

WAYSIDE MS CHOIR HANDBOOK

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Kristian Gorr-Daniell, Director Rachel Brookover, Assistant Director

Dear WMS Choir parents and students,

Welcome back to another exciting year for the Wildcat Choirs! We believe that the WMS choir department is a family where students learn valuable qualities. Did you know that being a part of a music class helps your child build a future of success through learning grit, work ethic, time management, leadership, teamwork, and more? Your child will also learn to understand musical language and perform many different types of music. We are very passionate about sharing our love for music with our students.

Choir students will have the opportunity to participate in many exciting activities, including concerts, field trips, and social events. Enclosed, you will find WMS Choir expectations and policies, calendar, information about uniforms, officer elections, grading, and private voice lessons. Please note in the section on grading that choir concerts and after school rehearsals are required and graded. Please let us know **by Friday, August 30** if you have any conflicts with the choir schedule.

The WMS Choir Department cannot thrive without our parent volunteers. Parental involvement will truly be a driving force behind our choir program's success.

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/NDgwNzplbi1VUw==>

We will communicate via remind, email, and skyward to make sure that you are aware of all concerts, socials, or other choir events. Please complete the survey below and send your child's choir fee by Friday, August 30, 2024. If you need to send choir dues later than August 30, please email Mrs. Gorr-Daniell or Miss Brookover. We look forward to working with each of you this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call at 817-232-0543 ext. 5125 or email kgorr-daniell@ems-isd.net or rbrookover@ems-isd.net.

Sincerely,

Kristian Gorr-Daniell, Director

Rachel Brookover, Assistant Director

EXPECTATIONS/WAYSIDE WAY

Choir is different than any other class at WMS. In order to be successful, we must work as a team in class every day. The following rules are for your benefit. Citizenship grades are affected if a student is at the 2nd offense. ***YOUR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS DEPENDS ON YOUR COOPERATION WITH THESE EXPECTATIONS.***

1. Be Respectful- Have permission to speak and always THINK (is it True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind)
2. Be Safe- Keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself at all times. (*"We were just playing" does not excuse you from this rule.*) Gum, food, drinks, or candy may not be brought into the choir room.
3. Be Punctual- Students will be in assigned seats with choir folders, music and pencils when the tardy bell rings.
4. Be Prepared- Students should have a choir folder with music and pencil everyday.
5. Be Responsible- Always Participate and give 100% EVERY DAY!!

DISCIPLINE POLICY

First offense:	Verbal warning
Second offense:	Phone call/Email home and/or Conference
Third offense:	Detention (morning or afterschool)
Fourth offense:	Office referral

ANY SERIOUS OFFENSE THAT HINDERS THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND/OR THREATENS THE SAFETY OF OTHERS WILL RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE OFFICE REFERRAL.

***If a student is removed from class or assigned ISS or detention, he/she will be given a written assignment. Failing to complete this assignment will be handled in the same manner as skipping detention - the assignment will be doubled.**

GENERAL CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Teachers are actively involved in teaching during the entire class period. If you have a medical problem that warrants frequent trips to the nurse or restroom, please provide Mrs.

Gorr-Daniell or Miss Brookover with a note from the school nurse, and we will allow you to use those facilities when necessary.

2. All backpacks, school binders, athletic bags, and purses are to be placed on the tables not on the risers or in the hallway. The only materials you can bring to the risers are your choir folder with pencil bag and music, and bottled water if necessary. (PENS ARE NOT ALLOWED)

3. Please remember that scented sprays and body lotions should not be opened in the choir room for any reason.

4. *NO GUM CHEWING.*

5. All school rules and policies are in effect when we go on trips. If you break the rules on a trip, you will not go on the next trip.

6. Any students who are disrespectful and fail to follow the expectations for a substitute or intentionally skips a concert or rehearsal without reason will be subject to missing out on the following social event for the WMS choir.

7. Students MUST keep track of their choir binder throughout the year. Students will have -10 points for each day their binder is not put away properly, which will be reflected on their weekly demonstration grade. If the binder is lost, they will be required to purchase another receiving -10 for every day they do not have their binder.

GRADING

The WMS Choir program is based on pride and excellence in everything that we do. Students receive a weekly grade based on their performance in class that week. Each student begins the week with a 100 and points may be deducted based on their written work, skill demonstration (starts immediately after the tardy bell), bringing materials every day, occasional before or after school rehearsals.

Here is how we will calculate your grade in choir:

40% is daily grades. Weekly grades come from oral and written work, skill demonstration (starts 30 seconds after the tardy bell), having necessary materials every day (music binder with music, pencil, highlighter) and occasional before or after school rehearsals.

Daily Grades are based on the following:

-10 points- no binder

-5 points- no pencil (a pencil is provided for students at the beginning of the year. If they lose that pencil, there are pencils provided at the front of the classroom which they are responsible to grab before our class/rehearsal begins)

-5 points- no participation for an activity (warm up, sightreading, rehearsal-dancing and singing)

-5 points- not participating in the warmup at the tardy bell

60% is summative assessments. Test grades come from oral (sight reading and part singing) and written/Canvas tests, concert attendance/punctuality and concert performance/behavior.

