

## Welcome to the Parkland Choir Family!

The purpose of the Parkland School Choral Program is to nurture, foster, and develop learning through choral performance. With that in mind, Membership in choir is open to any student in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade with a desire to be a part of a performance ensemble and to learn about music.

The Parkland School Choral Program is aligned to the Illinois State Board of Education Learning Standards and Goals for Fine Arts, the Common Core State Standards, and the National Standards for Music Education, as established by The National Association for Music Education. In choir, students will:

- Perform music from a variety of historical periods and cultures
- Read music using learned text, notes, rhythms, and terminology
- Create music using improvisation and sight-singing skills
- Listen to music and be able to describe and evaluate performances
- Understand music in a greater context and in relation to other art forms.

Through participation in choir, students will also:

- Develop skills in working as part of a team
- Develop critical listening and critical thinking skills
- Develop an appreciation for all of the Fine Arts
- Promote citizenship and self-discipline
- Develop self-directed leadership skills
- Build positive self-esteem and self-expression
- Gain insight into how music can enrich life

The music programs in McHenry have reached high levels and we pride ourselves in the quality performances enjoyed by the community. Please feel free to contact me anytime regarding the program, your questions and/or concerns, or just to share your thoughts about music. Communication is always welcome! I am looking forward to another great year making music at Parkland School.

Sincerely,

Lauren Walter  
Choir Director, Parkland School  
[LWalter@d15.org](mailto:LWalter@d15.org)



In each year of choir, we build on the skills that were learned in previous years of general music and choir classes to sing choral music with increasing difficulty. We will use a variety of methods to learn about vocal health, voice building, musical terminology, music as an art form and its place in culture, music's connection to other academic disciplines, and, of course, singing in an ensemble. Some goals for the year include learning about the voice as an instrument, developing a strong choral sound, reading music as it applies to multiple voice parts, building group cohesiveness, and teamwork!

## **Class Expectations**

### General Classroom Rules

- Show respect to all people and property in the choir room
- Be on time to class
- Gum and food are not permitted in the choir room (water is OK)
- Please have your binder, music, and a pencil in class every day

### Qualities of Good Rehearsal Etiquette

- Rehearsal starts when warm-ups and announcements begin
- Follow the directors instructions
- Raise your hand and ask questions if something is unclear
- Respond to questions if you know the answer
- Limit talking during rehearsal
- Maintain a positive attitude about the music we are singing
- There are no penalties for wrong notes in rehearsal, only for poor effort!

## **Covid Mitigation Efforts in the Choir Room**

- Mask policy will follow the school policy
- Sanitize in and out of class
- No shared supplies, everyone will have their own music
- Large HEPA air filters running during rehearsal

## **Concert Attire**

### Formal Concert Attire Requirements

- Black music department polo shirt to be purchased at the beginning of the school year with choir fees.
- Black slacks (not leggings) or skirt (knee length or lower) - provided by the student
- Black socks and shoes - provided by the student
- Included in the choir fees is the t-shirt that we will wear for "casual" performances which doubles as spirit wear for the music programs.

# **Required Performance Schedule**

Each choir performs several times throughout the school year at which attendance is mandatory and the performance is calculated as part of each student's grade. Dates and times are subject to change but you will be notified promptly of any changes.

**Please mark your calendars with these important choral concert dates!**

## **Thursday, November 17, 2022**

7th and 8th Grade Concert Choir with band

Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt

7:00pm at Parkland in the Gym - 6:40pm student arrival time

## **Thursday, December 8, 2022**

6th Grade Choir and Viking Choir with band

Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt

7:00pm at Parkland in the Gym - 6:40pm student arrival time

## **Friday or Saturday, March 3 or 4, 2023**

7th and 8th Grade Concert Choir IGSMMA District Music Competition

Time and Location TBD

## **Thursday, March 9, 2023**

8th Grade Concert Choir members perform with the High School Choir

Concert Dress: TBD.

7:00pm at McHenry High School East Campus - 6:15 call time

There is a suggested donation of \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and seniors.

## **Saturday, April 29, 2023 (If we qualify)**

7th and 8th Grade Concert Choir IGSMMA State Music Competition

Time TBD - After school event

## **Thursday, May 11, 2023**

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Spring Choir Concert

Concert Dress: Black music department polo shirt and black pants.

