

Liturgy and Choir 1st Grade - Mr. Huntzinger

Welcome to Liturgy and Choir for the 1st Grade!

This year our objective will be to explore different parts of the Liturgy, the lives of the Saints and the meaning of music sung in the church throughout the different seasons of the Church Year.

We will accomplish this by teaching best practice Choral Techniques (Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Form and Timbre) through the liturgical music we sing at the all school Masses. This course supplements the Music and Religion courses, reinforcing what the students are learning while focusing on the instrument of the human voice. We will also “unpack” the Mass so we have a good understanding of what is happening when we gather to celebrate the Eucharist.

We will be using the pedagogical technique known as Solfegé which uses hand symbols and syllables that identify pitches of the musical scale to begin learning how to “sight-read” musical notes on a staff. This system will allow for regular assessment of the students’ progress (vocally). By the end of the year your child will be able to read simple melodies using the solfegé technique. We will rehearse the music for the Christmas program for a majority of the 2nd Quarter.

It is a physiological fact that *almost all* children **can** sing (not true with all adults). All students are expected to give their best performance at every class. We will respect the individual vocal abilities of every student and will never insult or make fun of anyone’s “singing voice” - all students are expected to sing.

CLASSROOM RULES - I expect all students to follow the posted School Rules:

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Enter classroom quickly, quietly and ready for instruction and singing.
2. If directed to pick up papers at the entrance do so without talking and/or sit and wait silently for the Instructor.
3. Always collect/distribute handouts and papers efficiently, quickly and quietly.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be called upon to speak.
5. Use the correct posture, breathing techniques and vowel formation to produce the best sound every rehearsal.
6. Stay in the correct position until directed to change by the Instructor.
7. **There is no use of the restroom during the class period.** (*Students take care of this at break/recess*).
8. If there is an emergency (runny nose/nose bleed or you feel ‘sick’) leave immediately to the restroom. Report to the teacher after class what happened and why you had to leave.

CONSEQUENCES

Choir uses a two card system for discipline:

1. A **YELLOW CARD** will be given after a student has been verbally warned and continues to cease disruptive behavior. It will be given to the classroom teacher by the student and signed and returned for records (I will verify it was given to the classroom teacher).
2. A **RED CARD** will be given if the disruptive behavior continues and will be signed and returned by parents accompanied by a phone call home.

GRADING

In order to receive full credit the students are expected to participate in every class and demonstrate a good working ethic grounded in respectful Christian behavior and attitude.

CONCLUSION

I look forward to a great year of exploration, learning, singing and fun (singing is fun!). You may contact me at any time at: chuntzinger@cosgriff.org or 801-209-3387.

Grades K-1 Choir Grading Rubric

	POSTURE/ CLASS PROCEDURE	MUSICALITY/ TONE AND TECHNIQUE	PRESENTATION (MASS/PERFORMANCE)
<i>Commendable</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Enters class quietly and ready for instruction. -Remains in the correct singing position. -Speaks only when called upon. -Observes classroom procedures and school rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Demonstrates consistent effort in learning the songs and words. -Tries to blend in with the surrounding students. -Always tries to produce the best sound possible (forms proper vowels). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sing at Mass as rehearsed in class. -Responds at Mass (sung and spoken). -Makes every opportunity to sing for God or for people count!
<i>Satisfactory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stays in the correct singing position for most of the class. -Occasionally reminded to focus on class material. -Occasionally (once a quarter) reminded to give more effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sing most of the songs and sings the refrain or chorus well. -Blends in with surrounding students but occasionally over-sings or loses vocal control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pays attention during most of the Mass or practice. -Sings at Mass (sung and spoken) as expected. -Offers their best effort.
<i>Needs Improvement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Slouching, -Hands in pockets/arms and feet crossed. -Reminded to return to correct singing position. -Multiple warnings (see disclosure about multiple warnings) to stop distracting other students or remain on task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reminded often to control their singing and blend with students around them. -Doesn't know the songs or gives little effort when the class is singing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not participate during performances or Mass. -Doesn't sing familiar songs. -Does not give effort (unless sick). -Distracts other students. -Sings without technique. -Does not participate in Mass.