

About the School

East High School

Denver, CO

Type:

Urban/Comprehensive

Grades:

9-12

Students:

1,900

Very mixed socio-economic status

Arts Requirement:

None

About the Music Program

Faculty:

2 full-time (1 vocal and 1 instrumental)

Students:

142

Facilities:

Above Average in the Area

- 2 classrooms (instrumental and vocal)
- School auditorium

Required Courses:

None

Elective Vocal Music Courses:

Beginning Choir, Men's Ensemble, Seraphim, Honor Choir, Angelaires, Beginning Music Theory, AP Music Theory, and Voice

About the Featured Classes

Honor Choir X:

This is an advanced-level mixed ensemble that performs a wide variety of music styles. The X connotes a high-level course that moves at a faster pace. As a result, students receive a higher grade point for these classes: A=5.2 instead of 4.0.

Typical Subsequent Course:

Angelaires

Audition Requirements:

Students must demonstrate music reading, vocal ability, aural skill, and part-singing ability. Rehearsal discipline, school attendance, and dedication to vocal music (particularly in other ensembles) are also examined.

Student Motivation:

High. Students are motivated by a love of singing.

Men's Ensemble:

Beginning level ensemble for boys that focuses on voice training and rudimentary music reading skills.

Audition Requirements:

None. Students only need the ability to match pitch (hear a note and sing it back accurately).

Typical Subsequent Course:

Honor Choir

Student Motivation:

Mixed. Some students will become motivated to stay in the choir program.

In the Teacher's Words

How did you develop the idea to use a tape recorder as an assessment tool?

Over the years I have struggled to find an efficient way to assess students. Testing them individually took several class periods and left the class unattended. I finally figured out that testing several students at once with tape recorders was the most efficient for the class and for me as the teacher.