

# East High School Vocal Music Class Syllabus

## Seraphim

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(720) 423-8422

### By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Sing a variety of styles of three and four part music with excellent vocal technique
- Demonstrate a marked improvement in singing quality between the beginning and end of the year
- Identify advanced music symbols and terminology
- Read and perform advanced music notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics and tempo
- Create arrangements of existing songs or melodies
- Listen to, describe and evaluate musical performances using musical terminology
- Explain the characteristics of various musical styles
- Understand and explain the cultural and historical contexts of given musical works
- Demonstrate capability to complete independent work and practice

### Guidelines for Success

To be successful in this class you will need to:

Give your best effort → Always strive to improve → Be helpful and kind → Be positive → Work together like a team

### Classroom Rules

1. Be seated with class materials when the bell rings
  2. Remain at your assigned seat unless otherwise instructed
  3. Stay on task and participate fully in all class activities
  4. Respect and support all class members
  5. Food, candy, drinks\*, hats, electronic devices (cell phones must be turned off and put away) are not allowed
- \*water is allowed

**Class Activities:** Students will participate in daily warm-up and note reading exercises, music theory lessons, singing of choral music and learning about music of various styles through listening and discussion. Students will participate in several public performances over the course of the year.

### Grades:

**50 percent** of your grade will come from **class participation** and how well you follow the rules. There are 15 possible points per week. Each student will start each week with 12 points (a low B).

Students receive extra points (up to 16) for consistently exhibiting the following behaviors:

The student consistently is: first to follow directions, focused and engaged. The student shows: positive leadership, exceptional effort, strong musical leadership. The student: quietly practices during down times and consistently marks music reminders with pencil.

Each rule violation costs 1 point, each tardy costs 2 points (cannot be made up), each absence costs 3 points

**40 percent** of your grade will come from **class work and tests** (music reading, music knowledge, part singing)

**10 percent** of your grade will come from **concert attendance and behavior**. Points will be deducted as follows:

Missing a dress rehearsal	5 pts
Missing a performance unexcused	15 pts
Tardiness to a performance	5 pts
Inappropriate behavior during a performance	10 pts

### Absences

Students will lose 3 participation points on days that they are absent. Students are allowed to make up 2 days of excused absence points per semester points as follows:

Assisting Mr. Taylor before, after school or during lunch for 30 minutes (only as needed) 3 pts

See the absence policy for more details.

### Materials

Students will need to provide their own folder for this class to hold music, worksheets and handouts. Students will be able to store the folders at school, but are encouraged to keep the folder with them so that they can practice at home. Either way, students are required to have their music and a pencil in class every day.

# **Vocal Music Department Absence and Tardy Policy**

All students in vocal music classes are required to maintain excellent attendance. Because of the participatory nature of choir classes, students who miss a class will be required to make up participation points for excused absences. The following policy is intended to hold all students to a high standard of attendance.

## **Excused Absences**

1. Absences must be excused according to the East High school policy.
2. Students must present an official attendance office excuse slip in order to excuse an absence.
3. Students will be docked 3 participation points on days that have an excused absence. Students will be allowed to make up participation points for a maximum of 3 absences per semester.
4. Participation point make up must be arranged and completed within a week of the absence.
5. Students who accumulate a large number of "excused" absences will fall behind in class and jeopardize their musical progress. At the teachers discretion, students with attendance problems will not be allowed to perform and will ultimately be removed from their ensemble.

## **School related absences**

1. Student will not be docked participation points as long as they have presented a teacher/school issued pass prior to being absent.
2. Students who do not present a pass before the absence will need to make up points according to the guidelines listed above.

## **Extended Illness absences**

1. Extended illness absences are defined as medical or bereavement absences that last 3 days or more.
2. Students are required to present a doctor's note (medical absence) or parent contact (bereavement absence) in order to make up lost participation points from these absences.
3. Makeup tasks for these absences will be determined on a case by case basis.

## **Other Absences**

1. All other absences (college visits, family vacations) will fall under the category of general excused absences as outlined above. Students will be allowed to make up a maximum of 2 absences per semester, if needed.

## **Unexcused Absences**

1. Students are not allowed to make up points for unexcused absences.
2. Students who have unexcused absences will be required to participate in a parent –teacher conference to determine if the student should be in their ensemble.

## **Tardy Policy**

1. Students will be docked 2 participation points on days that they are tardy.
2. Students will not be allowed to make up participation points for tardies.