

# Duke Ellington School of the Arts

## Music Department Course Syllabus

### Course: Show Choir I - IV

Credit: One Carnegie Unit

#### Course Description

The Show Choir is a repertoire performing group, with a diverse choral and vocal repertoire, including selections from various musical styles and genres: Classical (16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries), Spiritual, Gospel, Folk, Opera, Operetta, Blues, Jazz, Motown. Today, singers are not only expected to sing beautifully, but also to dance and act. Developing all of these performance skills enhances the singers' ability to communicate, giving the singer a greater advantage for success. This offers multi-talented students the opportunity to develop all of their performing abilities. The course is designed to help young performing artists learn to effectively combine beautiful singing, good acting and expressive dancing.

#### Content Standards

Four DCPS Music Content Standards are basic to the core skills, concepts and knowledge needed for Show Choir:

- Students sing alone and with others a varied repertoire of music representing diverse genres, styles and cultures
- Students read, notate and interpret notational symbols for rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Students critique their own performance and the performances of others
- Students explore a variety of heritages from music of many cultures

#### Pre-Requisites:

Students must possess an outstanding voice with good tone quality, excellent tonal memory and the desire to learn and study dance and acting.

The course is open to all students at Ellington, regardless of student's major or department, but each student must pass an extensive audition that includes singing, dancing and acting.

### **Course Outline**

The Show Choir rehearses five days a week, with extra dance and drama classes three days per week. There are also workshops on make-up, staging, choreography, etc. The philosophy guiding the group is that students learn best by practicing what they learn through performance.

Annual Performance Opportunities:

1. Holiday Choral Concert
2. Holiday Sing-Along with the Washington Chamber Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
3. Black History Concert Show
4. Music Festivals and Tours (at least one per year)
5. Many other performances throughout the year

### **Grading and Evaluation Procedures**

Grading is based on attendance and participation at rehearsals, performances, workshops, and other activities. Complete costume attire is required to participate in performances. Any student improperly or incompletely attired in the designated costume will not be allowed to perform at that event. An active parent support group assists the Show Choir with logistical and financial matters and helps to mentor and encourage students in their commitment to the Show Choir.