

WELCOME TO SLAUSON CHOIRS

We are looking forward to an exciting year with about 200 students in our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choirs. The real learning is a day to day process with noticeable progress seen over the whole year, and you are welcome to drop in anytime to see what we do.

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS: Singing is a skill. Skills need to be practiced to improve. Singing, like most skills, becomes more fun as one's abilities increase. Singers at Slauson are also musicians.

- I. We will build the skills necessary to sing and read music.
- II. We will prepare a wide variety of concert music for performance.
- III. We will have fun!

EXPECTATIONS:

- Students need to be in class every day, on time.
- Students will bring to class daily and take care of: a pencil, their planner, and music.
- Students will master skills and concert music at the requested times, or seek additional help to attain these goals.
- Students and parents will keep track of performance dates and come to all concerts at the appropriate time in the appropriate attire.
- Students will learn about people and/or life in addition to music!

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP AT HOME:

- Post the "Becoming a Musician" sheet and ask your child to show you what he/she is working on. Be supportive of any practicing!
- Help your child get to concerts and enjoy listening to them.
- Help student check assignments and grades on PowerSchool, and ask to see the results.
- Encourage your child to come to me with questions or for assistance.

PROGRESS/GRADES: Attendance, concert performance, class involvement, skill mastery, jury performance, and daily written work all contribute to the grade. Choir members must demonstrate effort AND mastery of the music and skills to earn an A, which represents EXCELLENCE. (If you are concerned about or interested in your child's specific progress, ask him to sing the jury material for you at home BEFORE each jury, offer to time her for practice on the written skills, and encourage him/her to actually practice the material!) Assignments will be posted on PowerSchool and grades will be posted after assignments are completed for whole class.

SPECIAL EVENTS: The MSVMA Honors Choirs, Solo & Ensemble Festival, Choral Festival, Elementary Tour (8th grade), Small Ensembles, and end of the year ensembles or solos are extra opportunities which may be available, depending on the progress and demands of the individual singers and of each choir (also affected by other school events).

TEACHER'S COMMENTS: Working with music and students is always a pleasure. I'm excited by what I have already heard this year. In both the small and large choirs, I continue to have high expectations for each singer, and will strive to make quality music a part of our lives. Please contact me, drop in, come to concerts, have conferences, and continue your interest in your child's growth.

Andrew Steck stecka@aaps.k12.mi.us (734) 355-9756 (before 8pm, please)