

# Essential Standards and Course Descriptions

## Grade 6 Choir

Hortonville Middle School | Greenville Middle School

The following document has been created with our parents in mind. The purpose is to communicate with parents related to the 'essential standards' being taught for every subject and in every grade level. Included is also a brief course description written by a collaborative team of teachers representing both middle schools. As a school district, we believe very strongly that although we have two unique middle schools, both schools must ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum. What this means is that the same 'essential' learning being taught at HMS will also be taught at GMS to ensure that EVERY student, regardless of enrollment, will be prepared to enter Hortonville High School having learned prioritized academic and behavioral expectations.

**What is an 'essential standard'?** Every school district adopts academic standards for every area of study. The Hortonville Area School District is no different. Unfortunately, not all standards are created equal. This means that some standards have been predetermined by the teaching faculty as most critical or 'essential' for students to learn and demonstrate before moving on to the next grade level. These standards are assessed and reported out to parents on progress reports (formerly called report cards). We sometimes call these our 'must know' standards. This is not to say that all other standards, or 'nice to know standards', are not covered, but they may not be covered to the same level as our 'essential standards'.



Below you will find a listing of courses taught at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level in the Hortonville Area School District. Included will also be a brief course description and the 'essential standards' assessed. If you should ever have any questions, we strongly encourage parents to contact our faculty members early and often.

**Subject:** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

**Course Description:** Chorus is a performance class that is open to all students. The rehearsals will focus on learning proper vocal technique, music reading skills and how to work with others while performing varied choral literature. Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Choirs meet every other day during the exploratory class block. In addition to full rehearsals, all choir students will have a 10-minute lesson at least once a quarter.

### Essential Standards Assessed:

○ **A.8.5**

Sing accurately and with good breath control throughout their singing ranges, alone and in small and large ensembles

### MUSIC PERFORMANCE

#### A: SINGING

#### Content Standard

Students in Wisconsin will sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

#### Rationale:

Singing is a basic means of musical expression in all cultures. Learning proper use of the voice in singing and speaking from an early age is vital for effective communication. Students' ability to use the voice effectively in singing opens the door to personal fulfillment and expression as well as to valuable activities in the school and community.

**A.8.5**

Sing accurately and with good breath control throughout their singing ranges, alone and in small and large ensembles

○ **E.8.6**

Use a system (syllables, numbers, or letters) to sight-read simple melodies in both the treble and bass clefs, accurately and expressively, with a level of difficulty of two on a scale of one to six\*

**MUSIC LITERACY**

**E: READING AND NOTATING**

**Content Standard**

Students in Wisconsin will read and notate music.

**Rationale:**

Much like letters and words in a novel or a poem, music notation represents another language or symbolic system of communication. Unlike the written or spoken word, music and music notation transcend the boundaries of countries and cultures. Reading and notating music gives the students access to a vast body of contemporary and historical music literature, as well as to a unique mode of personal expression.

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Use a system (syllables, numbers, or letters) to sight-read simple melodies in both the treble and bass clefs, accurately and expressively, with a level of difficulty of two on a scale of one to six\*

\* \_In music education, musical pieces are rated on a scale of difficulty from one to six.\_

○ **E.8.7**

Identify and define standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression

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Other Topics Covered:  
Analysis of a musical