

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC

SPRING SEMESTER 2021

TEACHER: MRS. EMILY BALL
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Welcome!

Welcome to Middle School Music for the 2020-2021 school year! The intent of this letter is to provide important information to both students and parents about what to expect in this elective course. Music will look much different this year in some ways, but our learning objectives will remain very much the same!

Learning Objectives

Our learning objectives, based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Middle School Music, include the following:

- Music literacy
- Creative expression
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture
- Listening to, evaluating, and describing music and music performances

Expectations

Successful music students are expected to:

Be respectful of others and themselves, both in-person and in our virtual classroom.

Be prepared. Students should arrive with a fully-charged iPad. Masks are required for indoor singing. Dress in layers to account for outdoor rehearsals. Bring a full water bottle to keep hydrated.

Be positive and participate during in-person rehearsals and/or when interacting with learning content online. Assignments must be turned in virtually via Google Classroom. Students may need to collaborate virtually with fellow students for project-based assignments.

Be brave! Singing requires experimentation with the voice. Students are expected to give their best effort. Mistakes are OK! Students are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment for themselves and their fellow musicians.

Attendance

Online learners. Sing along daily with the warm-up video (posted weekly on Google classroom) and **post a comment when complete**. Singing warm-ups **daily** is part of your participation grade. Periodically, you will be expected to log-in LIVE (8-8:35am). These days will be announced at least one day prior. If you are unable to log in, contact Mrs. Ball to ensure other arrangements are made.

In-person learners. Warm-ups and rehearsal activities will be completed during class time. *If you are absent from school, you must follow the attendance guidelines for online learners!*

Grading Policy

Participation. Sixty percent is based on participation. This includes answering the Question of the Week and participating in-person or online in a positive way.

Digital Learning. Forty percent is based on the completion of Digital Learning assignments on Google classroom, including projects, quizzes, and other activities as assigned.

Parent Communication

Please sign up for Remind to receive important announcements about Music! Follow one of these options to join:

- Scan QR code on page 1.
- On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and visit: rmd.at/disdchoir
- Text the message **@disdchoir** to the number 81010.

In addition to Remind, I can also be reached via email at eball@driscollisd.us

In Closing

Creating music in this digital world is very different, but still as vitally important as ever. I look forward to getting to know you and exploring this music-making journey together!

Musically yours,

Mrs. Emily Ball