

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

Seventh Grade
Choir
Handbook

2009-2010

Wheaton Christian Grammar School Seventh Grade Choir Handbook

September 9, 2009

Dear Choir Members and Parents,

Seventh grade choir will meet during “O hour” on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m.- 8:40 a.m. The group meets in Mr. Wright’s music room. The requirements and grading for choir will be the same as any other music class at WCGS. In other words, choir is part of our academic program and will meet the music elective requirement for seventh grade students. The first choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 9th.

Please read through the following information very carefully. Students and their parents must turn in the signed sheet by Friday, September 18th.

I’m looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carol Knosp

Goals and Objectives

The main goal of the Seventh 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, 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

Choir is a group which encourages oneness, teamwork, ensemble, and cooperation, with everyone striving for a common goal. This all comes at a middle school student's life when individual identity is desired. As Christians, we all recognize the importance of working together cooperatively, for one goal – bringing glory to God. Occasionally, a very small number of students find they cannot make this kind of sacrifice and become disruptive discipline problems in the choir rehearsal. These 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. Consequences may include a one on one conference with the director, after school detention, call to parents, additional assignments, and a reduction of the student's daily grade. Choir members need to accept *responsibility* for their actions, good or bad. Students should be looking to glorify God 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 and success. Students who violate these rules are responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurting the entire choir.

1. Enter the music room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get your music and take your seat.
3. A student is considered late to class if they are not in their seat, **ready to sing by 8:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. If a student is late, they must stop in the office for a pass before they will be allowed into the class.**
4. Concert attention will be observed when the director begins warm-ups and no further talking will be permitted.
5. During rehearsal, music must be out and opened to the proper page.
6. All school books, backpacks and equipment not needed for the choir rehearsal should remain in the hall.
7. Good posture is of great importance at all times.

8. When class is over, quietly remain in your seat until you are dismissed.
9. Absolutely **no gum**, food, or drink (except water bottles, which are allowed and encouraged) in the choir rehearsal.
10. 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.
11. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others.
12. Accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.

Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of preparation, performance, and progress that includes participation/attendance at rehearsals and concerts. Quizzes and tests will be given on an occasional basis to assess a student's progress throughout the year. Homework will consist of memorizing music for concerts, learning music reading skills, and learning to identify musical terms and markings. Singing tests will be given occasionally to assess a student's improvement.

Concert Dress Code

The concert dress code is white shirts, black pants and tie (guys), black socks, and black shoes. Information regarding purchasing shirts and ties, will be sent home soon. All other items are to be acquired by the student. Our concert dress will be mandatory of all concert band students.

Attendance

All students who are in regular attendance for the school day will be expected to be in (and on time to) choir rehearsal. 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 any notes, quizzes, or tests.

Rehearsal Schedule

Choir rehearses twice a week—during “O hour” on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00-8:40 a.m. Always be on time to rehearsal. Rehearsals are mandatory and may not be missed for any reason other than absence from school. If you know you will be out of school on a particular day, please see Mrs. Knosp ahead of time to cover what you will miss. As already mentioned, attendance and punctuality are parts of your grading period average.

Concerts and Important dates

The concerts and events listed below are **mandatory** and may not be missed for any reason other than illness or a death in the family. These events are to be viewed as a final exam. If a student fails to attend one of these concerts, a written report will be required on a topic chosen by Mrs. Knosp. Failure to turn in an acceptable report will result in a grade no higher than a C.

Music Department Kick-off Event.....7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2009
Junior High Choir Concert 7:00 p.m., Friday, November 5, 2009
Spring Concert at WCGS.....7:00 p.m.,Thursday, May 13, 2010

In addition to the above concerts, students may **choose** to be involved in the following event for extra credit:

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest.....Saturday, February 13, 2010

Choir Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of Choir.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Please detach this form, sign and return to Mrs. Knosp by Friday, September 18th.