An ever-changing series of choral arrangements will be selected each year to support the educational and motivational needs of the ensemble. Consideration will be given to culturally inclusive selections, stylistic influences and mood of programming. Other text may include sight singing and music theory materials.