



Expectations & Guidelines 2023-2024

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Visit our choir's website!
This is used for all updates and
reminders!

<https://whitehousechoir.weebly.com/holloway.html>

Choir Supply List

- ❑ 2 or more pencils
- ❑ Highlighter(s) (light colors such as yellow, pink, orange, etc.)
- ❑ Box of facial tissue
- ❑ 1 inch, 3-ring binder BLACK ONLY
 - **The choir folders should not provide any sort of distraction for students, especially during class rehearsal.**
- ❑ 3-ring, pencil pouch
- ❑ \$25.00 Choir fee (Make checks out to “WCBC”); Put in envelope w/ student name
 - ★ Can be paid online at WJHS Choir Website/or via Revtrac on WJHS Website
 - ★ Includes mandatory Choir T-Shirt replacement and miscellaneous supplies throughout the year.
 - ★ This does not include fees associated with the spring trip.

Expectations

1. Be Prepared.

Students, be in your seat, with all class materials, before the tardy bell. Your choir folder, music, and a sharpened pencil are all you will usually need. Pencils need to be sharpened before class begins.

 - Not having your binder will result in grade deduction for the day
2. Enter and exit the choir room in an orderly manner - rules will be set in place the first week of school of how to enter and exit. If you are Tardy, you must sign the Tardy Sheet.
3. Speak only when a director has given you permission to do so.
 - a. There will ALWAYS be built in time to chat and ask each other questions etc. but for clarity for everyone, when Mrs. Boren talks: listen and when you talk, she will listen.
4. Keep all food, drink, candy, and gum out of the Choir room. NO GUM ON RISERS! This is a choking hazard.
5. Respect your property, other’s property, and the school’s property. - For no reason will you play or touch the pianos, or items that are not yours.
6. The Choir room must be straightened after every class. This includes your chair, binder, etc. Trash goes in the trash can.
 - a. If your binder is not replaced in it’s slot at the end of class it will be placed in Binder Jail and will mean a grade deduction for the binder grade that week.

Other Policies

MUSIC, PENCIL & FOLDERS

The music used by students has been purchased by and is the property of, the WISD Choral Department. Students are expected to use care in handling their music and folders. Any damaged music will have to be replaced at the student's expense.

A pencil is the only writing utensil used in Choir. Students are not to make ANY marking in music unless instructed by the director to do so. A highlighter may be used on occasion for certain assignments. Pens NOT used.

UNIFORMS

Informal: Tour (day trip), Spring Trip, and Spring Concert

The uniform includes the required choir t-shirt, school-approved jeans, and clean close-toed shoe. For the Tour (day trip), students may also bring a jacket and/or wear a solid-colored long-sleeved shirt underneath.

Formal: December concert (evening), Spring trip concert, Solo and Ensemble

This uniform includes dress clothes with dress shoes. All attire must meet the school dress code.

Men:

Black DRESS Pants...NO JEANS

Black button up

Black shoes with black socks

Women:

Black SKIRT/PANTS (either knee-length or in dress code with tights) ...NO JEANS

Black BLOUSE--Must have sleeves and cover the chest completely

OR

Black Dress (covering knees or in dress code with tights)

Black flats

Skirt/Dress may not have slit that extends past dress code length/3 inches above knee

Rehearsals

WJHS Choir is a group music performance class where students learn both individual singing and sight-reading skills and also how to work together as a group in preparation for our concerts. We are like an athletic team in that the coaches (directors) are helping each player (student) and team (choir) prepare for each game (concert/event). Our "practices" (daily/after-school rehearsals) reflect our preparation and readiness for each event. Therefore, each choir student is expected to give 100% effort and participation during rehearsals so that each individual and group are fully prepared for the concerts,

Participation will be the major source for daily grades in the choir. Students who do not cooperate are not demonstrating readiness for participation in our group events. Continual problems in this

area will result in lower, possibly failing grades, disciplinary actions, and possible dismissal from participating in the next event (alternate assignment given).

Additionally, there will be some occasions when after-school rehearsals will be required. Given that the director provides the schedule in ample time, students are expected to make arrangements to be at these rehearsals.

COMPETITIONS

There are (3) main competitions during the school year: All-Region Choir (select honor choirs), Solo & Ensemble and UIL Concert & Sight-Reading. All-Region Choir and Solo & Ensemble contests are individual competitions that are funded by the choir budget (non-refundable fees). Each student entering a contest must be aware that if they do not fulfill their obligation to compete and/or attend the assigned concert (All-Region Choirs only) will be required to pay back the contest fee to the choir fund. **There are no exceptions on the repayment, no matter the reason for missing the competition.**

- **All-Region Choir & Solo & Ensemble Contests** - Individual Contest (exception is if an Ensemble competes at the Solo & Ensemble Contest);

Students are encouraged, but not required, to participate in these individual contests (i.e. students audition by themselves)! All students will learn the assigned music whether or not they are competing. Students will receive at least one major test grade, for each event, by individually singing off the music. This will be done either for the teacher or at the contest. **Those competing will receive an automatic “100”, no matter the rating/chair standing given by the judges.** If a student competing is not prepared by the assigned date, he/she will be removed from competing in the contest. Students entered in a contest that become ineligible or unable to compete must:

- 1) Pay back the contest fee.
- 2) Have a “sing-off” test of the contest's audition songs for major test grade(s).

Students will be assigned practice materials for each contest and must be diligent about practicing outside of school to ensure readiness. These will all be available in Google Classroom.

Students must be available for the All-Region Choir Clinic & Concert event in order to be allowed to compete at the All-Region Choir auditions. These are select honor choirs and those who cannot attend the concert would be taking away a spot from another deserving student in our region.

