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Discussion Question 6

What types of choral ensembles are appropriate at the high school level?

The types of choral ensembles that are appropriate at the high school level are concert choir, chamber singers, mixed chorus, choral union, men's and women's choir, small groups, treble choir, ninth-grade mixed chorus, Broadway musical chorus, and voice class. A concert choir is comprised of those students who auditioned and made it in. It is for both female and male singers with the highest musical abilities and singing achievement. There is a variety of the amount of students in this choir; it just depends on what the director wishes. This is usually the top choral group in a high school. The next group is the chamber singers. This is a group of the best singers drawn from chamber choir and is usually fairly small. Chamber and madrigal literature is usually performed in this choir, and it is usually volunteered and no credit is received. The next group is mixed chorus. This is a general high school chorus open to all males and females in the high school. This choir usually feeds into concert choir and chamber singers as those students' abilities grow. Choral union is the next choir made up of those singers in concert and mixed chorus combined. This is usually because the mixed chorus is too weak to have a public performance, and so they can have that experience, they combine with the concert choir for rehearsals and concerts. Men's and women's choruses are another type of choir in which all students are able to participate in, and they learn to sing a variety of music with their same gender in different voice parts. Show choirs are another type of choir that usually receives no credit for the participation, and the students in show choir must be a member of another choir to actively participate in it. Sizes of these ensembles differ depending on the number of students interested. Popular music is usually sung, and choreography is incorporated for a fun lively feel. The next ensembles are small groups usually trios, quartets, and octets. These groups usually have minimal help from the conductor, or they have to sing in front of their peers, so they practice extra hard in order to sing well as their small group. A treble choir is when an ensemble that results from a choir program that doesn't have many boys. Girls or women mostly make up this choir, and it is a feeder into the next choirs. This ensemble is formed so that these singers do not overpower those other singers in the mixed or concert choirs because there isn't a suitable boy to girl ratio. Ninth-grade mixed chorus is keeping those freshmen students all together in a choir both girls and boys. Four-part music can be sung, and this acts as another feeder program for the next ensembles. These students feel more comfortable with each other, and older students cannot outshine

or overshadow them. The final choral ensemble would be the Broadway musical chorus. Students are auditioned for this ensemble, and dancing, and much singing preparation is done. Students can achieve great things in this ensemble with little instruction from the teacher and lots of encouragement.