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Servant and master am I, servant of those dead, and master of those living. Through me spirits immortal speak the messages that make the world weep, and laugh, and wonder, and worship. I tell the story of love, the story of hate, the story that saves, and the story that damns. I am close to the marriage altar, and when the graves open I stand nearby, I am the instrument of God

I am Music

Anonymous
Why Choir?

In today's society there is so much conversation about school curriculum and the use of academic time. With an emphasis on “back to basics” it becomes increasingly more important to focus on music as it relates to this ongoing educational discussion.

Why should a young person join choir?
What will it mean to her/his life?

University studies show that music education instills students with responsibility, discipline, maturing social skills, communication and analytical skills. Music students tend to possess the qualities that employers consider essential. Simply put, learning to sing is a positive preparation for life. Music appeals to part of the mind that opens new horizons. The study of music supports wonderment, imagination, appreciation and sensitivity. This creativity leads to an inventive thinking style allowing the individual greater personal choices.

Music is one of the few disciplines that require the individual to access both the cognitive and affective sides of the mind. Critical assessment, the ability to conceptualize and respond to any given situation, is the foundation of intelligence as it applies to living a full rich life, and music is a pathway to this intellectual pattern.

The key to success is completion of the tasks at hand. Positive, productive living is based on the establishment of habits of tenacity, personal persistence, and commitment. In music, commitment is fundamental. It becomes a part of the musician's personality and transfers to every avenue of life. Participation at the level of excellence is not a personal preference in music—it is a requisite. The musician quickly discovers that it is not the destination, but the journey that counts. It is not the product, but the process. The joy of music generates further growth and understanding of our very existence.

The Warrenton High School vocal music program is a unique organization whose purpose is to provide these life expanding educational opportunities to students so they can further their skills and nurture personal growth and self-appreciation through an array of musical activities and events, while embracing all aspects of vocal music education (six curricular choirs plus VoiceMale, voice lessons, musical, and numerous solo and ensemble opportunities).

“We must encourage our youngsters in such pursuits as music education. In addition to learning the valuable lesson that it takes hard work to achieve success, no matter what the arena, music education can provide students with a strong sense of determination, improved communication skills, and a host of other qualities essential for successful living.”

Edward H. Rensi, President & Chief Operation Officer – USA McDonald’s Corporation

“We cannot forget that music is an integral part of a student’s educational element. We must insure that the present ‘back to basic’ mentality includes access to arts and music education. As we push to increase high school graduation and college entrance requirements, we must not ignore the cultural and artistic development of our students.”

Paul Simon, Illinois
Former U.S. Senator
Dear WHS Choir Members, Parents and Friends:

Welcome to the pride, excitement and fun of the Warrenton High School Choir Program!

The Warrenton High School Choirs have established a tradition of excellence, and we are proud to have earned a reputation as an innovative and exciting organization that provides its membership with quality musical and educational experiences.

The *Choral Handbook* reminds all students of the commitment and responsibilities that are necessary to keep our tradition alive. The choral ensemble is a dynamic instrument which consists of an effective group of diverse spirits. The WHS choirs are a “melting pot” whose members reflect a cross-section of the student body. A central ingredient to the success of any group effort is the cultivation and maintenance of this collective group. Through our striving for excellence in choral singing, we will develop not only as musicians, but also as people.

Both the choir member and his or her parents should read the following pages. This *Choral Handbook* provides information regarding policies, rules, co-curricular activities, grading policies, organizational structure, calendar, voice lessons and other information necessary to give choir members and their families a clear and concise picture of expectations and opportunities for each WHS choir student.

Becoming a member of the Warrenton High School Choir Program requires a great deal of commitment, hard work and a positive attitude on the part of every individual. These are all essential ingredients that are necessary for success.

Again we welcome you to the pride, excitement and fun of the Warrenton High School Choir Program! May all of your experiences be musically satisfying, personally meaningful, and a source of great pleasure and pride!

Sincerely,

Jarrod Hendricks
Warrenton High School
Phone- 636-456-6902  x 2173
hendricksjj@warrencor3.k12.mo.us
WHS Choir 2013-2014 Curricular Course Offerings

Men’s Chorus (9-12th grade men)

Concert Choir (9-12th grade women and men)

A cappella singers (9-12th grade men and women)

Varsity Women’s (9-12th grade women)

Women’s Chorus (9-12th grade women)

All students are auditioned and placed into performing groups that best fit their individual needs. All curricular choirs meet daily for one class period throughout the entire year (four quarters). The extracurricular choirs meet at different times of the week before and/or after school.

