

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

6th Grade
Choir
Handbook

2024-2025

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

Concert Choir Handbook

August 26, 2024

Dear Choir Members and Parents,

I welcome each of you to 6th Grade Choir for this school year. I am really looking forward to working with each one of you in creating the best sounding choir we can be. In this handbook you will find my policies and procedures of the choral program as well as information concerning this school year.

6th Grade Choir will meet from 2:45-3:25 p.m. every Monday and Thursday throughout the school year. Grading for 6th Grade Choir will be the same as any other music class at WCGS. In other words, 6th Grade Choir is part of our academic program and will meet the music class requirement for junior high students.

6th Grade Choir fulfills the music elective requirement for the WCGS junior high academic curriculum. 6th Grade Choir will meet throughout the entire school year.

Please read through the following information very carefully. Students and their parents must turn in the signed sheet by Thursday, August 29.

I'm looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

Mr. David Wright
Choir Director

Goals and Objectives

The main goal of the 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. 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. 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, and *ultimately dismissed from the choir*. Consequences may include a one-on-one conference with the director, after school detention, email or 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. Be respectful to everyone.
2. Enter the rehearsal room in a quiet, calm, 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. When Mr. Wright is teaching there will be **no talking**. Be a good listener and watch the conductor throughout rehearsal.
5. Choir members will have the following at every rehearsal:
 - a. ALL MUSIC
 - b. PENCIL (you supply your own)
6. Each student will be assigned a choir binder. Please care for your binder and make sure you have it at every rehearsal. Take it home to use for practicing. You are responsible for keeping your binder in good shape and protecting the school-owned music inside it.
7. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
8. Absolutely **no gum**, food, or drink (water bottles are allowed and encouraged) in the choir rehearsal.
9. 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.

10. Respect the rights, health, safety, and property of others.
11. Accept responsibility for yourself, your behavior, and your learning.

Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of in-class singing, singing tests, homework assignments, concert performance, and the student's individual progress. Students should plan on bringing music home regularly to learn parts and memorize words. Homework will consist of memorizing music for concerts, learning music reading skills, learning to identify musical terms and markings, and practicing proper singing technique. All students are required to put in some practice time at home.

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

Attending Concerts/Recitals - Students should look for opportunities to hear live or virtual music being performed. Look for opportunities to hear a professional musician performing. It will inspire you!

Taking Private Voice Lessons –See Mr. Wright for information concerning private vocal 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 contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.

ILMEA District 9 Music Festival – This is a district-wide (most of DuPage County) honors choir for which all 6th-8th grade band, orchestra, and choir students can audition. You must register to audition through Mr. Wright. Auditions will be virtual (video) and must be submitted between September 18 and October 2. Please see Mr. Wright for audition music and details.

Concert Uniforms

Performing groups will be uniform during performances. This year, concert band, choir, and orchestra students will wear “concert black” for performances:

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

Girls: Black shoes, black dress skirt, dress, or pants, black top.

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 once a week on Mondays and Thursdays during 8th period in the **Orchestra Room**. 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 Mr. Wright ahead of time to cover what you will miss.

Parent Volunteers

We need volunteers for our concerts. We need parental supervision for concerts. If you would like to sign-up to volunteer, email Mrs. Beth Wright at bwright@wheatonchristian.org as soon as possible.

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 except for 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.

ILMEA Audition Video Submissions..... September 18 to October 2, 2024
Christmas Choral Concert..... 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 10, 2024
Music Ministry DayMarch or April (TBA), 2025
(There may be a cost involved in the above trip)
Junior High Pops Concert 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, 2025

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 Music Festival Saturday, November 16, 2024
IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest.....Saturday, February 22, 2025

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. I also realize that I am making a one-year commitment for the 2024-2025 school year to the WCGS 6th Grade Choir.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

**Please detach this form, sign, and return to Mr. Wright
by Thursday, August 29, 2024.**