



**AMERICAN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
2020 | 2021 Syllabus**

ALA Course Name: JUNIOR HIGH SHOW CHOIR (InPulse)
Teacher: Jordan Keith
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Course: JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT CHOIR

Grade Level: 7-8

Credit: 1.0

Pre-requisites: N/A

Course Requirements: Materials fee, Costume fee, and Music Festival fee.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ALA Junior High Show Choir is an auditioned mixed choir of 50 singers. The Concert Choir studies accompanied choral literature from a variety of genres. Interested students are strongly recommended to invest themselves in private voice lessons. An annual choir festival is encouraged in the curriculum, though not required, as it provides unique opportunities for significant personal and ensemble musical enhancement, academic growth and life-lasting memories of incredible times with some of your best friends!

II. CLASS PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES, & EXPECTATIONS

Class Procedures:

- Weekly updates will be recorded in Power School each Monday by 10:00 a.m.
- Assessments will be given often to assess current mastery of content.
- See school-wide disclosure for attendance or grading processes.

Class Guidelines:

- Respect the people, furniture, and equipment in the choir room and other rehearsal rooms.
- Do not speak when others are speaking.
- Be prepared and on task always.
- Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Be in assigned seat with music and pencil when the bell rings.
- Observe all school rules and the dress code in the student handbook.
- Students should demonstrate respect, responsibility, involvement, and appropriate and positive action.
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Class Expectations:

- Provide lasting memories and positive relationships by building people.
- Transfer all calendar dates to personal and family calendars.
- Participate in all rehearsals, performances, choir fund-raisers, etc.

- I allow ALA to use any photos, audio recordings, videotapes or films, including internet use, in which I appear as a member of the ALA Choir program without any restrictions. I understand that if I do not wish to grant this permission, I must present this in writing to Mr. Keith by Sept. 1.
- I understand that even though I may be 16, I am required to travel to and from school functions on the school bus unless prior agreement was made between parent and Mr. Keith.
- I understand that I am required to pick up every costume, music, instrument, etc. after each class period or concert. Failure to do so will be a loss in Participation Points and items will be placed weekly in the lost and found.
- It is the responsibility of students and parents to pay all financial obligations by the designated due dates.
- I understand that if a student needs special accommodations, (i.e. not reading out loud, needs to sit in the front, etc.) I am expected to email Mr. Keith regarding the desired accommodations.
- I understand that for whatever reason a student may not be going on tour at the last minute, receiving a full refund is not possible. Unfortunately, your housing, travel, and other fees have already been calculated and paid for and those monies are not refundable to us.

Class rules.

- Respect the people, furniture, and equipment in the choir room and other rehearsal rooms.
- Do not speak when others are speaking.
- Be prepared and on task always.
- Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Be in assigned seat with music and pencil when the bell rings.
- Observe all school rules and the dress code in the student handbook.
- Do your best daily to assist in achieving our collective goals.

III. FINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Please see the attachment, "Choir Finance Form," online for further information.

- All Show Choir students are required to pay for the designated costume.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be graded on selected items from the State Core Standards included at the end of this document.

V. GRADING SCALE / ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

All choir classes will be graded on a Standard Based Grading scale indicated in the chart below.

GRADING SCALE

Level of Understanding	Letter Grade	What does it mean
4	A	Advanced
3.75	A	I completely understand the concept and can justify my thinking.
3.5	A-	
3.25	A-	Proficient
3	B+	I can apply the concept on my own but need more practice to become advanced.
2.75	B	

2.5	B-	Progressing
2.25	C+	I'm beginning to understand the concept, but I still need help.
2	C	
1.75	C-	Beginning
1.5	D+	I'm just beginning to learn the concept, but don't understand the concept yet.
1.25	D	
1	D-	
0.75	F	No Evidence
0.5	F	Not even evidence of learning the standard.
0.25	F	
0	F	

- Students must complete the assignment by assigned due date in order to receive full credit. *Assignments more than 4 days late will be ineligible to receive more than 50% credit for work submitted.*
- Students will be given the opportunity to retake tests for two weeks following the original assessment date.
- Retakes are available to students during that 2 week period only after they have demonstrated at least 30 minutes of after school tutoring, approved online study, or some other acceptable verification of remediation.

