



# Maria Montessori Academy Junior High

## Musical Theatre (Choir) Syllabus

Mrs. Lisa

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**Course Description:** Musical Theatre is a year-long choral performance class. We will learn the basics of rhythm, intonation, good breathing techniques, and body posture. While there will be hands-on learning activities and a little writing (journaling), this is predominantly an active singing class. All performances are required! We will be singing choral arrangements of songs from musicals (both Broadway show-tunes, as well as movie musicals). We will also be learning blocking/choreography, in an effort to bring more acting and, thereby, meaning to our singing.

**Course Expectations:** Students are expected to come to class on-time with a positive attitude and a willingness to try new things. Students are also expected to practice their music for 15-30 minutes DAILY! Recordings of all songs worked on in class will be made available to students so that they can do individual practice in class, as well as at home. Students will keep a journal throughout the year; it is expected that students will maintain this journal and add to it as assigned in class. Students are also expected to maintain a binder for their music, keeping music and binder in good condition. RESPECT, EFFORT, and COLLABORATION are key to your success in this class!

### Textbooks and Materials:

- Sheet music to be provided by teacher
- 3-ring binder (for sheet music)
- Composition book to be used as journal
- PENCIL
- Flash-drive (for downloading recordings of music)

### Grading Plan:

- MMA uses a Standards Based Grading System. Course standards can be found online at [www.uen.org](http://www.uen.org) and the course blog.

What the Student Knows	Score	Traditional Letter Grade
<b>Exceeds Proficiency:</b> In addition to Score 85, the student uses inferences and applications that go beyond what was explicitly taught in class.	95	A+
In addition to Score 85 performance, <u>partial success</u> at inferences and applications that go beyond what was directly explicitly in class.	90	A
<b>Meets Proficiency:</b> No major errors or omissions regarding any of the information and/or processes (simple or complex) that were explicitly taught.	85	B+



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No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and process and partial knowledge of the more complex ideas and processes.	80	B
<b>Approaching Proficiency:</b> No major errors or omissions regarding the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and processes.	75	C+
Partial knowledge of the simpler details and processes but major errors or omissions regarding the more complex ideas and procedures.	70	C
<b>Developing Proficiency:</b> With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes and some of the more complex ideas and processes.	65	D+
With help, a partial understanding of some of the simpler details and processes but not the more complex ideas and processes.	60	D
Even with help, no understanding or skill demonstrated.	59	F

### Course Policies:

Student Work: Students are expected to learn and memorize music, blocking/choreography, as well as spoken lines. Therefore, students need to put in as much effort as necessary to be a successful, contributing part of a musical theatre performance. All music and choreography will be taught during class time. Students need to use class time effectively to learn their parts.

Portfolio: Students will keep a journal in class. These journal entries can be used your portfolio. Students are also encouraged to record themselves singing and to include these recordings in their portfolios.

Group Activities: Choir requires collaboration. Students are required to participate in all group activities. Find peaceful resolutions to any conflicts.

Homework Expectations: All performances require MUCH rehearsal. It is expected that students will spend 15-30 minutes DAILY (more if necessary) practicing their music and choreography.

**\*Note:** This class will present 2 evening performances during the year (once in December and once in May). Everything we do in class will be building up to these performances. Therefore, your participation in the performances is required and part of your grade for the class.

Absences: Because choir is so collaborative, absences not only hurt you, but they hurt the choir as a whole. If you know that you will be absent in advance, please inform the teacher. If there is no notice given for an absence, students are expected to communicate with the teacher IMMEDIATELY upon your return to class to get caught up.

Citizenship Grade: The grace and courtesy you use toward your environment, classmates, and teachers will be factored into your citizenship grade.



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**Class Rules:** Respect the environment and allow others to work. If the right to learn is being intruded upon, a verbal warning will be given so that the student is made aware of the behavior. If the behavior continues, the student will be asked to stay after class or after school in order to review the expectation. If more support is needed a letter will be sent home identifying the behavior in question, which will need to be signed by a parent and returned the next day. Unreturned letters will warrant a phone call home.

**Class Materials:**

All students will need the following DAILY: PENCIL, 3-ring binder, composition book  
It is also suggested that students have a bottle of water in class daily.

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I have read and understand the rules for \_\_\_\_\_ class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_