CHORALE, CONCERT CHOIR, CONCERT BAND Mr. Peter Olson

**MUSIC PHILOSOPHY**

Music is a vital part of an individual’s comprehensive education and human development. The musical experience (listening, practice, performance, etc.) provides a student with several opportunities of expression and abstract thought development that are not found elsewhere in the school curriculum. A music education that provides several opportunities for a musical experience has several attributes.

First and foremost, a musical experience provides an avenue into the subjective realm of human existence. “The subjective part of human reality – the way life feels as it is lived cannot be clarified or refined in our experience through the use of ordinary language… The arts are the means by which humans can actively explore the unbounded richness of human subjective possibilities.” (Reimer, 1989 pp.50-51). This cannot be identified in most other subjects as the primary goal. This *is*, however the goal of music education. The development of subjective reasoning is a fundamental aspect of music education.

Second, music education also helps unify the entire curriculum because several of its aspects permeate other education disciplines. Through music, one is exposed to elements of history, language, math, physical education and science. This aids in the formation of the comprehensive education of an individual.

Third, several non-musical but relevant factors of a comprehensive education can be developed through the musical experience. Individuals mature in areas of: Intrinsic motivation, self-discipline, creativity, respect for authority and the ability to work with others in a community setting.

Finally, as a Christian institution, we understand that music is a gift from God. Learning, listening, practicing and performing music is all done as praise and thanks to our creator for his grace, forgiveness and the gift of music.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Students will be able to expressively perform a varied repertoire of music in their vocal range or on their selected band instrument alone and with others. (MENC, 1996, p.98).
2. Students will be able to demonstrate through performance their understanding of the various elements of music: form, melody, harmony, dynamic contrast, articulation styles, meter, etc.
3. Students will be able to give evidence of their knowledge of the importance of music in education and how it unifies all areas of the school curriculum.
4. Students will demonstrate their individual understanding of the unique, emotional, abstract and expressive qualities of music through performance and written work.
5. Students will be able to evaluate music and music performances by using their knowledge and developed expectations of elements of music.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding of music as it relates to history and various cultures.

**EVALUATION**

1. Participation in daily rehearsals by each member is vital for a successful music program. Punctual attendance, positive attitude and focused rehearsing will be 60% of the grade.
2. Written evaluations, written performance reviews and other assignments will be 20% of the grade.
3. Attendance at all performances as mandatory for all members and needed for a successful outcome. Attendance is 20% of the grade. (Members may be excused from a performance on a case-by case basis in regards to family emergencies, health issues, etc.)

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