

YHS CHOIRS ~~~ STANDARDS BASED ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW ~~~ 2013 - 2014

LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Monthly Smartmusic assessments will provide all students the opportunity to perform a brief selection of music for the purpose of demonstrating mastery of specific literacy components of the *YHS Choirs Performance Standards* (“a” through “e”). These assessments will take place outside of class time and will require the student to organize time in a way that allows for completion by the assigned deadlines. The process of submitting this assessment will necessarily require student integration of technology, application of the *YHS Choirs Performance Standards* and application of retrieved/learned knowledge. It is the goal of the Smartmusic assessments to tangibly articulate where a student stands towards the general standard of music Literacy. These assessments reflect the first 5 levels of the 6 Cognitive Process Dimensions of Bloom’s Revised Taxonomy (“remember”, “understand”, “apply”, “analyze” and “evaluate”). In addition, students will be assessed on their formal understanding of three foundational music theory standards (“f” - “h”).

DAILY ASSESSMENT

The daily assessment will provide a snapshot of the student’s progress in “i” through “n”, the *YHS Choirs Performance Standards* to do with Technique and YHS Social & Civic Expectations. These “dailies” provide a critical step by step picture of the progress a student is making throughout the term; reflecting positive development and/or specific deficiencies. These scores will be given on a 4 point scale based on student application of those standards in each rehearsal. (4=exceeds, 3=meets, 2=partially meets, 1=does not meet). A “1” in a daily assessment will include either a narrative in powerschool and/or self assessment feedback. Questions or concerns should always be directed to Mr. Westerberg immediately via conversation in person, by phone (363-3621) or via e-mail (rwesterberg@yorkschoools.org).

ONGOING ASSESSMENT

On at least a monthly basis, the scores for each standard will be upgraded or downgraded based on the student’s work in class. Instead of “new” assessments, quiz grades, and so on, the standards scores themselves will be the variable. For example, someone scoring a “2” in standard letter “g” (maintains steady beat with conductor) after one month may earn that score upgraded to a “3” or a “4” based on their actions during the second month. The goal is for students and parents to know at a glance where the student stands in achieving each of the standards and what work remains to be done.

CONCERT PERFORMANCES

The **two required** Concert Performances each term provide the linchpin for the entire course. As a performance based discipline, any successful curriculum will be centered on carefully selected literature, composed specifically for that genre of ensemble that follows through and completes the Creative Process of 1) Selecting... artistic works or repertoire to perform, 2) Analyzing... structure and composition, 3) Interpreting... the expressive intent of the composer, 4) Rehearsing/Evaluating/Refining... all the details and nuances of each selection through independently developed cognitive knowledge and motor skills, 5) Presenting... the selections that are sufficiently prepared to be ‘brought back to life’ for an assembled audience. This is a critical synthesis of all the *YHS Choirs Performance Standards*. Concert Performances are a requirement to bring this all together in a unique, dynamic live event.

Consequently, those unwilling or unable to commit to the required performances
each semester will be unable to achieve the required standards for course completion or credit,
and should drop the course immediately