Course Overview:

The Warrenton High School Choral Program is designed to fulfill the needs of students who enjoy choral singing. The choirs will perform all styles of choral literature from Renaissance to Contemporary periods. Emphasis will be placed on solo and ensemble singing. The choirs will perform at festivals, contests, concerts, and other school events.

Learning Outcomes:

To the student: Most of the progress and success that you will achieve comes through your willingness to express yourself, your desire to be an involved member, and your attention to details in the music and remarks given by the director. To achieve a high degree of success, you must be willing to work individually as well as within our performance groups, continually strive to improve yourself as a member of the WHS choirs, and be proud of your accomplishments. The WHS Choirs will maintain a reputation of performance excellence through the outstanding work of our students. Talent is nice, but hard work is better appreciated and rewarded.

Vocal Skills Emphasized:

Understanding of the proper care and use of the voice.
Knowledge and demonstration of breath support.
Knowledge and demonstration of vowel production and modification (when needed).
Understanding and demonstration of the proper use of dynamics.
Understanding and demonstration of **meter signatures.**
Understanding and demonstration of **key signatures.**
Understanding and demonstration of general **music terminology.**
Knowledge and demonstration of **musical phrasing.**
Knowledge and demonstration of **expression markings.**

**Personal Skills Emphasized**

- **Pride** in yourself and in the WHS Choral Program
- Working together for a common goal: **the enjoyment of singing**
- **Accepting responsibility** in attendance at daily rehearsals, special concert rehearsals, concerts, festivals, and lessons
- **Positive self-discipline** and classroom behavior
- Your development of **leadership** with in the choral program
- Your willingness to **continually develop** your singing voice
- To discover choral music as an art
- To learn to become **intelligent and sensitive** musicians in expressing the emotion of music.
- Striving to improve yourself and the WHS choirs to be **the best you can be!**
- To set **standards of excellence** for the future
- **Respecting** your fellow students and directors
- To become a better **listener**
- Working together to develop **self-confidence**
- Showing a desire to **attract new students** in to the choir program
- Positive criticism.

**Required Materials**

Each student will be assigned a specifically numbered music folder for the entire school year. You will be held responsible for this assigned music folder and a pencil in that folder to mark your music during every rehearsal. All music will be furnished. The folder as well as your music must remain in excellent condition or you will be required to pay for any damaged materials. Each Student is assigned a robe. It is the students’ responsibility to keep it clean and kept in the correct numerical order in the assigned closet.
Rules of Conduct

Whenever and wherever the choir appears in public, we are representatives of the entire music program at Warrenton High School, the school itself, and all citizens and alumni who are in any way associated with this great school. Whether in performance attire or out, at a performance or a practice, on the road or at home, in an official capacity or in a social setting, members of the Warrenton High School Choral Program music conduct themselves in a mature, responsible, courteous, respectful and professional manner.

Anything done by a single member of the choir reflects on the entire choral organization, its leaders, and the school and community. Just as we strive for excellence in our music, we also do so in our behavior and the manner in which we conduct ourselves.

- RESPECT YOUR FELLOW CHOIR MEMBERS AND CHOIR ROOM:
  - Use appropriate and courteous language
  - Be sincere, fair, and nice
  - Treat the building with care
  - No writing on white boards, bulletin boards, posters or classroom calendars
  - Pick up trash – even if it’s not yours to begin with!
  - Take good care of equipment
  - Look out for the private property of others

- BE ON TIME! Come prepared and not bearing excuses for the contrary.

- Think Positively. Look for creative solutions if you see problems. If necessary, contact a officer or the Choir Director

- Cooperate fully with directors or anyone else who is in a position of leadership (this includes substitute teachers, guest directors, section leaders and officers).

- No talking when anyone is “on the podium” working with the group.

- You are held accountable for any information presented in a rehearsal or posted on the board.

- All Missouri State High School League Rules and Warrenton High School Rules with be followed and enforced, at home and “on the road”

- Smoking, use and/or possession of any alcohol, drugs, weapons, or any mood-altering chemical substances, is strictly forbidden and will not be tolerated!

