



Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School Intermediate Choir & Composition/Tech Class



Welcome to Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School. My name is Scott Wheeler, the choir director & drama teacher at Kinard. This handout/syllabus will help you understand what will be happening in the Intermediate music class at Kinard and should provide you with helpful information for the school year. swheeler@psdschools.org 488-5488

A New Side of Singing

This year our choir is significantly smaller than years past - just 23 kids. So, we looked at the other opportunities available and explored how we want to learn about singing this school year.

The crew explored whether we should do the traditional route (1st semester choir / 2nd semester songwriting) or we should dive into music technology, song styles, songwriting and composition, and accompanying instruments (keyboard, cajon, ukulele, guitar, bass, trap, looping software) for the full year.

The class discussed and voted to do the full year of songwriting & music technology. Your kids will still be singing quite regularly, but instead of the traditional choral sound, they'll be doing solo and small group singing using recording technology and in-class performances.

Wanna still hear your kids sing? I'm happy to send you recordings of their compositions and work throughout the year. Of course, you're always welcome in the classroom. Come on by!

www.kinardchoir.com

Songwriting & Technology

This year we begin looking at vocal music in a different way. Rather than singing as a choir all year, we begin to look at more modern music (rock, pop, R&B, rap, hip hop, etc). Students learn about poetics as lyrics, music composition, songwriting, digital recording, and music technology. They're still singing, but as soloists rather than choristers.

We will be working on both composition/song writing as well as music technology. There are some free music tools available for your school computer so kids can work on their projects as homework. These are trusted sites and completely free (or for a small subscription) should you wish to download them on your home computer.

Grades & Assignments

1) Rehearsal & Performance Assessments:

Students will earn a series of performance grades based on their work during class, participation in class performance, and demonstration of the knowledge/skills being learned.

2) Homework & Home Performance:

Students will learn how to use their laptops as a tool for rehearsing, recording, and uploading their singing. We use Google Classroom as a platform for home-to-school learning

3) Quizzes & Music Assessments:

Written assessments are administered to get a feel for your child's knowledge in music theory and music history aligned to the Core Knowledge Sequence

4) Late Work

Obviously, we expect all homework to be turned in on time. If you anticipate turning in an assignment late, PLEASE let me know so we can make arrangements

7th	Aug/Sept	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
Elements of Music & Skills	- Major Sequenced Scales & Intervals - Grand Staff & Choral Octavos - Rhythmic Counting - Digital Recording & Editing	- Grand Staff & Choral Octavos - Rhythmic Counting - Keyboard, Sharps, & Flats - Italian Terms - Parody Songwriting	- Solfege & Inner Hearing - Grand Staff & Choral Octavos - Keyboard, Sharps & Flats - Italian Terms - Parody Songwriting - Concert Prep	- Catch-Up & 1st Semester Written Summative Exam - 1st Semester Listening Summative Exam - Concert!	- Sightreading new pieces - Minor Scale - Order of Sharps & Flats in a Key Signature - Music Careers & Podcasts	- Order of Sharps & Flats in a Key Signature - Introduction to Key - Music Careers & Podcasts	- Key Signatures, Key, and Grand Staff - Review Italian Terms - Parody Songwriting - Intro to Song Structure & Songwriting	- Key Signatures, Key, and Grand Staff - Review Italian Terms - Chords (?) - Full Songwriting Project	- Review & Catch-Up + 2nd Semester Written Summative Exam - 2nd Semester Listening Summative Exam - Final Songwriting Project
Listening & History Europe & Asia	J. Brahms <i>Symphony #1</i>	F. Liszt <i>Hungarian Rhapsody</i>	P. Tchaikovsky <i>1812 Overture</i>	H. Berlioz <i>Symphony fantastique</i>	E. Grieg <i>Peer Gynt Suites</i>	A. Dvorak <i>Symphony #9 New World</i>	M. Ponce <i>Estrellita</i>	R. Wagner <i>Ride of the Valkyres</i>	Review & Catch -Up
Listening & History The Americas	African-American Traditions <i>Blues, Work Songs, & Spirituals</i>	B. Smith <i>Nobody Knows When You're Down and Out</i> H. Lebetter (Leadbelly) <i>The Midnight Special</i>	S. Joplin <i>The Entertainer</i> <i>Maple Leaf Rag</i>	L. Armstrong <i>St. Louis Blues</i> <i>Potato Head Blues</i> R. Johnson <i>Cross Roads Blues</i>	D. Ellington / B. Strayhorn <i>Take the 'A' Train</i> <i>Caravan</i>	E. Fitzgerald <i>Take the 'A' Train</i> <i>It Don't Mean a Thing</i> <i>Mack the Knife</i>	M. Davis <i>So What</i> C. Parker <i>The Bird</i> D. Gillespie <i>Confirmation</i> <i>Caravan</i>	G. Gershwin <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i> D. Reinhardt <i>Nuages</i> M. Williams <i>Roll 'Em</i>	Review & Catch -Up
CK Integration	Music & History 6th Grade History/Music Review	Music & History Romanticism & Nationalism Early 1900s & American Jazz	Music & History Nationalism & World War I	Music & History Nationalism & World War I	Music & PE Rhythm & Movement Music & English Poetry & Lyrics	Music & English Poetry & Lyrics	Music & English Poetry & Lyrics	Music & History Big Band & World War II	Music & History Big Band & World War II

Scott Wheeler - Choir/Drama Director

Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School—swheeler@psdschools.org

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