

**Course Syllabus:** Bel Canto/Mello-Aires  
**Credit:** 1 credit  
**Instructor:** Charlotte Reese, Music Department  
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Office hours: by appointment

## I. ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS and ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- **Creating music is a process.**
  - What does it mean to be a responsible musician?
  - What does it mean to be a leader?
  - If practice makes perfect, then what makes “perfect practice?”
  - What is the value of self-evaluation?
  - What is the value of adjudication?
- **Music enriches our lives.**
  - What is the purpose of music?
  - Why is music important to people?
  - How does music enrich our lives?
  - What role does music play in my life, now and in the future?
- **Music reflects and shapes culture and history.**
  - What cultural and historical aspects create artistic response?
  - What is the value of music in learning about past civilizations?
  - How do the arts reflect and influence culture and history?
- **Music has content and meaning.**
  - How does music affect people, both positively and negatively?
  - How can music evoke emotion?
  - How is music a form of communication?
  - How does music transcend languages and culture?
- **Structure creates order and clarity in music.**
  - How good is good enough?
  - What is music literacy?
  - How do composers use elements and structure to achieve meaning?

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students in choir are viewed as both performers and educated consumers of music. Throughout their course of study, students will:
- Increase singing skills as they relate to the technical demands of the music.
- Learn to identify and appreciate various choral genres.
- Study basic concepts of music theory.
- Continue to improve all aspects of musicianship, including *tone*, *intonation*, *ensemble skills*, *expressiveness*, and *technique*.
- Improve music reading skills through regular ensemble practice.
- Exercise leadership and problem-solving skills through participation in sectionals and small ensembles.
- Show a high level of self-discipline and personal responsibility, as demonstrated by diligence in home practice and attendance at required events.
- Learn and follow protocol for rehearsals and sectionals.

## III. COURSE CONTENT (Anchor Tasks\*)

### BEL CANTO

#### *First Semester:*

- Study of music theory: basic notation, scales and key signatures and an understanding of all musical symbols and terms introduced in the literature.
- Vocal Technique through warm ups and application to literature.

- Daily Sight singing exercises to build independent music literacy and musicianship.
- Concerts\* will be performed featuring music appropriate for each occasion as well as traditional classical literature
- There will be a study of choral genres and styles through listening and experience.

*Second Semester:*

- There will be a continuation of the learning from first semester, which will also include a wider variety of literature. Performances will be more frequent including Choir Festival.
- Music Theory: intervals, chords.

MELLO-AIRES

*First Semester:*

- Study of jazz theory: basic song form, jazz styles, transposition.
- Part independence through study and performance of close jazz harmonies
- Concerts\* will be performed featuring music appropriate for each occasion as well as traditional jazz literature
- \*Aural Solo transcription
- Introduction to vocal improvisation.
- Listening presentations
- There will be a study of jazz styles through listening and experience.

*Second Semester:*

- There will be a continuation of the learning from first semester, which will also include a wider variety of literature. \*Performances will be more frequent including Jazz Festival.
- Music Theory: seventh chords and extensions
- \*Students will prepare and perform a jazz solo with live rhythm section.

**IV. ATTENDANCE**

**Classroom:** Students are expected to be in their seats when the bell rings. Tardiness will be excused only with a pass from a staff member. School attendance and tardy policies will be followed. More than 3 unexcused absences in one semester will result in automatic loss of credit. Students more than 10 minutes late to class will be marked absent.

**Concerts:** Unless otherwise indicated, participation in all scheduled performances is mandatory. Any exception must be due to a serious, unavoidable conflict and must be documented in writing by the student's parent or guardian as early as possible. Students are expected to keep track of upcoming events and make necessary arrangements with parents, employers, and teachers to ensure that they are able to attend.

**Activities:** From time to time, students will be required to attend additional rehearsals outside of class time. Every effort is made to schedule these rehearsals at convenient times for students, and to give sufficient notice of when they will be. Students are expected to record these dates in their planners, and adjust their schedules so that they can participate. Conflicts will be handled on a case-by-case basis; it is always necessary for a choir member to give prior notice if a rehearsal or activity will be missed. In addition, some opportunities will be offered which are optional. Such activities will not impact a student's grade, but students are expected to inform the director in a timely manner whether or not they will participate, and when appropriate give sufficient reason if they will not be participating. *Please note that additional fees are charged for many activities, both optional and mandatory, that occur away from school. Students who are not able to cover field trip fees in full due to financial constraints should contact Miss Reese in a timely manner regarding financial assistance and waivers.*

**V. CLASSROOM RULES**

- Be in your seat on time, with your music, and a pencil.
- Keep the rehearsal room tidy.
- Show respect for all people and equipment.
- Do not talk out of turn during a rehearsal.
- No gum, food, or beverages into the music department.

- No electronic devices are to be used during instructional time.
- No sunglasses, hats, or anything that prevents eye contact.
- Follow proper protocol in rehearsals and sectionals.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Students who violate rules will lose participation points. Serious or repeated infractions may result in detention and/or suspension.