- You are responsible for the safekeeping of your music, pencil, performance attire, and any other school owned equipment you may use. Loss or damage of school owned property will become your financial responsibility (repair and/or new replacement).
• ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, GUM, OR BEVERAGES IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. The only exception is water in a clear bottle. PICK UP AFTER YOURSELF!!!!
• NO PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS CALCULATORS, CELL PHONES, MAKE-UP, HAND LOTION, PERFUME, HAIRSPRAY, COMBS, HAIR BRUSHES, CURLING IRONS, MIRRORS, ECT WILL BE USED (OR SEEN) DURING THE REHEARSAL!
• Correct posture in rehearsals is “six on the floor” (your two feet and the four of the chair) and sitting up straight.
• NO HATS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CHOIR ROOM!
• Develop your personal skills when in the choir department. Be tactful, respectful, courteous, supportive, diligent, conscientious…and smile!

Final Note: As you know, your grade depends on your daily attendance and participation. Your inability to abstain from TALKING will be a negative influence on your grade. Choir students are traditionally from the upper 25% of their class. You are BRIGHT, TALENTED, and VERY ACTIVE in all school activities. However, NO STUDENT has the RIGHT TO DISTRACT this class or any member of this class during the choir rehearsal. It is an INFRINGEMENT on other students, on the director, on the process of learning and on the enjoyment of music. NO ONE will be permitted to interrupt the education of others!

Attendance at Concerts/Performances

Attendance at concerts/performances is required and is part of the grading criteria in choir classes. This is a fundamental and integral part of your membership in choir. Concerts and performances are a public demonstration of what has been learned in choir (“authentic performance assessment of learning”). Music is meant to be heard. Each performer in the ensemble is dependant on each choir member being present to perform his or her part. Because the choir is more than just a collection of individual performers, it is necessary that we rehearse and perform as a unified group. A problem with an individual performer’s attendance seriously inhibits our consistency and excellence. Every attempt has been made to structure a performance calendar that includes a reasonable number of performances.

The only excused absences from a performance are:

You are ill the day of the performance and are absent from the majority of the school day. To perform, you must attend at least a half day of classes. If you must miss more than half a day, please call the office and leave a note for me in advance to report your illness/absence. A family emergency occurs. Please call the office.
Unexcused absences from performances will negatively effect the letter grade in choir and may lead to loss of choir membership.

Student jobs or work conflicts are absolutely no excuses for missing a concert/ performance. A year long Choir Calendar appears in this handbook. Read and share this calendar information with you parents, employer, coaches, etc. And check for possible conflicts. In the event of a conflict, COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY!! Talk to your choir director, we support YOU! Every attempt will be made to be fair and understanding in the event of unusual circumstances.

Choir Grading Policy

Each vocal music student participating in choir has the opportunity to earn an “A” grade that will be based on talent and/or personality. Your grade will be based on the level at which you perform in each rehearsal and performance.

Rehearsal Skills (40%)
Written Work (10%)
Concert Attendance (50%)

Rehearsal Skills (40%): Each vocal student is expected to be in class ON TIME and be ready to work! When warm-ups or announcements begin, you should be in your seat with your music. You will be evaluated on you punctuality and active, positive participation. Behavior problems will result in the lowering of the student's grade.

Written Work (10%): Being a well-rounded choral student means not only learning how to sing effectively, but also developing a solid understanding of musical concepts. WHS choir students will complete worksheets and quizzes that help to reinforce these educational values. Occasionally, journal and writing assignments will be assigned.

