



# CONCERT CHOIR

WHEATON CHRISTIAN GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

2023-2024



# Concert Choir

August 23, 2023

Dear Choir Members and Parents,

Welcome to Concert Choir! In this handbook you will find the policies and procedures applicable to the WCGS choral program and other information concerning this school year's activities and performances. A huge "thank you" to Mr. Wright for creating most of our choral program guidelines.

Concert choir fulfills the music elective requirement for the WCGS junior high academic curriculum and meets throughout the entire school year. Our choir will rehearse together during 8th period two times a week on Mondays and Thursdays.

Please thoroughly read this handbook as both the student and their parent must sign the "Concert Choir Commitment Form" at the end of this document by Thursday, September 7th. Turning in a signed commitment form will count as one of the first choir grades this semester. Please do your best to turn it in by the September 7th!

I am really looking forward to working with each one of you this year!

Kindest regards,

Mrs. Delena Ollila, Concert Choir Director



## Goals and Objectives

The main goal of Concert Choir is to glorify God through song! We will learn to sing skillfully to Him as an act of worship. We will also learn proper vocal technique, a variety of musical styles, ear training, musical expression, and performance decorum. It is our desire that every choir member learns the joy of singing with energy, skill, and enthusiasm!

## Daily Rules and Procedures

1. Be encouraging and respectful to everyone.
2. Students should be in their seat with their choir binders by 2:45 p.m.
3. Choir members should have the following at every rehearsal:
  - Choir binder
  - Pencil
4. Each student will be assigned a choir binder. Please take care of your binder and store it in the choral cabinet.
5. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
6. Water bottles are allowed and encouraged in rehearsal.
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.

## Assessment

Grades are based on class participation, concert performance, assigned at-home listening, and the students' individual progress. These are the elements included in the students' choir grades:

- Singing and participation in rehearsals
- At-home listening
- Singing in concerts (when applicable)



## Attendance

All students who are in regular attendance for the school day will be expected to attend choir rehearsal. A student is not allowed 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

Concert choir rehearses twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays during 8th period. Be on time. 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. Ollila ahead of time to cover what you will miss.

## Concert Uniforms

- Concert Black
- Black Dress shoes
- More specific details to come
- Pops Concert attire sometimes varies. We will be mindful to not ask families to purchase anything new for that performance.

## 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. Ollila. The deadline for registration is September 18th. Auditions for this music festival will be virtual this year and video submissions are due by October 4th. The music festival is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 11, 2023. I will keep you updated if this changes. Let me know if you are interested in participating and I will make sure you receive audition music when it becomes available. More details to come about this exciting opportunity!



## IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest

Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.

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

- Christmas Choral Concert..... 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 12, 2023
- Junior High Pops Concert ..... 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2024
- Music Ministry Performance (TBD)

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

- ILMEA Registration Deadline..... September 18, 2023
- ILMEA Music Festival Auditions.....October 4, 2023
- ILMEA Music Festival.....November 11, 2023
- IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest.....February 24, 2024
- Junior High Musical Auditions.....January 17-20, 2024
- Junior High Musical.....April 25-27, 2024

..



# Concert Choir Commitment Form

I have read the Concert Choir Handbook and I accept the commitment of this class. I understand the expectations of becoming a member of the Concert Choir, and I realize that I am making a one-year commitment for the 2023-2024 school year.

-----  
Student's Signature

-----  
Parent's Signature

Please detach this form, sign and return to Mrs. Ollila by Thursday, September 7, 2023.