



CONCERT CHOIR

WHEATON CHRISTIAN GRAMMAR
SCHOOL

2024-2025



Concert Choir

August 22, 2024

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.

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 9th. 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 9th for full credit!

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
 - PencilFailure to do so may result in a formative grade deduction.
5. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
6. Water bottles are allowed and encouraged in rehearsal. Please no food in the rehearsal room.
7. Concert attendance is mandatory.

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 (formative grade given 1-2 times weekly. Occasionally student's rehearsal participation will be a summative grade. The students will be notified beforehand when a rehearsal grade is summative).
- At-home listening (formative grade)
- Singing in concerts (summative grade)

As a music student, preparation is just as important as performance, therefore both formative and summative grades are weighted equally at 50% towards the final class grade.



Attendance

Concert choir rehearses twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays during 8th period. Be on time. 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.

Concert Uniforms

- Boys: Black shoes, black socks, black dress pants, black long-sleeve dress shirt with buttons
- Girls: Black shoes, black dress shirt, dress or pants, black top.

Discipline

Concert Choir is a group which encourages unity and teamwork with everyone striving for a common goal to bring glory to God through song and worship. Any behavior that is disrespectful or disruptive, negatively affecting the quality of learning taking place in the classroom will not be tolerated. If a student is disruptive in class, they will be given a "warning" which will also drop their in-class participation grade down a letter grade. If the student continues disrupting, they will be given a detention which drops their in-class participation grade down two letter grades. Additionally, they will serve their detention with me after school on a day I assign. Please note, students who serve detention with me will be given the opportunity to reflect on how they can better support our concert choir goals while serving our class by cleaning our rehearsal spaces. I will be happy to spend time encouraging them to better strive for class unity as I put them to work :).

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest

Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up on Saturday, February 22, 2025. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.



ILMEA District 9 Music Festival

This is a district-wide 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 12th. Video auditions are due by October 2nd. The music festival is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 16, 2024. 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!

Important Dates

Listed below are our performances and concerts. Small group listings do not apply to the entire class. **The concerts listed below are mandatory for the entire class** and may not be missed for any reason other than illness or a death in the family. **Failure to attend concerts will cause a one-letter drop in the student’s quarter grade.**

- Christmas Choral Concert..... 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 10, 2024
- Small Group Veterans Day Chapel..... 10:45am, Monday, November 11th 2024
- Small Group Auction Performance..... (TBD) November 15th, 2024
- Junior High Pops Concert 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, 2025
- Music Ministry Performance (March or April TBD)
- Possible Chapel Performance (TBD)

Additional optional opportunities:

- ILMEA Registration Deadline..... September 12, 2024
- ILMEA Music Festival Auditions.....October 2, 2024
- ILMEA Music Festival.....November 16, 2024
- IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest.....February 22, 2025
- Junior High Musical Auditions.....January 22-25, 2025
- Junior High Musical.....April 30-May 3, 2025



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 2024-2025 school year.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Please detach this form, sign and return to Mrs. Ollila by Thursday, September 9, 2024.