

The Department's Educational Philosophy

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of education. Students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. The arts help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. 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 voice, 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, help students develop aesthetic, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

MADRIGAL SINGERS: COURSE #874

Course Frequency: Full-year course, alternate days and one weekly after school rehearsal

Credits Offered: 5 Credits

Prerequisites: By audition only

Background to the Curriculum

Madrigal Singers 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 madrigals perform 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 Madrigal Singers have earned many honors and awards for their vocal performance.

The Madrigal Singers 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

By the completion of this course of study, the student should be able to:

- 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
- Secure entrances and releases
- Pure vowel sounds
- Proper breath support
- Accurate intonation
- Clear and resonant head tone

- Expanded vocal range
- Appropriate ensemble blend and balance
- Secure part-singing
- Proper rehearsal and concert etiquette
- Ability to follow the conductor

Course-end Learning Objectives

Students will:

- 1] Sing with proper vocal technique.
- 2] Read music.
- 3] Demonstrate knowledge of musical styles and periods.
- 4] Demonstrate appropriate ensemble skills.
- 5] Think critically about music.

Assessment

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

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.