## **VI. GRADING POLICY**

All graded activities and assessments will be assigned a point value. Grades will be based on the sum total of the points earned as a percentage of the points possible. Point values for individual activities will be determined based on the relative importance of that activity in the curriculum. Students will be graded on the following categories of work:

### **CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Five participation points will be awarded for each class period. Points will be deducted if a student is absent, tardy, inattentive, unprepared, or violates a rule or protocol. If a student is sick and not able to sing they must bring a note from a parent. Students are still expected to have their music out and be following along with the group. In cases of prolonged illnesses parent contact will be made a participation plan set in place.

The following is a general guideline of how points will be deducted according to the severity of the infraction:

<b>NATURE OF INFRACTION</b>	<b>points lost</b>
Unexcused Absence	5
Insubordination, disruptiveness, refusal to participate as required	3-5
More than 3 minutes tardy, frequent inattention, slothfulness during sectional	2
Less than 3 minutes tardy, restroom break, rule reminder, no pencil or music, etc.	1

### **PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES**

Performances are mandatory, grade-bearing activities. It is up to the director's discretion to determine if a student has a valid reason for missing a performance. Absences may be considered unexcused even if authorized by the student's parents if the reason does not meet the criteria set by the director. Excused absences are rare, and students must complete an independent project to make up the credit. From time to time, students will be expected to attend rehearsals and sectionals that take place outside of the regular class time. Points are given for activities that occur outside of class, and are weighted according to the importance of the activity. When students must be excused from after school rehearsals, half credit will be given if they properly notify the director prior to the missed event.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students' musical progress will be assessed by their performance on individual sight singing and part tests, small group tests from current literature, written theory quizzes and visual observation during rehearsals and sectionals.

## **VII. GRADING SCALE**

	<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67-69</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>93-100</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>83-86</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>73-76</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>60-66</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-92</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70-72</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>59 and lower</b>

## **VIII. MAKE-UP POLICY**

- An unexcused absence from a concert cannot be made up.
- Excused absences can be made up through completion of an independent study project, which must be arranged with the instructor on an individual basis.

- Playing tests missed due to an excused absence can be arranged with the instructor.

## IX. UNIFORM

### BEL CANTO

GIRLS: School provided robes with black slacks, shoes and socks or nude nylons and closed toed black dress shoes. Heels should be no higher than 2"- think comfort and safety.

BOYS: School provided robe with black dress slacks, shoes and socks.

CASUAL PERFORMANCES: Choir t-shirt, matching pants- blue jeans or khakis depending on performance.

### MELLO-AIRES

GIRLS: Dress to be selected, nylons and dress shoes.

BOYS: Dress shirt and tie to be selected, black dress slacks, shoes and socks.

CASUAL PERFORMANCES: Choir t-shirt, matching pants- blue jeans or khakis depending on performance.

## X. MUSIC BOOSTERS

The Edmonds Woodway Music Boosters is a group of parents from orchestra, band, and choir who coordinate essential volunteer and fundraising duties for the EWHS music program. They are vital to the success of our music programs. Please fill out the Music Boosters information form so that you can receive information about music events and volunteer opportunities. Becoming an active participant in the Music Boosters is an excellent way to be involved in your child's music education. Your contact information will not be shared with outside parties, and will be used only to inform you of upcoming events. Visit the Music Boosters website at [www.ewhsmusic.com](http://www.ewhsmusic.com) for more information about the organization. Booster meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room.

BEL CANTO	MELLO-AIRES
<b>October</b> 25 Fall Concert Great Hall 7:30	<b>October</b> 27 Jazz Symposium MTHS All Day
<b>December</b> 13 winter concert, great hall 7:30	<b>December</b> 6 Winter Jazz Night, Theater 7:30
<b>February</b> 12 Choir Quad concert ECA 7:00 Elementary Tour TBA	<b>December</b> 14 Warm Beach
<b>March</b> 13 Invitational Concert with Choir of the Sound 27 Choir Contest ECA	<b>March</b> Lynnwood Jazz Festival, EdCC, All Day
<b>April</b> 30 MasterWorks Rehearsal MLTHS	<b>April</b> 30 MasterWorks Rehearsal MLTHS
<b>May</b> 1 MasterWorks Concert MLTHS 7:30	<b>May</b> 15/6 Solo Night 24 Edmonds Jazz Connection
<b>June</b> 3 Spring Concert, Great Hall, 7:30	

More information to follow on potential group retreats and additional performances.

**PARTICIPATION CONTRACT Bel Canto/Mello-Aires**

This document will be kept on file as a record that both the student and the parent have read the preceding information. Please also make sure that your current contact information is correct in Skyward.

Student Name (please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names\_\_\_\_\_

Parents' e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Student's e-mail\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's cell phone\_\_\_\_\_

Student's cell phone\_\_\_\_\_

*"I have read and understand the 2007-2008 Bel Canto/Mello-Aires Syllabus, and I agree to abide by the policies stated therein."*

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Beginning of the year forms and fees:

- Ø Music booster volunteer form
- Ø T-shirt \$15 size: S / M / L / XL / 2X / 3X
- Ø Student height in inches in concert shoes\_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to **Edmonds School District / EWHS***