

YHS Music Program  
Rob Westerberg

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Parents of YHS choral students:

I want to start the semester by alerting you to the Standards Based Assessment for the YHS choral curriculum. *What will this mean for my son or daughter?* In essence, traditional grades in Music have never really articulated what students are learning, nor how well they are learning them. Instead, students have been given the enclosed list of YHS CHORAL STANDARDS. Students will be held accountable for meeting each standard over the span of the term. Instead of traditional “grades” or percentages, a number for each standard will be given: 1 (does not meet the standard), 2 (partially meets the standard), 3 (meets the standard) or 4 (exceeds the standard). At the end of each quarter, the individual student and I will meet and come to consensus as to what their traditional letter grade should be based on what they have achieved in the standards.

On the back of this letter is an explanation of the standards based overview that will be instructed and assessed this semester. Also included is an explanation of the 4 different venues for assessment (**literacy, daily, ongoing** and **concert**). Students will be allowed and encouraged at all times to be reassessed in any given set of standards for the purpose of demonstrating mastery and may use one or more of these vehicles to do so. Consequently, Power School for this course will look very different indeed. You will no longer see anything on the “grades” side of powerschool, disregard anything that looks like “percentages” on the grade side. Instead, **you must view the standards side** to see how your son/ daughter is progressing in achieving them. **There you will see the standards and numbers 1, 2, 3 or 4 listed next to each one.** These numbers will likewise be adjusted throughout the term to reflect student achievement.

While this is a radical departure from “tradition”, academically they - and you - will have a significantly clearer picture of what they know, are able to do **and to what degree**. I will override these scores at the end of each quarter to a letter grade for their transcripts... any set of standards that are consistently “3”s or “4”s is in the “A” realm. As always, I would welcome e-mails or phone calls from you if you have any questions of concerns. The school phone # is 363-3621 and my e-mail is [rwesterberg@yorkschoools.org](mailto:rwesterberg@yorkschoools.org). For more information you may view the music Department web page: [www.yorkschoools.org/yhs/music](http://www.yorkschoools.org/yhs/music)

Regards,

Rob Westerberg