

Choir Spring 2015



Welcome!

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable winter break and that you are looking forward to a fun-filled, musically enriching semester! Whether this is your first time in a choir, or you have been singing for years, you will be sure to have a great time as a member of the WMS choir! We will be learning a wide variety of music, including classical music, world music, and even some pop music.

Choir is a class that focuses on the many elements that go into singing, including proper singing technique, reading music, understanding music markings, and performance skills. All of the skills you learn over the semester will be displayed at the end of semester concert. Friends and family are invited to Wydown to join in the celebration of your semester's work at the final concert!

IMPORTANT DATE INFORMATION

Thursday, May 7 2015 - Performance at 7 pm, Call time at 6:30 pm

Be sure to mark your calendar!

The end of semester choir concert is part of your grade so it is very important that you mark your calendar early and make it a priority to be there, on time.

If for some reason you cannot make it to the concert you need to let me know when you turn in this form. Because the performance is part of your grade (20%) those points need to be made up, just like a test in any other class. You will need to complete a makeup assignment to earn those points so your grade will not be affected negatively. The makeup assignment is to be completed by the day of the concert to earn full credit. Obviously emergencies come up. If this is the case the situation will be handled on an individual basis and will be discussed between the student and teacher on how to earn the points back.

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CHOIR

I will treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

This applies to everyone. Every person is to be treated with respect all the time. A choir is a team. In order for our choir to work everyone must feel like a part of the team and treated as equals.

I will treat personal and school property with respect.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful choir classroom here at Wydown! In order to have such a nice working space we must maintain and keep it in working order. The first code stated that everyone must be treated with respect, the same applies to the choir room and any items in it, including your choir folder and sheet music. Your sheet music is part of a choral music library. The music is intended to be reused, not only between classes, but also in years to come. Please be very gentle with your music to keep it in good condition.

I will create and maintain a positive and safe environment.

In order for everyone to learn it is vital that every student feel safe and secure to work in this class. This is a performance based class. **NEGATIVITY is NOT ALLOWED or TOLERATED.** This is an area that I take very seriously. You are a team and everyone must support and encourage each other. If there is any problem please come and talk to me.

I will come to class prepared and on time for learning.

We have limited time to work everyday. If you are late that cheats us and yourself out of time, and breaks focus from our rehearsal. You need to come to class prepared to learn everyday. You do NOT need to bring anything to class, however it is your responsibility to get your music folder every day at the start of class and sit in your assigned seat and wait for class to begin. In order to start class on time it is very important you make it a priority to get your music quickly and efficiently.

I will act responsibly and accept consequences for my actions.

This statement is short and to the point. It states that you will do the right thing. If, for any reason, you don't do the right thing, I ask that you admit and accept the consequences without placing blame on someone else.

I will help everyone in this school feel capable, connected, and contributing.

As stated earlier, we work as a team. If our choir is going to work, then everyone must be a team player. You are a group of singers working together and everyone must feel capable, connected, and contributing. I said it before, but it is worth repeating, everyone must support and encourage one another in a positive way to work together as a unified choir.

Wydown Code of Conduct

We will use the Wydown Code of Conduct all Choir Classes.

We will discuss each of the codes and how they apply to the Choir Classroom.

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I will treat personal and school property with respect.

I will create and maintain a positive and safe environment.

I will come to school prepared and on time for learning.

I will act responsibly and accept consequences for my actions.

I will help everyone in this school feel capable, connected, and contributing.

Choir Rules and Procedures

As stated before, Wydown is very lucky to have such a wonderful choir room! The following rules are in place so that we can have a fun and safe choir classroom.

- No running, jumping or horseplay is allowed.
- No food or drink, and absolutely **NO Gum!**
- When arriving to class students are to get their music promptly and report to their assigned seat on the risers. This will allow us to take attendance quickly and begin class on time.
- You are responsible for taking care of your music. Class will not be dismissed until all music is put away properly.
- During performances use proper choir performance etiquette. We will cover this topic closer to concert time.
- Support each other!
- Be a "team player"
- **No negativity!**
- Follow all classroom procedures.
- Have fun!

Tardies

It is very important to arrive to class on time in a safe and efficient manner. You are allowed three tardies for the semester. Every tardy after that will result in a detention. When students are not on time it impacts and disrupts the entire class. We will discuss the tardy policy in more detail during the first week of class.

Grading

Students will be graded on rehearsal skills, such as proper singing technique, following class procedures, maintaining focus during rehearsals, and being a good choir member. They will be also graded on how well they focus their efforts during the dress rehearsal and their attendance, proper attire, and behavior at the concerts (more information to come regarding concert attire). Each rehearsal period covers approximately 2 weeks. Each student is required to demonstrate the following at all times: staying focused during rehearsal, listening when being addressed by the director, demonstrating proper singing technique, participating in rehearsal, and following all classroom procedures. Each rehearsal phase will be graded separately so that students will have the chance for a "fresh start" every two weeks. The end of semester concert is considered the final project for this class and is worth 20% of the student's grade.

For your parents

Your student's progress is a result from a partnership between student, parent, and teacher. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is through communication that will make this a successful semester!

Email: colleenriordan@claytonschools.net

Phone: (314) 854-6485

Consequences

Choir is a collaborative class. Students who disrupt class or use inappropriate rehearsal etiquette are keeping others from learning.

All class expectations will be discussed at the beginning of the term and will be upheld through the year.

1st Offense: Verbal Reminder

2nd Offense: Reduction in rehearsal points, resulting in a "0" for that day's rehearsal grade (Conference with teacher)

3rd Offense: Removal from rehearsal and phone call home

4th Offense: Office Visit

Tardiness

Arriving on time is vital to the success of class. All students are to be in their assigned seats with their music when the bell rings. Students arriving after the bell will be given a tardy. I understand that from time-to-time things happen, but every effort should be made to arrive on time to class.

Each student will be allowed three tardies and on the fourth tardy they will receive an after school detention. Each additional tardy will result in additional detentions as well as appropriate administrative consequences.

I have read the Choir Expectations Packet and understand what is expected. I understand that I am committing to the concert date on 5/7/15.

Please sign and return this form by Friday, January 9, 2015.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Information
Your preferred contact information

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____