- **UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest** (Group Contest)

This is a mandatory contest for students that qualify for participation (see below). Be sure to add the assigned dates to your calendar as the contest schedules can fall outside the regular school day!

Each student will be tested for mastery of UIL Concert & Sight Reading music. Students unable to perform their contest music (both concert music and sight reading) at an 85% mastery level, and/or who cannot demonstrate in rehearsal the required contest behavior, will be unable to attend the competition. Students will not be penalized on their class grade for not going to contest. However, students not qualifying for the contest due to academic ineligibility, or reasons mentioned above, will be expected to complete other assigned class work to make up for the days they will not be practicing with the contest choir. Daily grades will be given on these assignments. Students in the UIL Choirs will receive daily grades from rehearsal participation.

Performances

Concert/event performances are the consummation and focus of the majority of the daily activity in the choral department. All learning objectives can be expressed and displayed through the performance process and fulfill the elements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (or TEKS) for choir classes. In order to follow the TEKS, most concerts will be held outside of the school day in order to allow audience members, and parents to attend. For this reason, **performances will carry mandatory attendance and participation by all choir members. At least one major test grade will be given for each performance.** Performance dates are listed on the choir calendar (see choir website). In addition, performance reminders will be announced via email or Skyward messaging, and in class, and all choir members will be responsible for getting this information home to their parents. ****Please make alternate transportation arrangements for each event in case your student's main transportation is unavailable.****

Students that do not attend a mandatory event will have to do the following make-up assignment to earn their test grade(s):

- 1) Turn in a parent/guardian note to the director (written or emailed) stating the reason for the absence **(50 pts.)**
 - Excused absences (50 pts) include personal illness, family emergency, and other **WJHS** competitions, **WJHS** performances or **WJHS** athletic games. (It does not include school/non-school practices or rehearsals.)
 - Unexcused absences (0 pts) include any other conflicts (family activity, WJHS/non-school practice or rehearsal, **non-WJHS** sporting or dance studio events, no transportation, etc.).
- 2) Sing-off concert selections by yourself or write short essay, rubric and information given to student by teacher within days allowed by WJHS grading policy. It is the student's responsibility to ask about alternate assignments/ sing off. **(50 pts.)**

****Parents, please help foster correct and ethical behavior in regards to absences from a concert/event. Remember that they have worked for several weeks to prepare this music! Remember that students work together as a team and it hurts the team when someone is not there.**

All choir students are highly encouraged to also attend the other Whitehouse Choir performances!!! A student that attends an extra Choir performance from one of the other two schools may bring the concert program to the director, within one week from the performance (excludes final year performances), for a bonus grade!!! The program must have the student's name AND parent/guardian signature.

SPRING TRIP

Students interested in participating in the spring trip are responsible for their part of the expense out-of-pocket. Permitting that we will be able to have a fundraiser, students will have the opportunity to participate in a choir fundraiser to help offset the costs. (Fundraiser participation is always optional.)

Students will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit out-of-pocket to cover expenses that cannot be refunded from the travel company. Trip cancellation refunds will be outlined in the trip contract, which is provided closer to the timing of the first deposit.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS & BEHAVIOR BEFORE/DURING TRIP

Trip details, cost, rules, etc, will be addressed in a contract given by the director.

- All students committing to go on the trip will also be committing to attend any special rehearsals arranged in preparation for the Festival performance. A student who either misbehaves during the rehearsal(s) or misses the required rehearsal(s) for unexcused absences(s), might be removed from participation in the festival (no festival refunds).
- Students incurring disciplinary actions during the school year will be subject to forfeiting their trip reservation WITH NO REFUNDS AVAILABLE AT ANY POINT for the following punishments during this school year:
 - ❖ Assignment to DAEP
 - ❖ Expulsion from school
 - ❖ Office referral received on a choir trip
 - ❖ (2) or more office referrals that result in either ISS assignment(s) and/or suspension(s)
 - ❖ The choir directors reserve the right to remove a student from the trip list based on his/her continual misbehavior in class.
 - ❖ While on Choir trips, students will abide by all school and trip rules.
 - Serious infractions will result in the student being sent home AT PARENT'S/ GUARDIAN'S EXPENSE and those students will be subject to school disciplinary actions.
 - Should a student be involved in illegal activity during the trip, the police of the jurisdiction will be notified, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student will be summoned to escort their child through the process. Choral directors and paying chaperones must stay with the choir, not the student in violation of the law.

ALL STUDENTS IN CHOIR MUST HAVE A DRUG TESTING RELEASE FORM AND TRAVEL PERMISSION FORM SIGNED BY A PARENT ON FILE WITH THE DIRECTOR TO TRAVEL TO ANY CHOIR EVENT.

CHOIR CLASS COURSE SYLLABUS

The following skills will be, by nature, covered. They will be the foundation on which daily instruction and activity will be built.

I. Topics of Instruction

- A. Theory - Notation, Rhythm/Meter, Form, Terms, Keys, Dynamics
- B. Sight Reading - Ear training, Part singing, Keys
- C. Musicianship - Expression, Style, Blend, Balance
- D. Literature - Seasonal, Historical
- E. Performance - Competition, Entertainment, Etiquette, Presentation
- F. Vocal Technique - Breath Control, Diction, Tone Quality, Focus, Flexibility

II. Evaluation - 7+ daily grades +1 test grade (if applicable) given per nine weeks (see current WISD grading policy)

- A. Attendance and Participation
 - 1. Concerts - major test grade(s)
 - 2. Daily Rehearsals - daily grades
 - 3. Binder Check - Daily Grade
 - 4. Pencil Check - Daily Grade
 - 5. Class projects/ Essay - Test Grades
 - 6. Solo/Ensemble - Test Grade