EVIDENCE: (tests, quizzes, projects, assessments, performances, etc.)

1. Concert Attendance: 50 points each, 40 if late, 25 if excused one week in advance.
 - a. Each required performance is worth a predetermined amount of points. If the student attends all performances on time, they will earn all possible points.
 - b. All choir members must sign in at each function to receive points. If you are caught signing someone else in, whom is not attending, you will lose all points possible for that event.
 - c. Criteria and Points Earned for Concerts, Performances, and Extra Rehearsals
 - On Time for Call Time = .5 points
 - Correct Concert Attire = .5 points
 - Concert Etiquette = 1 points
 - Compelling Performance = 2 points

TOTAL POINTS = 4

d. Excused Performance Absense

In the rare circumstance that a student needs to miss a performance, the instructor must receive email notification from a parent/guardian at least one week prior to the performance. If the instructor receives adequate notification and the instructor deems the circumstances justified, the student will be eligible to make-up a portion or all of that performance's points by completing the performance make-up assignment.

e. Unexcused Performance Absences

If a student misses a performance without prior notification, the student may not be able to make-up that performance's points and it may result in the student being dismissed from the choir. Of course, the instructor reserves the right to discern when circumstances are emergency situations out of the hands of the student. Nevertheless, the eligibility of the student to make-up points will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

2. Formal Assesements
 - a. Quizzes may cover classroom procedures, sight-reading, sectionals, music marking, dance checks, singing checks, or choreography. Quizzes must be made up within two weeks of the absence or they will not be able to be made up.
 - b. Students will be asked to memorize, perform, and show musical skills of selected repertoire.
 - c. Students will receive several quizzes during each term based on music knowledge, music memory, preparation, etc.
 3. Donation Letter Participation
 - a. Students are required to participate in the SnapRaise Fundraiser by providing email addresses to send the fundraiser email to.
 4. Flyer and Poster Distribution
 - a. Before each major concert, all choir students will be asked to hang flyers around their neighborhood. They simply need to tape them on your neighbors doors. The guardian and student will then sign and return the form and place it in the assigned choir box.
 - b. *No points will be given once the concert has passed.*
 5. Choral Enrichment Exercise
 - a. You must complete one Enrichment Exercise per semester. If you are enrolled in more than one choir, only prepare one Enrichment Assignment. All submissions are to be typed and double-spaced and are due one week before the last day of the quarter. Late Enrichment Exercises will only be accepted until the end of that quarter and points will be deducted.
 - b. Deadline reminders will be discussed in class, as well as on the board. It is the students responsibility to turn these in in a timely manner.
- B. PRACTICE: (rehearsal, homework assignments, reading, etc.)
1. Rehearsal Participation
 - a. There are two elements of the rehearsal participation score: attendance and rehearsal participation. Students are given 5 points each rehearsal for attendance. The students' rehearsal participation score will be determined by level or participation, their attitude, and their behavior during rehearsals.
 - b. Daily Choral Self-Participation Evaluation
 Point System (Maximum points per day = 16)
 The following are additional causes for losing points:
 - talking during a rehearsal, putting on makeup, wearing a hat, folder not put away, doing other homework in class, using improper language, costumes left behind, not having a pencil, using a cell phone, or leaning in chair.
 - c. Making up Rehearsal Participation Points
 To make-up excused absences, students must use an Absence Make-up Form available in the Choir Room. The students must complete 30 minutes of private rehearsal with our current repertoire to make-up the absence. In most cases, the student will be able to make-up all the points they missed by being absent, but the instructor reserves the right to reward or to remove points as necessary. Students will have 2-weeks from the day of the absence to make up the points.
 - d. Sit-Out Day
 Students will be allowed one sit-out day per term. He or she will be expected to document the procedures of the class that day and new knowledge that was obtained. Personal meaning and discoveries must be documented. This information should be written in an essay format and will be turned into the teacher at the end of the period. If this information is not turned in, the student will be treated as if he or she were absent. The 2nd time that the student sits out, 5 points will be given for participation that day, 3rd time is 4 points, 4th time is 3 points and so on.