7:00pm at Parkland in the Gym - 6:40pm student arrival time

## **Spring 2023**

8th Grade Choir members sing the National Anthem at promotion

# **Additional Performances/ Events**

**Dates subject to change**

## **Friday, September 2, 2022**

Concert Choir Members - Kane County Cougars National Anthem Performance

Concert Dress: "Casual" music department shirt

Location: Northwestern Medicine Field 34w002 Cherry Ln, Geneva, IL

Tickets are \$11 per student and order forms have been emailed to Concert Choir members

## **Thursday, October 27, 2022**

Fox Valley Honors Choir - Selected members of Viking Choir

Location: Northwood Middle School

Concert dress: TBA

## **December 3, 2022**

Concert Choir Performs for the Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair at Parkland

## **Saturday, February 4, 2023**

Students wishing to participate IGSM Solo and Ensemble Festival

Concert Dress: Dress nicely

Location: TBD

## **Sunday, March 12, 2023**

6th Grade Choir Sing with mass choir at Chicago Wolves Game

## **Saturday, May 6, 2023**

Concert Choir Music in the Parks Competition

All Day event with performance in the morning and the afternoon at 6 Flags.

There is a cost for this event which we try to offset with fundraising efforts.

## **Spring 2023**

7th and 8th Grade Concert Choir/ Viking Choir

Elementary tour to Riverwood and Valley View. Morning performances.

Concert dress: Parkland Music Department t-shirt and pants/shorts

## **Spring 2023**

6th Grade Choir/ Band

Perform one song for the 5th grade visit for incoming Parkland 6th Graders.

Concert Dress: Parkland Music Department t-shirt and pants/shorts

## Grading

Students receive a grade for choir each trimester which counts toward their grade point average and honor roll. Enrolling in a choir class means being part of a large ensemble where every voice is important to the overall success. In order to be successful, students must make a genuine effort to improve their music skills. Grading in choir consists of the following:

**25% - Active daily participation** - This includes rehearsal etiquette, effort (including proper vocal technique), and ensemble participation. Included in this portion of the grade is making sure students have the supplies needed for class; binder, music, pencil. *Point totals will be adjusted for those students in both Band and Choir*

**25% - Assignments and quizzes** - Each trimester, students will complete occasional quizzes and writing assignments on such items as general music knowledge, music theory, vocal health, musical terminology, and the choral literature we are working on in class. Weekly sight-singing written assignments and theory assignments will be included in this grade.

**25% - Lesson attendance and participation** - Students will have a weekly pull out lesson where they are placed in small groups and have more differentiated instruction. These lessons rotate on a two week basis and most classes take place during PE, Exploratory, and enrichment class periods. We focus on music reading, vocal technique, and music theory that would be challenging in the large ensemble group. Every student will receive a copy of the lesson schedule, it will be posted on our Google Classroom for Chorus page, and it will be posted in several places in the building.

**25% - Concert Performance** - There are several required performances that are listed in this handbook. ATTENDANCE AT ALL CONCERTS IS MANDATORY. If notification of an unavoidable, approved absence is given at least three weeks in advance, the students will have the opportunity to make up the missed points with an alternative assignment and semi-private performance for Mrs. Walter. Please note that sports practices/games are not an excused absence except when discussed with, and approved by, Mrs. Walter at least three weeks prior to the performance. However, if there is no notification given for an absence, the students will lose all points for that concert performance.

**Extra Credit** - Students may earn extra credit by attending a concert and submitting a program to Mrs. Walter (5 points). An additional 5 points can be earned if the student completes an evaluation/ reflection on the performance. Some examples of appropriate concerts would be a school or community performing group, high school choir/band concert, elementary music program, an amateur or professional musical, a symphony orchestra concert, professional choir concert, or other events approved by the director. No... going to see Ariana Grande does not count for extra credit. :)

## **Other Performing Arts Events and Opportunities**

### **Viking Choir**

Viking Choir is an auditioned ensemble open to 7th and 8th graders. We rehearse on Wednesdays during SAT. In addition, students in Viking Choir will have an additional pull out lesson during advisory 1-2 times per week. Please note that Viking Choir is a year long commitment. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences from rehearsal will be removed from the ensemble. We have eliminated many of the conflicts by putting this group during the school day.

### **Choir Assistants**

Students have an opportunity to apply to be a choir assistant. These students should be responsible, able to take direction, eager to learn technology associated with the choir class, and have good attendance. I would prefer to have at least two per grade level. They will have the following responsibilities:

- Take attendance at the beginning of class
- Distribute sheet music/ papers to students in class.
- Assist with sound/ iPad use during rehearsals and additional technology (document camera, dvd player, computer)
- Assist with concert set-up (microphones, speakers, risers, programs, sound-checks)
- Other duties as needed

These leaders will be an asset for substitute teachers in assisting with a large ensemble class.

