

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Title	Teacher
MS Choir	Theresa Davis

### Course Description

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore a variety of repertoire and vocal performance techniques used to perform each genre. Students will work on a number of musical performance pieces, learning the essential techniques for choir performance, including diction, pitch, breathing, projection and “staying on their part”. Melody, harmony, rhythm and dynamics will be a focus of each musical exploration and students are invited to select some of their own songs to explore.

### Topics /Activities - Semester 1: August-December

All units will include performance, theory, composition and reflection as a part of the musical exploration.

**Unit One:** Putting the ‘fun’ in ‘fundamentals’

**Unit Two:** Whole Sounds and Resonance in Vocal Performance

**Unit Three:** Concert Preparation

Students in MS choir classes may choose to audition for our AMIS Honor’s Choir Festival this year.

Auditions are held in early September and six students will be offered placements in the festival, which will take place in Dubai in January this year. More information will be sent home before the end of August.

### Topics /Activities - Semester 2 : January-June

**Unit Four:** The Precipice of Music and Culture: A world of influence

**Unit Five:** Concert prep part II

**Unit Six:** Finding Your Voice

### Basis of Student Assessment and Grades

Students will be assessed separately on their achievement and effort using the standards and benchmarks established by the school for this course. Typical assessments include performance, listening and written components. Students will also be asked to submit written reflections based on their song arranging experiences, performances and analysis of peer performances using appropriate musical vocabulary. Our standards for assessment follow the National Standards for Arts Education. These are categorized into four strands: Performing, Responding, Creating and Connecting.

Students will be graded independently and in pairs/groups depending on a variety of assessment tasks, including concert preparation and performance. Opportunities for regular formative feedback provide students with ongoing information about their progress toward the standards.

Concerts are assessed events where students display their learning in an authentic performance for audiences. There are two official concert dates per year: one in December and one in May. Student attendance at concerts and dress rehearsals is a mandatory part of the course. There may be additional performance opportunities throughout the year where students are invited and encouraged to perform in order to increase their confidence and performance skills in preparation for the summative task. These are announced in advanced through emails to parents and discussion with students.

See *ICS Assessment Policy, August 2015*

**Effort and Attitude Expectations**

Commitment to Learning	Collaboration and Respect	Self-Management
<p><b>Student:</b>                      -Tries to improve their work by seeking out extra help or asking and answering challenging questions (<i>INQUIRER</i>)                      -Shows work that demonstrates their best effort (<i>THINKER</i>)                      -Is fully engaged in the lesson (<i>KNOWLEDGABLE</i>)                      -Uses feedback effectively to produce best work (<i>REFLECTIVE</i>)</p>	<p><b>Student:</b>                      -Encourages others to contribute and works to keep the group on task (<i>CARING</i>)                      -Facilitates learning by sharing ideas and listening attentively (<i>OPEN-MINDED</i>)                      -Participates in class discussions respectfully without monopolizing the class (<i>COMMUNICATOR</i>)</p>	<p><b>Student:</b>                      -Comes prepared with required materials ready before the bell rings to start the class (<i>PRINCIPLED</i>)                      -Shows work that has been completed with care is submitted on time (<i>BALANCED</i>)                      -Follows instructions the first time they are announced (<i>COURAGEOUS</i>)</p>

Students are expected to come to each class prepared with the appropriate materials and participate fully during all lessons. In addition to class participation, students will be required to:

- Perform with the choir in a variety of settings
- Practice repertoire outside of class time
- Work within small performance groups and manage their in-class practice time effectively
- Complete all assignments and/or assessments

**Required Materials**

Students should bring their laptops (fully charged) to class every day. They must also bring:

- water bottle
- pair of headphones/earphones

**Texts**

Students do not have a required text for this course but will receive handouts from a number of sources including:

Various recorded materials  
 Various printed music  
 Choral Sight-singing (John Baker)  
 Essential Elements for Vocal Music (Emily Crocker)  
 Assorted support materials

This course also houses units and resources on its own moodle site. Students are expected to regularly access the course moodle in order to access resources and submit assignments.

Teacher Contact Details	Moodle Link
theresa.davis@icsaddis.edu.et	<a href="http://elearning.icsaddis.edu.et/course/view.php?id=431">http://elearning.icsaddis.edu.et/course/view.php?id=431</a>