- A. GRADING | ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES
- a. Competency = 90%
 - b. Practice = 10%

VI. CLASS POLICIES AND DRESS/COSTUME CODE

Class Policies:

- Music should be handled with care. During the semester you will be handling a lot of music. It is your responsibility to return the music in the same condition that you received it in or you will be billed \$3.00 per octavo missing.

Costume Expectations:

- Not yet determined. Information will be coming soon.

VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Music folder must be purchased: ½", black, 3-ring binder, with clear cover to slide a paper in with your name on.
- Pencil at each rehearsal.
- For class costume information, see under "Forms; Wardrobe Instructions."

VIII. FINANCE REQUIREMENTS

Please see the attachment, "Choir Finance Plan," online for further information.

- The FEES MUST BE PAID IN FULL by the final deadline on February 1st. All choir students are encouraged to sell tickets to designated concerts.
- All choir students will be asked by The Choir Booster Club to participate in their annual SnapRaise Campaign. Each student will be asked to supply 10 email addresses of family and friends, both in and out of state, whom they believe would be willing to donate to the ALA Choir Program. Donations over \$100 qualify as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes. Each donor will be listed in our concert programs throughout the year. You are not expected to pay postage.
- Fundraisers will be provided for those going on tour or that need costume assistance.

IX. CLASS POLICIES AND DRESS | COSTUME CODE

Class Policies:

- Music should be handled with care. During the semester you will be handling a lot of music. It is your responsibility to return the music in the same condition that you received it in or you will be billed \$3.00 per octavo missing.
- REPERTOIRE SELECTION: Students in ALA Choirs will sing a variety of literature and will experience a wide spectrum of music from the early Renaissance through the 20th Century. By studying these genres one will expect to perform religious music.

It is the position of MENC, The National Association for Music Education, that the study and performance of religious music within an educational context is a vital and appropriate part of an comprehensive music education. The omission of sacred music from the school curriculum would result in an incomplete educational experience.

If one were to attempt to exclude religious music from school performances, one would basically eliminate all the classical church literature. It is the intent of Mr. Lunt and ALA to treat with honor and dignity the rights of all students to worship as they choose according to their own conscience. The study of nondenominational church music will be limited to its musical, historical, and cultural elements. See Mr. Lunt with any questions.

Costume Codes:

- The Concert Choir student owns the dress and tuxedo. Any alterations and cleaning are the responsibility of each individual student.
- If assigned jewelry is lost, you will be required to purchase another set. If jewelry is not worn during a concert, you will not receive full participation points.
- Concert Choir members are required to purchase the required costume as designated under "Forms: *Wardrobe Instructions*."

X. SCHOOL POLICIES AND ELIGIBILITY

Show Choir students are expected to follow all ALA policies.

JUNIOR HIGH CHORAL MUSIC | Core Standards of the Course

(Standards each term will be selected from the following State Core Standards)

Strand: CREATE (L1.MC.CR.)

Students will conceptualize, generate and organize artistic ideas and work. They will complete and refine musical works (Standards L1.MC.CR.1–6).

- **Standard L1.MC.CR.1:**
Listen to and discuss a variety of musical styles and ideas with guidance.
- **Standard L1.MC.CR.2:**
Sing a consequent phrase for a given antecedent phrase.
- **Standard L1.MC.CR.3:**
With guidance, improvise/generate rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic ideas and phrases.
- **Standard L1.MC.CR.4:**
Develop aural skills: intervals, major/minor modality, and rhythmic and melodic dictation.
- **Standard L1.MC.CR.5:**
Develop, organize and notate, with guidance, basic rhythmic and melodic ideas and phrases with guidance.
- **Standard L1.MC.CR.6:**
Evaluate musical ideas, with guidance, and identify and rehearse elements of musical expression that lead to a creative interpretation of a musical work.

