

MSA Academic Committee

Agenda

Weds., Oct. 5, 8 am, Room 12A

1. **Old Business**

- a. (5 min.) Weighted grades (Emily)
- b. (7 min.) MSA's Expectations for Students and Parents (Lisa)
- c. (3 min.) Proposed change in Choir/Symphony course credit (Joelle for Jerry)

2. **New Business**

- a. (5 min.) AP course registration process (Joelle)
- b. (10 min.) Proposed 2017-18 Course and Student Registration, New Student Course Progression (Joelle/Emily)
- c. (5 min.) MSA Strategic Plan – information (John/Tim)

3. **Next Meeting**

- a. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 am in Room 12A. Next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2016. Meetings are open to the public.

Course:

MSA Choir, Symphony Orchestra

Current Course Credit: 5/semester
Desired Credit: 1.0/semester

Rationale:

In the majority of high schools in the Twin-Cities' and national educational institutions, the Choir and the Symphony Orchestra are part of the daily curriculum. Two years ago, we instituted a plan whereby these two groups, although to this point considered extra-curricular activities, could now receive credit hours toward graduation. In other words, they became essentially a curricular course.

At the time, we relied on student attendance as the sole determining factor in grading and in awarding credit for participation. It soon became apparent that, in satisfying the rigors/standards of the ensemble, it was necessary to put in more outside rehearsal time. In fact, it became necessary to ask that participating students put in an equal amount of time outside of the rehearsal in practicing the literature. As this became the norm, more time was desired and requested to the point of tripling the amount of time devoted to the completion of the course syllabus.

This year we have instigated a rehearsal/performance subscription tool called SmartMusic with accompanying assignments and assessments. In order to meet the requirements, the students are asked to meet all criteria that a curricular course is asked to do. As a result, it is conceivable that the student is putting in as much time in and out of class that a one-credit course demands.

Therefore, it would be desirable that the Choir and Symphony Orchestra receive 1.0 credit hours/semester for taking the course. It is a year-long commitment. This would not only award the participants for their efforts, but also bring the courses to the level awarded in other district, state, and national educational institutions.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Shelton, Director of Performing Arts