

## Descriptions of Chorus and Piano Courses at Ligon Middle School

- Piano I**            Piano I is a nine-weeks class where students learn to read the musical staff (treble and bass clefs) and basic rhythmic notation (whole values to eighth values). As students begin playing, they match the key position on the piano with its assigned value and placement on the musical staff. Five finger patterns in the keys of C, G, and F are emphasized along with corresponding I, IV and V7 chords. Students are encouraged to stay on task, but also to move at their own pace. Many students go beyond the minimal standards of the course. Students are provided with a Classroom Piano Methods book and use the digital pianos in the piano lab each day independently and with individual instruction from the teacher. Students present recitals for each other every two to three weeks and a final recital for parents at the end of the nine weeks.
- Piano II**            The prerequisite for this class is a grade of "A" in Piano I or at least two years of private instruction. Students continue to build on their skills with more ledger line note reading and more complex rhythmic values. They begin scale work and are required to show proficiency with C, G, D, A, and E major scales. They are encouraged to go farther in their scale work if they succeed with these first five. They spend time learning musical terminology and are required to execute musicianship in their playing. Students present recitals for each other every two to three weeks and a final recital for parents at the end of the nine weeks.
- Apprentice Chorus**    Apprentice Chorus is a semester choral class for sixth graders. No audition is required. Students will learn the basics of healthy vocal technique and will learn to read basic rhythmic notation (whole values to sixteenth values). They will also learn the note names of the treble clef, receive interval training, and sing with the solfege system in the key of C major. They will sing a variety of choral literature and perform at the Evening Fall Chorus Concert in October and in a school day performance in December.
- Treble Chorus**        Treble Chorus (SA) is an intermediate level semester long chorus class. Students who receive a grade of "A" in Apprentice Chorus are eligible for this class. Other students who would like to take this class may become eligible after a private audition with Ms. Moore. Students continue their progress in reading music notation, learning musical terminology, and singing a varied repertoire. They also participate in the East #1 District Music Performance Adjudication in March and in the Evening Spring Chorus Concert in May.
- Honors Chorus**        Honors Chorus (SATB) is a group of 40-50 auditioned 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade singers. They continue the process of developing healthy singing technique, reviewing music notation skills, and sight singing with the solfege system. They learn both treble and bass clefs, advance to dotted and syncopated rhythms and sight sing in the keys of C, F, and G. They sing a variety of repertoire with some advanced pieces. Many of them audition for State Honors Chorus and/or participate in All County Chorus. They have three in house concerts per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). They also participate in the East #1 District Music Performance Adjudication in mid-March along with our Chorus/Band Spring Tour (late March-mid April). Some after school rehearsal is required for this class (once per month).

Vocal  
Ensemble

Vocal Ensemble (SSA) is a group of primarily 8<sup>th</sup> grade female singers. They continue the process of developing healthy singing technique, reviewing music notation skills, and sight singing with the solfege system. They advance to dotted and syncopated rhythms and sight sing in a variety of major keys and some minor keys. They sing a variety of repertoire with many advanced pieces. Many of them audition for State Honors Chorus and/or participate in All-State or All-County Chorus. They have three in house concerts per year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). They also participate in the East #1 District Music Performance Adjudication in mid-March along with our out-of-state Chorus/Band Spring Tour (late March-mid April). Because of their smaller size, they are often invited to perform at local venues (e.g. The Governor's Mansion, Civic Organizations, State Government functions, etc.)