

SLAUSON CHOIRS

SKILLS SYLLABUS

*A Series of Music and Singing Fundamentals
for the 7th and 8th Grade Singer*

SCALES (to be sung in tune, with no accompaniment or vocal help)

MAJOR: one octave, up and down, Do to Do

MINOR: same, La to La

IN 3RDS: one octave, Do to Do, with skips of a third

IN 4THS: one octave, Do to Do, with skips of a fourth

IN TRIADS: one octave, Do to Do, by triads (e.g. Do-Mi-So, Re-Fa-La, etc)

TWO-PART: one octave, Do to Do, 2nd person 2 beats later

MODAL: Ionian, Phrygian, and Mixolydian Scales, all starting on the same pitch

RHYTHMS (to be counted with a steady beat, all the cards in the set)

LEVEL 1: (green cards) includes whole notes, dotted half notes, half notes, quarter notes, and pairs of eighth notes

LEVEL 2: (blue cards) adds dotted quarters and single eighths

WRITTEN SKILLS (20 notes or symbols in 60 seconds, with 100% accuracy)

TREBLE CLEF: identify by letter name the nine pitches on the treble staff (8th graders add 4 notes to include 2 ledger lines, in both directions)

BASS CLEF: same, in bass staff

KIND: naming notes and rests: whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth and dotted

SOLFEGE SYLLABLES: given Do, find solfège name of different pitches (8th graders are not given Do)

KEY SIGNATURES: name Do, up to five sharps or flats, either clef

ULTIMATE MUSICTHEORY.NET CHALLENGE: identify 100 solfège syllables on www.musictheory.net (link available on the Google Classroom)

PITCH PATTERNS (to be sung by memory, with correct tuning, solfège and phrasing)

P.P. 1: five step-wise phrases in 3/4 time

P.P. 2: eight patterns with the most common skips in 4/4 time

P.P. 3: same as P.P. 1, but using melodic minor scale

P.P. 4: same as P.P. 2, but using natural minor scale

(OVER)

SIGHT READING FACTORY (SRF*)

Level 1 (a, b, and c): Step-wise, key of C, no divided beats, all treble clef. Time signatures use quarter, eighth and half notes for the beat.

Level 2 (a, b, and c): Adds keys up to two sharps or flats

Level 3 (a, b, and c): Adds divisions of the beat, rests, and keys up to five sharps or flats

Level 4 and beyond will be added if students can pass Level 3 and will include skips and more complicated rhythms.

*SRF is an online sight-singing application, accessed through any smart phone, tablet, or computer. Assignments are given throughout the year to make sure students are making progress towards mastery of each level. Mastery is demonstrated only after all three exercises of each level (a, b, and c) are performed accurately. 7th graders are expected to pass Level 1 by the end of the school year. 8th graders are expected to pass Level 1 during first semester and Level 2 by the end of the year).

MR. STECK'S THOUGHTS:

The goal is for 7th graders to master 3 skills per quarter. 8th graders need to master 4 skills per quarter, including repeating any skills passed the year before to assure that the basics are still there and the student is ready for the more advanced. The top students may pass all of these, but it is unusual. Most students who have done well in choir will have mastered 16-18 of these skills after two years. The underlying goal is to help singers develop both their individual voices and their musical skills so they can be knowledgeable and contribute in any musical situation during their lives.