

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

6th Grade Choir
Handbook

2019-2020

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6th Grade Choir Handbook

August 29, 2019

Dear Choir Members and Parents,

Welcome to 6th Grade Choir! I am looking forward to making beautiful music together this school year. In this handbook you will find the policies and procedures of the choral program as well as information concerning the upcoming school year.

Sixth Grade Choir will meet from 2:43-3:25 p.m. every Monday and Thursday throughout the school year. The requirements and grading for choir will be the same as any other music class at WCGS. Choir is part of our academic program and meets the music elective requirement for sixth grade students.

Please read through the following information very carefully. Concerts are mandatory and there are several additional singing and performing opportunities for those interested. **Students and their parents must sign and turn in the attached sheet by Thursday, September 5.**

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cathy Liebenow
Choir Director

Goals and Objectives

The main goal of 6th Grade Choir is to glorify God by singing skillfully to Him as an act of worship. This will be accomplished through focusing on the following disciplines: learning a variety of musical styles and genres, music theory, ear training, historical context, musical expression, vocal technique and performance. It is our desire that students learn the joy of singing with energy, skill, and enthusiasm!

Discipline

6th Grade Choir is a group which encourages unity, teamwork, ensemble, and cooperation, with everyone striving for a common goal; making beautiful music together. As Christians, we also recognize the importance of working together for one ultimate goal – bringing glory to God. If a student cannot contribute positively to a respectful classroom atmosphere or if discipline problems develop during rehearsal, students will not be allowed to affect the quality of learning taking place in class. Continued problems will result in that student being removed from rehearsal and ultimately being dismissed from the choir. Consequences may also include after school detention, additional assignments, or a reduction of the student's grade. Choir members are expected to contribute positively to the classroom atmosphere, use their gifts as a part of the ensemble and humbly accept responsibility for their actions. Students should be looking to glorify God in all they do, especially as they sing with excellence and work toward the success of our choir program.

Daily Rules and Procedures

The following rules are set in place to create an atmosphere of learning, respectful collaboration and musical success.

1. Be respectful to everyone at all times.
2. Enter the rehearsal room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
3. A student is considered late to class if they are not in their seat, **ready to sing by 2:45 p.m.**
4. Choir members will have the following at every rehearsal:
 - a. ALL MUSIC
 - b. PENCIL (students supply their own)
5. No food, drink or gum is allowed. Water bottles are allowed and encouraged in the choir rehearsal.
6. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
7. Concert and rehearsal attendance and participation is mandatory. A student is required to be at rehearsal if they are in attendance for the regular school day.

Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of in-class singing and participation, singing tests, concert performance, and the students' individual progress. Concerts will be 15% of a students' grade and rehearsals and classroom participation will make up 85% of a students' grade. Students should plan on bringing music home regularly to learn parts and

memorize words. Homework will consist of memorizing music for concerts. In-class work will include rehearsing music, learning music, reading skills, learning to identify musical terms and markings, and practicing proper singing technique. Singing tests will be given occasionally to assess the students' improvement.

In addition to these activities, students may also be interested in doing the following:

Attending Extra Concerts/Recitals – TBA throughout the year.

Taking Private Voice Lessons –See Mrs. Liebenow for information and recommendations concerning private voice teachers.

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest – Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up in February. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this performing contest. (Private lessons strongly encouraged if you'd like to be a part.)

ILMEA District 9 Music Festival – This is a district-wide (most of DuPage County) honors ensemble for which all 6th-8th grade band, choir, and orchestra students have the opportunity to audition. You must register to audition through Mrs. Liebenow. The deadline for registration is September 13, 2019.

Concert Uniforms

Since we will be performing at a number of different venues throughout the year, the choir will utilize the following uniforms for performances:

- 1) A WCGS issued polo shirt for all music ensembles. The details about cost and ordering will be available in the next few weeks.**
- 2) Khaki (tan) colored pants and dress shoes.**

The purpose of a uniform is just that, that we are all “uniform” in our appearance. Our uniforms will be mandatory of all 6th grade choir students and will be worn for all performances.

Attendance

All students who are in regular attendance for the school day will be expected to be in and on time to choir rehearsal. ***It is not allowed for a student to skip choir to do homework or make up a test or quiz.*** If a student is absent from school it is the student's responsibility to determine what material was covered in his/her absence and to make up anything that was learned that day.

Rehearsal Schedule

6th Grade Choir rehearses twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays, from 2:43-3:25 p.m. Please be on time and come ready to sing.

Parent Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers for our concerts. We need parental supervision for concerts. If you would like to volunteer, please email Mrs. Beth Wright at bwright@wheatonchristian.org.

Concerts and Important dates

The concerts listed below are **mandatory** and may not be missed for any reason other than illness or a death in the family. Student's grades for concerts cannot be made up with the exception of illness or death in the family. Concerts are to be viewed as a final exam. Failure to attend concerts will cause a **one-letter drop** in the student's quarter grade.

Junior High Choral Concert 7:00 p.m., December 18, 2019
Junior High Pops Concert 7:00 p.m., Thursday May 12, 2020

All Concerts are to be held in the WCGS Commons unless noted otherwise.

In addition to the above concerts, students may **choose** to be involved in the following events:

ILMEA Registration Deadline Friday, September 13, 2019
ILMEA Music Festival Auditions Saturday, September 28, 2019
ILMEA Music Festival Saturday, November 9, 2019
IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest..... Saturday, February 29, 2020

6th Grade Choir Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of the 6th Grade Choir for the 2019-2020 school year.

Student's Name (Please Print) and Sign

Parent's Signature

**Please detach this form, sign and return to Mrs. Liebenow
by Thursday, September 5, 2019.**