Concert/Festival/Performance Attendance (50%): This will be the easiest 40 percent earned for this quarter. When we perform, everyone is expected to be there at the stated time. A make-up assignment will be assigned for those students that have an “excused” absence for a concert or performance. Unexcused absences will lose grade points without the opportunity to make these points up. It is not only expected that you be at the concert, but that you have made a suitable effort to come prepared to the concert. The directors reserve the right to keep any student from performing if he or she has not shown adequate attendance or acceptable behavior. A concert is not only part of your grade (such as a test) is also a privilege!
Qualities of the “A” Student:
1. Shows that he or she is ready for class to begin immediately after the last bell rings.
2. Participates at all times (during stretches, warm-ups, rehearsal).
3. Pays attention to the director.
4. Shows an understanding that a successful choir demands individual responsibility and mental focus.
5. Attends class on a regular basis with minimal absences.
6. Attends all concerts in appropriate attire.
7. Does not wear hats.
8. Does not have food, candy or beverage in the room – and doesn’t need to be reminded!
9. Does not chew gum in the room – and doesn’t need to be reminded.
10. Does not have cell phone, or calculator or other “not-essential-for music” items.
11. Does not work on homework for other classes during rehearsal.
12. Completes all assigned worksheets and evaluations thoroughly and with attention to detail.
13. Displays teamwork and an understanding that a choir is only as strong as its least attentive member.
14. RESPECTS the music!
15. Sits and stands with appropriate posture.
16. Uses a pencil to write in the music any notes provided from the director.
17. Exhibits leadership in his or her section and works hard to contribute to the success of the choir.
18. Treats his or her robe with care and responsibility.
19. Always returns his or her folder to its correct slot.
20. Volunteers to help out without hesitation
21. Brings to class a positive attitude and shares it honestly and sincerely.

Concert Attire for WHS Curricular Choirs

Appearance is important! An audience first “hears” you with their eyes!

**Concert Choir:** Members of these three choirs will wear robes for all performances. For both men and women, the color of preference is BLACK. This means black pants, black shoes, and black socks for the men. For the women, this will include flesh colored hose, black closed-toe character shoes, plus a nice dress or skirt under the robe. Please note: You are responsible for the robe and stole assigned to you. You will NOT change robes during the year without permission from the Director. If your robe is lost, stolen or damaged, you are expected to replace it at your own expense. Exactly one week after every concert, you are expected to have hung up your own robe in the robe room or the rack provided.
Choral Department Officers

Choir Officers will be selected or appointed the last week of the previous school year from all choirs. These officers will have the opportunity to assist and advise the choral director in various matters pertaining to the entire organization.

2013-2014 Choir Counsel Officers
President-Brandon Boschenreither
Vice-President-Madi Stevens
Secretary-Morgan Cupp
Treasurer-Logan Stahl
Historian-Priscilla Esteves & Mackenzie Miller
Comm. Specialist-Cassidy Ward & Shelby Barclay
Librarian Assistant-Nathan Adams
Social Chair-Jacob Hickl

President: The president is perhaps the most visible of all of the officers. Therefore, this person must be a positive role model for all students in the Program. Specific duties include, but are not limited to the following:
• Daily announcements in Choir
• Welcome/Introduction at each concert
• Coordinate ushers on concert nights
• Run the point of department bulletin boards
• Monitor any volunteer activities throughout the year and take attendance
• Represent the concerns and needs of your fellow choir members by being an open and responsive leader
• Be a visible assistance to any substitute

Vice President: The Vice-President is first in line to assist the President. Similarly, this person must be a hard worker with a positive attitude. Specific duties include, but are not limited to the following:
• Monthly Robe Room Maintenance
• Manage the Choral Library
• Be involved in any departmental volunteer activities
• Be a visible assistance to any substitute teacher throughout the year

Secretary: The Secretary must be very organized and detail-oriented and possess good writing skills. Specific duties include, but are not limited to the following:
• Run the point on Awards and Lettering at the end of the year
• Be involved in any departmental volunteer activities
• Get sports schedule for National Anthem singing
**Treasurer:** The Treasurer must be good with numbers and record-keeping. He or she must be organized and detail-oriented. This person will work closely with Mr. Hendricks to ensure all financial tallies are up-to-date. Specific duties include, but are not limited to the following:
- Keep accurate records for any money turned in throughout the year and turn money into Mr. Hendricks
- Work with President to make any necessary announcement regarding payment deadlines, etc.
- Establish a consistent system (with Mr. Hendricks) for the turning in of money Be involved in any departmental volunteer activities

**Historian:** This person will continually take pictures and notes for a choral archive that can be used for the end of the year video, as well as Newsletter or press releases. Specific duties include, but are not limited to the following:
- **Have a camera at all choir-related event!**
- Communicate with Yearbook staff (Mrs. Hunter) regarding photos and rosters
- Create and maintain a Social Board which Features various events, activities and accomplishments of choir students
- Gather senior pictures from choir March 1
- Gather baby pictures choir by April 1
- Create the slide show for the Spring concert
- Frame the senior picture poster for the wall at the end of the year

