

08 - Diction and Intonation - 6-8 Choir - 2020

Content Area: **Music**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Full Year**
Length: **Ongoing**
Status: **Published**

General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy

This course provides a solid foundation in Choir fundamentals, which are introduced, reviewed and mastered, from grade level 6 through level 8. Its design is to impart students with a multifaceted music education, through skill building, historical and social contexts, and performance. Students will engage in daily collaborative whole group and small group singing, to enhance vocal technique, while building community and equity through diversity. Musical growth and mastery will be demonstrated at two choir concerts, one marking their mid-year progress, the second culminating in their end of year proficiency.

OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

Choral Intonation is the pitch accuracy of a group of singers. It is what makes a choir sound "in tune."

The vibrations of tone are in direct relation to a choir's DICTION, particularly the uniform production of VOWEL formations.

CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

1.3C.12nov.Pr4b: Demonstrate, using music reading skills (where appropriate) how knowledge of formal aspects in musical works inform prepared or improvised performances.

1.3C.12int.Pr5a: Develop strategies to address technical challenges in a varied repertoire of music and evaluate their success using feedback from ensemble peers and other sources to refine performances.

1.3C.12prof.Pr6a: Demonstrate attention to technical accuracy and expressive qualities in prepared and improvised performances of a varied repertoire of music representing diverse cultures, styles, and genres.

RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)

Technology

**See linked standard(s) below*

21st Century Life & Careers

9.4.8.GCA.1: Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect (e.g., 1.5.8.C1a).

9.4.8.GCA.2: Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.

ELA

NJSLSA.L3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

NJSLSA.L4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

TECH.8.1.8.B.CS1

Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.

TECH.8.2.8.C.1

Explain how different teams/groups can contribute to the overall design of a product.

STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS

Declarative Knowledge

Students will understand that:

- Diction affects the intonation of choir.
- Choir members must produce the same vowels in the same way.
- Careful attention to vowel formation during warm-ups will eliminate poor intonation.
- Fricatives and stop-plosive consonants, affect the purity of the vowel.

Procedural Knowledge

Students will be able to:

- Perform warm-ups with unified diction, to ensure a good intonation for rehearsal.
- Identify which phonemes within the lyrics of a song are distorting the choir's intonation, and adjust to fix the ensemble's sound.
- Assess whether the choir is tuned correctly, by actively listening (aural awareness) while singing.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Alternative Assessments

- Performance
- Teacher/Student Conferences

Formative Assessments

- Active listening to foster group discussion and analysis
- Constructive input, utilizing Choir vocabulary and Music terminology
- Written self and/or group critique, based on rehearsal feedback

Summative Assessments

- Singing Assessments
- Choir Evaluations

RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)

- Choral Diction - Choraegus: <https://www.choraegus.com/learn/choral-diction/>
- Diction for Choral Singers - SlideShare: <https://www.slideshare.net/meganmcgarry/diction-for-choral-singers>
- Wall, Joan. *International Phonetic Alphabet for Singers: A Manual for English and Foreign Language Diction*. Pst, 1st Edition, 1989.
- Riggs, Seth. *Singing for the Stars: A Complete Program for Training Your Voice* (Book & 2 CD's). Alfred Music, 1992.
- Allen, Sheila, Caldwell, Robert, Gavilanes, Tracy, and Wall, Joan. *Diction for Singers*. Celumbra, 2nd Edition, 2009.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

Career Readiness

Utilizing leadership, collaboration and communication skills.

Technology/Multimedia

Music education tech resources (Chrome Music Lab, Voice Record)

Science and Health

Vocal Anatomy and Pedagogy

ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS

See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.