Strand: PERFORM (L1.MC.P.)

Students will analyze, interpret and select artistic work for performance. They will develop techniques and concepts to refine artistic work, and express meaning through the presentation of musical works (Standards L1.MC.P.1–7).

- **Standard L1.MC.P.1:**
Select appropriate music, with limited guidance, to perform for a short solo or ensemble performance, and explain why each was chosen.
- **Standard L1.MC.P.2:**
Discuss, with guidance, various elements of a musical work such as form, phrasing, and style.
- **Standard L1.MC.P.3:**
Sing with an appropriate tone over an appropriate range with consideration of the following skills in combination:
 - Vowels and diction
 - Intonation
 - Placement
 - Correct breathing and singing posture
 - Vocal physiology and vocal care
 - Flow phonation
- **Standard L1.MC.P.4:**
Demonstrate technical performance skills by singing correct pitches and rhythms in skill appropriate literature.

- **Standard L1.MC.P.5:**

Demonstrate notational literacy in correctly sight-singing simple melodies, harmonies, and rhythms.

- **Standard L1.MC.P.6:**

Demonstrated productive rehearsal habits, both as an individual and as an ensemble member.

- **Standard L1.MC.P.7:**

Perform an artistic work with technical accuracy, responding appropriately to the conductor and using musical elements to express ideas and emotions.

Strand: RESPOND (L1.MC.R.)

Students will perceive and analyze artistic work and process. They will interpret intent and meaning, and apply criteria to evaluate artistic work and process (**Standards L1.MC.R.1–5**).

- **Standard L1.MC.R.1:**

Respond to a musical performance by identifying the musical elements within a piece and in a given context, discuss their effect on both listener and performer, and exhibit appropriate performance demeanor and audience concert etiquette.

- **Standard L1.MC.R.2:**

Identify and discuss how musical elements are embedded within a musical work to express possible meanings, and consider how the use of musical elements helps predict the composer's possible intent.

- **Standard L1.MC.R.3:**

Identify and describe, with guidance, the musical and structural elements that contribute to a quality musical work.

- **Standard L1.MC.R.4:**

Identify and describe, with guidance, the technical and musical skills evident in a quality performance.

- **Standard L1.MC.R.5:**

Judge and improve the quality of student's own musical performance using self-assessment.

Strand: CONNECT (L1.MC.CO.)

Students will synthesize and relate knowledge from personal and collaborative experience to make and receive art. They will relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding (**Standards L1.MC.CO.1–4**).

- **Standard L1.MC.CO.1:**

Examine how music relates to personal development and enjoyment of life.

- **Standard L1.MC.CO.2:**

Self-assess and document personal growth as a musician.

- **Standard L1.MC.CO.3:**

Experience how music connects us to history, culture, heritage, community and to other academic subjects.

- **Standard L1.MC.CO.4:**

Demonstrate and understand, with limited guidance, how musical works are influenced by the composer's heritage and experiences.



American Leadership Academy
Fine Arts Department
CHOIR

Disclosure Document
JUNIOR HIGH SHOW CHOIR
(InPulse)

- I allow ALA to use any photo's, audio recordings, videotapes or films, including Internet use, in which I appear as a member of a Concert Choir without any restriction.
- I agree to abide by all of the above policies and procedures in the Concert Choir Disclosure Document, which I have read and understand.

Print student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Print Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Please sign up for class group texting:

- Type in the "TO" box: 81010
- Type in the "MESSAGE" box: @20inpulse

If you are not receiving emails from Mr. Keith, please provide the emails below:

Student Email: _____

Parent Email: _____

**TURN IN ASSIGNED BOX
IN CHOIR ROOM**