**Communications Specialist:** The Communications Specialist should be a student eager to share the successes of the program with community, this person should be a “people person” – outgoing, good with words, organized and ambitious. He or she must be a strong writer with solid communication skills. Specific duties include, but are not limited to the following:
- Gather names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of area newspapers
- When newsworthy events occur in the Department (All-state, honors, etc.) contact area press. Collect photos of such events from Historian
- Send emails to parents about upcoming concerts (check with Director for Specifics)
- Send emails to choir when necessary (connect with President for announcements)
- Submit announcements to the Main Office (Becky Toebben) when necessary.
- Contact parents for volunteer needs when they arise (see director)
- Write thank-you notes, when appropriate, in a timely manner.
- Communicate with athletic director and post a National Anthem sign-up list.
**Librarian Assistants:** This person (s) will assist the Vice President in cataloguing and organizing music that is used throughout the year.

- This includes music which is either borrowed from another school or loaned to another school.
- Duties also include entering new music into the choral library spreadsheet and filing it appropriately.
- It is important that this person (s) is very organized, conscientious and has good communication skills.

**Social Chair:** This person (s) will assist Vice President in organizing choir related events throughout the year.

- This includes back to school pool/BBQ
- Annual Christmas Party
Choir Handbook Contract

**Student**

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the *Choir Handbook* and understand the expectations, guidelines and requirements of the course. I have also studied the calendar and am aware of my responsibilities to are mandatory events, such as Winter Concert, Pre Contest Concert, Spring Concert, Graduation, and any district festivals or performances that are specific requirements of the choir in which I sing.

----------------------------------
Student’s Printed Name

----------------------------------
Student’s Signature

**Parents/Guardians**

I have read the *Choir Handbook* and understand the requirements of the course. I have studied the calendar.

______________________
Name

----------------------------------
Parent/Guardian Signature

Forms are due to your Mr. Hendricks by Sept. 4
Vocal Music Lettering Policy

All choir members have the opportunity to earn a letter in W choir program. This award is for recognizing additional service and musical achievement, both in furthering the choir organization and their own personal growth, throughout their participation in choir co-curricular activities, (co-curricular: choir activities that take place outside of the curricular school day, but relate to the daily choir class/curricular experiences). Points can be earned in a variety of co-curricular choir activities, as listed below. These points accumulate until the student earns a letter. After a student earns their letter, they start over at zero and begin working towards another letter in the fall. Students are responsible for keeping any programs or other proof of concert attendance (counting towards a Letter) to be turned in at the end of the year.

Name__________________________________ Grade_____ TOTAL ________

WHS Choir Lettering Form

To earn a letter, a total of 500 points must be earned from any of the following:

POINTS

SOLO:
1.) District Music Festival
   I = 75 pts. _____
   II = 50 pts. _____
   III = 25 pts. _____

2.) State Music Festival
   I = 100 pts. _____
   II = 75 pts. _____
   III = 50 pts. _____

ENSEMBLE:
3.) District Music Festival
   I = 40 pts. _____
   II = 25 pts. _____
   III = 15 pts. _____

4.) State Music Festival
   I = 60 pts. _____
   II = 40 pts. _____
   III = 20 pts. _____

5.) All-District Honor Choir
   Audition = 25 pts. _____
   Selected = 30 pts. _____

6.) All-State Choir
   Audition = 25 pts. _____
   Selected = 100 pts. _____
Des Lee Festival
   Participant = 30 pts.

Perform National Anthem at athletic event (10 pts. each)
   (LIST ATHLETIC EVENTS ON BACK)

Summer Music Camp or Clinic, 50 pts. each
   (Occurring during summer before current school year
   this does not include band, theater or All-State camps)
   (LIST BELOW WHAT CAMP/WHERE/WHEN)

Choir Officer 50 pts.

   (LIST BELOW)

Subtotal points: _____

If not, points carried over from last year: _____

TOTAL POINTS: __________

List Events where you have sung the National Anthem: (10 pts. total)
1. 6.
2. 7.
3. 8.
4. 9.
5. 10.

If you attended a Summer Music Camp: (50 pts.)

   Where________________    When________________

Miscellaneous: Check the job that you have assisted in to help out the WHS Choral Department: (10 pts. each)

   ______Summer Volunteer
   ______Robe Room Assistance
   ______June Clean-up
   ______Music Sorting/filing
   ______Computer Work