## Rehearsals

### Full Ensemble Rehearsal

- Choir meets every day of the week during SAT, those students in both band and chorus will attend chorus on Mondays and Thursdays, band on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Wednesday is a study hall day ( $\frac{7}{8}$  grade only) or Viking Choir rehearsal. 6th grade “double agents” will be alternating full chorus or full band on Wednesdays. The bulletin board outside the choir room will indicate either a full band or full choir day.
- I understand that students are giving up their SAT time to be in choir but passes to other teachers are on a limited basis due to our short rehearsal time. In order to leave choir to go to another teacher during SAT, students have to bring a pass to Mrs. Walter at the beginning of class. Bringing a pass does not guarantee that the student will be excused from choir. Telling another student does not count as a pass and will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- Students are expected to fully participate by singing, completing class work, and being a contributing member of the ensemble in order to earn full points for ensemble participation.

### Small Group Lessons

- Small group lessons are integral to the success of the choir as it is where new musical concepts are introduced, practiced, and assessed.
- Each member of the choir will have one pull-out lesson each week. These lessons will have small groups of students and will be split by voice part/ range. The lesson schedule is on a rotating schedule so each student will only miss the same class once every other week. Most lessons are pulled from PE, Exploratory, or enrichment..
- In the event that a student cannot attend their assigned lesson day due to tests, science lab, absence, etc, the student should let Mrs. Walter know and arrange to make up the lesson on a different day with no grade reduction. If the student does not come to the make-up lesson, it will be counted as a zero. Students who forget or choose to not attend their assigned lesson time will be given the opportunity to attend the make-up lesson with a 1 point deduction in their lesson grade. Failure to attend the make-up lesson will result in a zero.
- Students should always bring their choir music and pencil to lessons.
- The small group lesson schedule, when completed, will be distributed to all members in print form, be available in the Google Classroom for Chorus, and is posted in at least 3 places in the building. Any changes to the scheduled lesson are listed on the white board outside the small lesson room.

## Supplies and Music

Required supplies for choir are as follows:

- 1" music binder - Provided with choir fees - **see order form**
- Pencil - Provided with choir fees - **see order form**
- Sheet Music - Provided with conditions. If a student loses their original choral octavos, they will be responsible for paying to replace the music (approximately \$1.90-\$2.50 per song)
- Music Department t-shirt (Concert Attire) - Provided with choir fees - **see order form**
  - Please note that the music department t-shirt and polo shirt are the same for both band and choir so students in both ensembles need only purchase from Mrs. Walter
- Black Music Department Polo Shirt (Formal Concert Attire) - Provided with choir fees - **see order form**
- Black pants/skirt (Formal Concert Attire) - Not provided. I realize that black leggings are the easiest to acquire but are not considered formal attire. Please find black pants (dark black jeans are fine) prior to our first performance.
- Black socks and shoes. Black flats are fine but if socks are worn, they should be black. No tennis shoes with the Formal Concert Attire performances.
- Access to a device with internet capabilities: iOS, Android, Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer. We will have assignments which, if not finished during class, will have to be completed for homework. We will be giving instructions on how to use technology in the first small group lesson.

### Other information

Choir binders with music and pencil will be stored in an assigned choir folder cabinet slot. If a student wants to practice their music at home, it will be available to view on Google Classroom or they can request a copy to take home. All binders should stay in the choir room.

Rehearsal tracks for concert music will be available on the Google Classroom for Choir website.

All forms handed out in class will be emailed to parents and be available on the Parkland Choir website [www.parklandchorus.com](http://www.parklandchorus.com) or [www.parklandchoir.com](http://www.parklandchoir.com) This site is also available on the Parkland School Website.

I love communication but may not be able to talk at all times during the day. Feel free to leave me a voicemail or send me an email at [LWalter@d15.org](mailto:LWalter@d15.org) at any time if you have questions or concerns.

## Discipline Procedures

School rules listed in the Parkland Handbook also apply to choir class as well as any field trips, concerts, rehearsals, or outside of school activities in which the choir will participate. Parents will be contacted if behavior issues are taking place that take away from the students ability to learn. Repeated behavior issues will result in the student being removed from choir.

# Handbook Agreement Form - Choir 2022-2023

Parents, please fill out the following information and return to Mrs. Walter, along with the supply order form and payment, **on or before Wednesday, August 31st**. This will ensure that you don't have additional charges due to having to order shirts in a separate order and your child can get their supplies and music for class.

Student First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade Level/ Team \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Optional additional phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Parent email address \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Secondary email address \_\_\_\_\_

- Email addresses and phone numbers will only be used for choir related business. This includes field trips, concert reminders and fundraising efforts.

I acknowledge that I have read the handbook and understand the policies and procedures in the choir classroom. I understand the discipline policy and know that repeated disruptions can result in my child being removed from choir.

I have read and added the mandatory concert dates to our home calendar. Please list any confirmed conflicts you have with our schedule.

Conflicts: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that choir is a year long class. Any schedule changes must be discussed with Mrs. Walter prior to adjustment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature