

Choir

Department: Speech and Language

Priority: Very popular class that is an elective, but holds a high priority for ongoing student

Overall purpose of class:

This class provides a pleasurable way to encourage fluent speech for students with aphasia and to increase vocal strength and flexibility for students with neuro motor deficits. Through group singing students receive “melodic intonation therapy” in a joyful, social and creativity-stimulating environment.

Number of classes held per week:

Elective offered once a week

Optimum class time:

Both morning and afternoon work for this class

Instructor requirements:

Need a qualified musician who works with supervision and support from a speech therapist.

Number of students:

Up to 20

Student ability range and limitations:

This class supports a broad range of abilities, from fluent speakers who love to sing to individuals with very severe expressive aphasia. One student’s wife said: “this class is such a gift, it’s the only time I hear my husband’s voice, because he can no longer speak.”

Space and Equipment requirements:

There are no special requirements. A piano is nice and we do our class with a guitar or acapella.

Student Needs to be met from the perspective of the instructor:

Students in this class increase:

- Fluency and vocal flexibility
- Knowledge of vocal hygiene e.g. the importance of hydration
- Awareness and control of pitch, resonance and volume

Typical Student Goals that lead to placement in the class:

- Students state that they miss singing and they set a goal to sing again.
- Students with poor breath support who complain that people can’t hear them, set goals to increase volume and projection.

Suggested Lessons and Activities:

Students create repertoire and perform twice a year.

Lots of standard vocal exercises used in a playful way