

# WLMS 2010-2011 SYLLABUS

## Music/Performing Arts Music

### Tom Gerhold

**MUSIC** classes are held every Friday throughout the year. Here we learn and sing songs for chapel, engage in listening exercises, create and perform rhythmic accompaniments to our songs, experiment with song writing, explore technology in music, practice our note reading skills, build a music vocabulary, develop our singing voices, and learn about composers, musical genres, and historical epochs in music. In November and December, we focus on learning the songs for our Christmas Program, and in the second semester, we focus on the great composers (Sixth Grade studies the classical and Romantic European composers, Seventh Grade studies American composers, and Eighth Grade explores contemporary music of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century). Throughout the year, vocabulary words are strengthened through listening examples and music journals that are administered at the beginning of every class period.

**Homework** is always included on the web site under the Music link, gradelink, and through handouts given out in class. Each quarter might typically include a couple of songwriting assignments, vocabulary assignments, and note reading work sheets.

Each semester also has assignments that hold a lot of weight. Each semester, a **music review** of a live music event (to be arranged by each individual family) must follow the guidelines requested and turned in each semester in a timely fashion. Please consider securing tickets or making transportation arrangements long in advance of the due dates. In January and Semester 2, composer reports and group projects (composer oral presentations, music videos) will also require some advanced planning.

**Tests** will always be announced in advance, and the quiz dates for the **Hymn Of The Months** can be found on the web site (Middle School Music link), gradelink, and on the inside of every student's hymn packet.

At the beginning of the year, each student will be provided with a colored music folder that must stay in the classroom. Song lyrics, class work, journals, vocabulary lists, manuscript paper (provided), and returned work should be well organized in this folder. Most of the printed material and handouts will be posted on the web site so there should be no need to take the folder home, unless specially requested.

**GRADING** for both **MUSIC** and **PERFORMING ARTS MUSIC** classes is identical, in that 60% of the student's grade is based on class work and his or her participation in class, 40% on homework, tests and quizzes. All of the grades can be viewed on a weekly basis on gradelink, and the assignments are on the web site as well.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Music reviews due: Semester 1: Friday, **December 3<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Semester 2: Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, **2010**

**Many families prefer scheduling the live music event over the holidays. If a student needs an extension of time due to a performance that hasn't occurred yet, please submit a note to me with the following information on or before the due date:**

\*Student name, class, folder color

\*The name of the event

\*The performance date

\*The date the review will be submitted.

Otherwise the review will only be accepted as late and penalized as such. No music reviews will be accepted during the final week of each semester.

There are a few mandatory class sings that are not scheduled during normal school hours. They are graded participation events that each student is required to attend. Those dates are as follows:

**6<sup>th</sup> grade** sings at Westchester Lutheran Church on **Sunday, October 31<sup>h</sup>, 2010 at 10 AM\***

**7<sup>th</sup> grade** sings at Westchester Lutheran Church on **Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10 AM**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** sings at the **Graduate Recognition Service** at Westchester Lutheran on Sunday, **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 10 AM.**

**\*Please note that this date was changed from the original date posted in the Back to School Night Information Sheet.**

**ALL CLASSES** participate in the **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** on **Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, and the **Eighth Grade Graduation** on **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Every year I offer Accelerated Learning tracks to selected students in the Music and Performing Arts classes. These programs are invitational and require an extra commitment from students evidencing exceptional talent or interest in specific areas of study in regard to Music or the Performing Arts. Such areas of focus might include sight-reading, ear training, or the study of certain topics or genres of music or the Performing Arts, such as Musical Theatre or Music History, for example, or preparing performing arts selections outside of class for upcoming performances. I will begin approaching students during the third week of classes. Please speak to me if you have any questions about this special program.

**PERFORMING ARTS** classes are taught every Wednesday. One tri-mester is devoted to drama with Mr. Tennyson; the other is devoted to Music, taught by myself. In the winter we offer a dance track in which each student must participate. In the sixth grade year, primary emphasis is given to solos (monologues in Performing Arts drama). In the seventh grade, we explore duets and trios, and in the eighth grade, performing ensembles and scenes from musical theatre. The program is geared toward singing, but a few

individuals with substantial experience in playing an instrument or dance may elect to focus on that for the semester, subject to my approval.

At the end of every tri-mester, each student will participate in **PERFORMING ARTS DAY**, in which the best work of the term is showcased in each of the three disciplines. **Every student in the performing arts program is expected to participate in at least one outside performing arts experience during the school year.** This does not include required participation in our performing arts days, but does include any performing opportunity that a student may volunteer to participate in (such as a chapel skit, solo, Lenten drama, evening praise service) or performing organization inside or outside of school (such as choir, the musical, a dance performance, recital, etc.) We will accept forms during the year to document this request.

**EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN THE PERFORMING ARTS** at Westchester Lutheran Middle School include:

\***Youth Choir**, which meets on Tuesdays at lunch and Thursdays at 3:25 after school for about an hour

\***Play and Spring Musical**

\***Praise Band** for selected instrumentalists who wish to prepare and rehearse songs for Chapel and certain school events. Sign ups for this usually happen the first couple of weeks of school.

I can be reached via e-mails ([tgerhold@wlcs.org](mailto:tgerhold@wlcs.org)). You can also send notes and direct them to me via my mailbox in the office or through your son or daughter. If you desire to contact me via phone, I can be reached at Westchester Lutheran's main line – 310.670.5422, extension #109, or just follow the prompts.

Thank you and God bless,  
Tom Gerhold