*** Carson Middle School***

***8th Grade Chorus***

***Syllabus***

**Miss Jamie Mazza and Mr. David Woten, Directors**

“Ordinary kids who are taught to produce, practice, and perform *with their voices* can accomplish **extraordinary** musical things.” (Rao)

**I. Program Goal**

The North Allegheny choral program has established itself as an integral part of the core school curriculum. It is hoped that all students will take pride in our ensembles and help to maintain a high standard of musicianship and leadership. Being a member of a choir is not an easy task, for only dedicated students attain the highest levels of success. Regardless of the level of a student’s inherent musical ability, it is through hard work and high standards that the greatest education and aesthetic experience can be achieved.

**II. Behavior**

The conduct of each student is a direct representation of the entire ensemble. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior during class, ensemble rehearsals, and concerts is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Discipline problems will be handled appropriately and consistently as outlined in the code of conduct.

**III. Participation**

As an ensemble, we must all work together to achieve “extraordinary musical things.” Full participation is expected during every class, rehearsal, and performance. Therefore, participation is graded on a weekly basis and is a significant portion of the twelve weeks grade. In the case that a student is ill and cannot sing without potentially damaging the voice, he/she is expected to be active in rehearsal without singing; this level of participation is temporary and is permitted at the teacher’s discretion.

**IV. Grading**

The process of determining a student’s grade will include the evaluation of individual performance, achievement and improvement, knowledge of music performed, class assignments, assessments, and attendance and participation at rehearsals and concerts.

Attendance and participation in the day and evening concerts is assigned a specific points value that is essential to the overall grade. If a student misses the concert for **any reason** (unexcused vacation, sports event, birthday party) other than extreme illness or family emergency, the grade will be a zero resulting in the loss of up to two letter grades. The concert dates are listed below, on Miss Mazza’s website, and on the district Activities Calendar for your reference.

**V. Activity Period Policy**

These rehearsals occur during school. Rehearsal dates are announced via the PA system and in class, and posted outside of the classroom. Attendance is mandatory (rehearsals will be scheduled on MUSIC PRIORITY days) and part of the student’s grade. You may check Miss Mazza’s website to verify the activity period rehearsal schedule.

**VI. After School Rehearsals**

The after school rehearsal schedule for Winter 2015 and Spring 2016 is as follows:

**CMS Chorus**

December 2, 2015 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

May 5 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

These dates may change depending on the school schedule; you will be notified as far in advance as possible if there is a change. Attendance at both rehearsals is mandatory, so please mark your calendars. Transportation is the responsibility of the parents, but contact me in advance if you need assistance with transportation. I would be happy to help find a carpool. Again, please check Miss Mazza’s website at any time to see these dates on the calendar.

**VII. Concerts**

Live concert performances are vital and valuable parts of a comprehensive choral experience. Attendance is mandatory and is part of the student’s overall grade. If even one member of the ensemble is not present, the sound of the choir will be compromised. We perform our in-school and evening concerts on the same date; in-school concert time will be announced in November. All night concerts start at 7:00pm. Our concert dates are:

**1. Thursday, December 3, 2015**

**2. February ?-? 2016 - MIOS Concert: Select students will be asked to perform in this concert, held at NASH**

**3. Thursday, May 5, 2016**

**VIII. Extracurricular Choral Festivals**

The following festivals are run by the American Choral Directors Association and PMEA. They are one or two-day festivals that culminate in a performance at the end. I encourage all students to participate and apply for these beneficial events.

*Mucho Macho Festival –* November ??, 2015 –

7th – 9th grade boys only

*Sweet Harmony Festival*– November 20, 2015 – (7th – 9th grade girls only)

*PMEA District Chorus*– Spring 2016 (date TBA)

**IX. Concert Attire**

Concerts are formal events and our appearance must be professional. If a student is not dressed appropriately on the day of the concert, they will be asked not to perform and their grade will be dropped. Students should wear the following:

***Girls*** *-* Black top with cap sleeve or longer, black dress pants, and black dress shoes. The pants may not be denim, leggings, or yoga pants and should be full length. \**Hair may be styled down or up but must be away from the face.*

***Boys*** *-* Black pants, black buttoned collared shirt, black socks and **dress** shoes, tie of choice. \**Students are* *not permitted to wear tennis shoes or jeans.*

If you have a question or concern regarding the concert dress, please contact Miss Mazza, Mr. Woten, or Mrs. Jenkins **prior to the concert.**

**X. Contact Information**

IMS: (412) 348-1470

CMS: (412) 369-5520

E-mail: jmazza@northallegheny.org

Mr. Woten’s e-mail: dwoten@northallegheny.org

**\*E-mail is preferred, but phone conversations can be arranged if needed.**

**\*Remember to check Miss Mazza’s staff page throughout the year for chorus updates!**



 **Welcome To**

 **Chorus!**