

West Mesquite High School Choir Policy

2010-2011

** By September, some of you students act like you've never heard this stuff so...
place it somewhere you can find it so you'll know
why we are freaking out when you don't do what you're supposed to.*



I. Choir Concerts & Extra Rehearsals (before or after school)

- Concerts & Rehearsals are mandatory and you will receive a list of all concerts/Rehearsals.
- You are expected to be on time to concerts & Extra Rehearsals.
- You must stay for the entire concert (please do not ask me if you can “slip out” before the concert is over as we will be working during).
- You will receive grades for each concert:
 1. On time to concert – 5% of six weeks grade
 2. Audience etiquette – 10% of six weeks grade
 3. Performance – 20% of six weeks grade
- Acceptable reasons for missing choir concerts & extra rehearsals:
 1. Student Illness
 2. Death in family
 3. Family Emergency
- Unacceptable reasons for missing choir concerts & extra rehearsals:
 1. Work
 2. Lack of Transportation
 3. Birthdays
 4. BabysittingAnything not on the above list of acceptable reasons (We've heard 'em all.)
- To receive credit for an excused absence:
 1. Call before the concert at (972) 882-7625/7636 or by email mwashington@mesquiteisd.org or astewart@mesquiteisd.org
 2. On the day you return to class, bring a written note from a parent
 3. My approval of the reason
 4. We won't chase you down for the note
- If you have another school event on the same night as a concert & extra rehearsals:
 1. Don't decide not to tell me about the conflict. (that's chicken)
 2. Let the coaches and me know well in advance.
- What may happen if you have an unexcused absence from a concert & extra rehearsals:
 1. Failing grades
 2. Reassignment to another choir

II. Choir Discipline Plan

- It's pretty simple:
 1. If your behavior distracts others from learning it will be a problem
 2. Act mature and do what you're supposed to and we'll be ok.
- What you can expect:
 1. Call to parents
 2. Detentions will be after school. Tuesday is Choir Detention Day.
 3. Office
 4. Reassignment to another choir if appropriate
 5. Removal from the WMHS choir program – this should not happen

III. Choir Classroom Policy

- It looks like this:
 1. We listen to people with their hands raised.
 2. Please do not bring **FOOD, DRINKS, CANDY, OR GUM** into class. **(CHEWING GUM only disrupts rehearsal)**
 3. Please do not touch or play any instrument **unless** you have been given permission to do so.
 4. Teach when there are no distractions
 5. We allow students to stay in our class when they are not causing a problem for anybody else.
 6. We respect you too much to argue
 7. Take pride in our Choir Room
 8. Sing and participate every day.
 9. If you have a concern, be mature enough to visit with us respectfully.
 10. Yes, we will send you to the office for dress code violations. Yes boys, we will send you to shave. It doesn't matter if we're the first teachers all day to say something about it.
 11. Cell phones, you have them, wonderful. Please have them put away during class. If you put us in the position to take it up we will and you will pay \$15 to the office to get it back.
 12. If you receive ISS, MIC, Challenge or there is any other behavior that is a negative reflection on the choir, the result may be a change of choirs or permanent removal from choir. In addition, the forfeit of the choir letter jacket is possible.

IV. Grading Policy

Final six weeks grades are based on an average of daily grades, major grades and the six weeks test. Following, is a partial list of these grades:

1. Having your folder, music, and pencil everyday
2. Daily assessment of music theory and music sight-reading fundamentals
3. Holding up music while singing (not covering your face or having elbows on your lap)
4. Using hand signs when sight-singing.

Examples of Grades:

1. Assessment of video/audio recordings of rehearsals and performances
2. Music memorization tests
3. Music Sight-reading tests
4. Music Theory tests
5. Attendance at Extra Rehearsals
6. Concerts
7. Daily Participation – singing, hand signs, posture, etc.

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Uniforms 2010-2011

All Choir Members will need to purchase a Choir Polo Shirt. The Cost is \$15.00.
You can pay cash or check.

Optional Choir Wear: Hoodie sweatshirts available to order. They will be \$25.

Uniforms for Concerts

All Students - Alternate Uniform – Choir Polo Shirt and Khaki pants

Girls:

- Choir dresses will be issued to each girl.
- Appropriate black shoes are to be worn with the choir dress. (No tennis shoes, casual sandals, heavy, awkward or overly casual styles)
- No more than 2 rings per hand, 1 necklace per neck, 1 bracelet per wrist, and earrings must be smaller than a quarter. All Jewelry must be Gold or Silver. If it is oversized or distracting you will need to remove it for our concert.
- Sufficient undergarments must be worn. (The stage has very bright lights.)

Boys:

- The choir will issue each boy a school owned tuxedo coat and tuxedo pants a white wing-collared tuxedo shirt, black cummerbund and black bow tie.
- Black** socks and **black** shoes must be worn with the choir uniform. (No tennis shoes or sandals)
- Tuxedos must be freshly cleaned and tuxedo shirts must be clean and ironed for each performance. This is a matter of courtesy as much as it is a health issue.

You will not perform with your choir if you are not in the required uniform at choir events. You will not earn a passing grade for that public performance. (Uniforms do not cost unless uniform is not returned or is damaged in which case the uniform will need to be replaced)

Order Info: Student Name _____
Check # _____ Cash _____

Make all checks Payable to WMHS Choir.

If you pay by check you will need Phone # and Student Name.

Size

_____ **Polo Shirt \$15.00 – money due by Sept 24th**
_____ **Hoodie Sweatshirt \$25.00 – money due by Sept 24th**

(can pay later on items below)

_____ **Holiday in the Park \$15.00 – money due by Nov. 18th**
_____ **Choir Banquet \$28.00 – money due by May 13th**