EXTRA CREDIT

If you wish, you may get one extra credit grade of 100 per six weeks by attending a choir concert or voice recital outside of WMS (your elementary school or Boswell HS or a church choir performance would be some examples.) The program **MUST** be a choir or vocal program – not an instrumental performance. You must bring me a program from the event signed by the concert's conductor and you before the end of the six weeks to get extra points. If a program is not available, have your parents write a note or send an email.

OFFICERS

Officers will be elected in each class at the beginning of the school year. You must apply for these positions to be selected. These positions will be decided by the choir teachers and make up the WMS Choir Council. Paperwork will be sent home at student request.

VOICE LESSONS

One of the best things the WMS Choir department offers is private voice lessons for choir students. This allows a teacher to work with your child **ONE-ON-ONE** to help your child's individual challenges. You do not have to be planning a career in music to benefit immensely from this instruction. From students who are ready to audition for All-Region Choir to beginners who just want to improve their

singing and self-confidence, private lessons are one of the best activities here at WMS. Voice lessons are highly recommended, and these students are usually the best of the best in the WMS choir! If you're interested in voice lessons, they cost \$21/lesson and lessons are weekly during the school day. WMS Choir department fundraises for our voice lesson program and all students will receive a scholarship that covers \$10/lesson. This means that your lessons will only cost **\$11/lesson**. PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILD!

UNIFORMS & FEES

All 7th and 8th graders are required to wear formal concert attire throughout the year. This will be borrowed from the WMS Choir Department. **They will receive this attire in the Fall and must return it by the end of the year. (If formal attire is not returned, the student will be charged a replacement fee.)** Please use the QR code below to make all payments. If paying with a check, checks must be made payable to WMS Choir. If you are unable to pay your uniform fee by Friday, August 30, please email Mrs. Gorr-Daniell or Miss Brookover.

6TH GRADE CHOIRS ONLY: \$40- choir shirt, supplies/music costs

Informal Concert Attire-Choir shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes or boots (no sandals, slides, or heels). The choir shirts are 50% cotton/50% polyester and are screen-printed.

7th/8th GRADE BOYS ONLY: \$50-choir shirt, supplies/music costs, and cleaning fee for formal concert attire

Informal Concert Attire-Choir shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes or boots (no sandals, slides, or heels).

Formal Concert Attire-Boys will need to provide black dress shoes, black socks, and black dress pants. We will provide each boy a black shirt and blue tie.

7th/8th GRADE GIRLS ONLY: \$50-choir shirt, supplies/music costs, and cleaning fee for formal concert attire

Informal Concert Attire-Choir shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes or boots (no sandals, slides, or heels).

Formal Concert Attire-Girls will need to provide a pair of black closed-toe shoes. We will provide each girl with a black dress.

ALL CHOIR STUDENTS AND PARENTS:

WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE HAVING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. WE WORK OUT PAYMENT PLANS FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN FINANCIAL NEED. HOWEVER, CHOIR UNIFORM MONEY IS REQUIRED TO BE PAID BEFORE A STUDENT CAN PAY FOR ANY OPTIONAL ITEMS. IF THE CHOIR DEPARTMENT PURCHASES ITEMS FOR A STUDENT (LIKE BLACK SHOES OR PANTS), THOSE ITEMS MUST BE REPAID BEFORE THAT STUDENT PAYS FOR ANY OPTIONAL EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES.

CONCERTS

Concerts and rehearsals are a necessary part of any performing organization's activities. Attendance at concerts and occasional after school rehearsals is **graded and mandatory** for all choir students. Concert attendance will be weighted as two major test grades, (one for performance grade and one for audience etiquette) It is important that your child arrives 15 minutes before the concert start time. Points will be deducted on your child's grades in they are late to a rehearsal or concert. **REMEMBER: TO BE EARLY IS ON TIME; TO BE ON TIME IS LATE.** Skipping a concert is unacceptable without prior communication and will result in two zero major test grades.

Emergencies do happen and are excusable with a written parent note or email - phone calls do not excuse a student from a concert or rehearsal. Mrs. Gorr-Daniell or Miss Brookover must receive the note within 24 hours of when you get back to school. You are not automatically excused with a note, but you are automatically unexcused if we do not get a note. If we need to follow up, we will contact the student's parent or guardian. Students who are excused from a concert will be given a week from their date of return to school to complete a concert makeup assignment.

***You are given a calendar at the beginning of the school year to look at the dates and agree to them with your guardian. Please schedule the following events: family vacations, all athletic events outside of Wayside MS events, doctor appointments accordingly. Please communicate any issues ahead of time including transportation and babysitting a sibling. Please see both QR codes below. See the calendar and fill out the Microsoft form to share important information and sign that you have read, understand and agree to this handbook.



CHOIR CALENDAR



HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT/SHIRT SIZE



PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM

