Middle School Choir Standards & Benchmarks

Standard 1 - Perform
Students will sing/play, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music by the end of MS Choir
1. Sing music in unison, two or more parts using literature of progressive difficulty.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of proper breathing techniques and correct posture.
3. Sing with technical accuracy.
4. Sing an expanding repertoire of music representing diverse cultures, genres, and styles.
5. Perform rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic patterns accurately.
6. Respond to conducting cues with increased awareness of musical elements; i.e., balance, tempo, dynamics, and style.
7. Demonstrate improving ensemble skills.
8. Demonstrate evidence of consistent and appropriate practice habits.

Standard 2 - Perform
Students will read and write music notation by the end of MS Choir
1. Identify and read rhythmic patterns using whole, half, dotted half, quarter, dotted quarter, eighth, sixteenth notes and rests in varied meter and time signatures (2/4,3/4, 4/4, 6/8).
2. Identify, read, and notate melodic and rhythmic patterns using accepted practices including solfege.
3. Identify the notes on a staff using the appropriate clef.
4. Identify sharp signs, flat signs, natural signs, and key signatures, major/minor modes, and their functions in music being performed.
5. Identify and apply symbols and traditional terms that refer to dynamics, tempo, meter, and diction.
6. Demonstrate ability to apply reading and notating skills to diatonic sight-singing.

Standard 3 – Create
Students will create music through performance by the end of MS Choir
1. Express and interpret the musical concepts of balance, blend, phrasing, intonation, and timing.
2. Imitate demonstrated rhythms, melodies, and harmonies.
3. Demonstrate ensemble awareness.

Standard 4 –Respond
Students will listen to, respond to, analyze, evaluate, and describe music by the end of MS Choir
1. Listen to and identify a variety of musical styles and genres.
2. Listen to, identify, and describe simple musical forms.
3. Identify musical elements and expressive qualities using appropriate musical vocabulary.
4. Describe and respond to specific music elements within a given work; e.g. crescendo.
5. Describe contrasts of timbre.
6. Evaluate group and individual (self and others) performances utilizing specific criteria.
7. Demonstrate appropriate audience behavior in various settings.

**Standard 5 – Perform/Respond**  
Students will understand music in relation to history and a variety of cultures.

*by the end of MS Choir*  
1. Perform in cultural events in an appropriate manner.  
2. Describe how distinguishing characteristics of quality music are used in examples from various cultures.  
3. Perform music in the context of its history and culture.  
4. Listen to music in the context of its history and culture using resources (internet, CDs, etc).