

# **CHOIR**



## **HANDBOOK 2023-2024**

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• **CHOIR DIRECTOR**

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**WWW.PARKLANDCHORUS.COM**

**PLEASE READ AND RETURN THE LAST TWO  
PAGES TO MRS. WALTER ALONG WITH  
SUPPLY FEE PAYMENT**

# WELCOME TO THE PKL 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 sing with others.

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 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

LWalter@d15.org  
www.parklandchorus.com  
(779) 244-1700

# CLASS EXPECTATIONS

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!

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## 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
  - Please bring your chromebook to all small group lessons
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## 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!
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## CONCERT UNIFORM

### Formal Concert Uniform Requirements

- Black music department polo shirt to be purchased at the beginning of the school year. Please see the order form attached. This is the same shirt as the 22/23 school year so if you already have one that fits, you will not need to repurchase.
- Black slacks (not leggings) or skirt (knee length or lower) - provided by the student
- Black socks and shoes - provided by the student

### Casual Performance Uniform

- 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.
- Instructions on what to wear along with the t-shirt will be provided with performance details.

# REQUIRED PERFORMANCES

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 9, 2023**

- Combined Choir Fall Concert - **All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders perform**
- Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt
- 7:00pm at Parkland in the Gym - 6:40pm student arrival time

## **Thursday, February 29, 2024**

- **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.

## **Friday or Saturday, March 8 or 9, 2024**

- **7th and 8th Grade Concert Choir** IGSMA District Music Competition
- Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt
- Time and Location TBD

## **Saturday, April 27, 2024 (If we qualify)**

- **7th and 8th Grade Concert Choir** IGSMA State Music Competition
- Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt
- Time and Location TBD

## **Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

- Combined Choir Spring Concert - **All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders perform**
- Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt
- 7:00pm at Parkland in the Gym - 6:40pm student arrival time

## **Spring 2024 - Date TBD**

- **8th Grade Choir** members sing the National Anthem at promotion

# ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

The following performances are not required events counting toward the choir grade but are additional performance opportunities for the choir to sing for the community and fun events!!

## Wednesday, October 25, 2023

- Milwaukee Symphony Field Trip - **6th Grade Band and Chorus Students only**
- Location: Bradley Symphony Center
- Concert dress: Wear Parkland music department t-shirt
- Students will need to bring a brown bag lunch as we will be gone for most of the day.

## Wednesday, October 25, 2023

- Fox Valley Honors Choir sectional rehearsal - **Selected members of Viking Choir**
- Location: Nippersink Middle School 4:00-5:45pm

## Thursday, October 26, 2023

- Fox Valley Honors Choir rehearsal & performance - **Selected members - Viking Choir**
- Location: Nippersink Middle School 1:00-7:00pm - dinner will be provided
- Concert Dress: Black pants/ skirt with black music department polo shirt
- 7:00pm concert begins - Admission is \$3 per person

## December 2, 2023 - tentative

- Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair at Parkland - **7th and 8th grade Concert Choir**

## Saturday, February 10, 2024

- IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival - **Students wishing to participate**
- Concert Dress: Dress nicely
- Location: TBD

## Saturday, May 11, 2024

- Music in the Parks Competition **Concert Choir and Viking Choir only**
- 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 our fundraising efforts.

## Spring 2024

- Elementary tour to Riverwood and Valley View. **Concert Choir and Viking Choir only**
- Concert dress: Parkland Music Department t-shirt and pants/shorts

## Spring 2024

- Perform one song for the 5th grade visit for incoming Parkland 6th Graders. **6th Grade band and choir only**
- 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 sound. 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% - Lesson attendance and participation**

Students will have a weekly pull out lesson where they are placed in small groups which offer more differentiated instruction. These lessons rotate 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% - Assignments and quizzes**

Each trimester, students will complete 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. Sight-singing, written assignments, and theory assignments will be included in this grade.

## **25% - Concert Performances**

There are several ***required*** performances that are listed in this handbook. ATTENDANCE AT THESE 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/or 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.

# OTHER PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit by attending a concert and submitting a program to Mrs. Walter (5 points).

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 Taylor Swift does not count for extra credit. :)

## Viking Choir

Viking Choir is an auditioned ensemble open to 7th and 8th graders. We rehearse on Wednesdays during SAT and perform contemporary a capella music. Please note that Viking Choir is a year long commitment and 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)
- Concert set-up crew - 8th grade only. These students will assist in assembling the necessary components for our performances. (Risers, sound shells, sound system, etc)





# 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 (7<sup>th</sup> grade only) or Viking Choir rehearsal. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 have their choir music, chromebook, and a pencil during 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 choir room.



# SUPPLIES AND MUSIC

Required supplies for choir are as follows:

- 1" music binder - Provided with choir fees - see order form
- Pencils - 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 \$2.50-\$3.00 per song) Access to photocopies and/or digital copies can be provided for at home practice.
- Black Music Department Polo Shirt (Formal Concert Attire) - Provided with choir fees - see order form
- 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 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 colorful sneakers with the Formal Concert Attire performances but all black sneakers are acceptable.
- 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 few small group lessons.



# OTHER INFORMATION

## 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.

## 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 photocopy 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 (779) 244-1700 or send me an email at [LWalter@d15.org](mailto:LWalter@d15.org) at any time if you have questions or concerns.



**@parklandchorus**



**@parklandchorus**

# CHOIR HANDBOOK AGREEMENT FORM

Please fill out and return to  
Mrs. Walter along with the  
supply order form by  
Wednesday, August 30th

Student's Name : .....

Parent(s) Name(s) : .....

Primary phone number : .....

Secondary phone number : .....

Parent Email Address : .....

Parent Email Address #2 : .....

Student @d15 Email : .....

Student Cell # : .....

Student Birth Date : \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Student Grade/ Team : .....

Is your child also in band? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ 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.

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Student Signature

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Parent/ Guardian Signature

# CHOIR SUPPLY ORDER FORM

Please fill out and return to  
Mrs. Walter along with the  
handbook agreement form  
by Wednesday, August 30th

Greetings choir families,

In an effort to have all students prepared for choir, we have bundled the supplies needed to be in one order. By doing this, we are able to purchase supplies and uniform pieces at a discounted rate. These savings we pass on to you!

## **\$15 Choir Supply and T-Shirt (applies to all students enrolled in choir)**

- Supplies (\$5) - Online subscriptions, Binders, pencils, dry erase markers, dividers, etc...
- Music Department t-shirt (\$10)

## **\$15 Black performance polo - Required for new members.**

If you already have one from last year, you do not need to purchase it again.

**For students in both band and choir, please include payment for your shirt(s) with your choir supply order form and give to Mrs. Walter.**



Adult	Qty
<input type="radio"/> S	
<input type="radio"/> M	
<input type="radio"/> L	
<input type="radio"/> 1X	
<input type="radio"/> 2X	
Youth	
<input type="radio"/> M	
<input type="radio"/> L	



Adult	Qty
<input type="radio"/> S	
<input type="radio"/> M	
<input type="radio"/> L	
<input type="radio"/> 1X	
<input type="radio"/> 2X	
Youth	
<input type="radio"/> M	
<input type="radio"/> L	

## STUDENT INFORMATION

NAME

GRADE

PHONE #

Choir Supply	<b>\$15</b> All Students
Black Polo	<b>\$15</b> New Students
Total \$ Due:	

### PAYMENT METHOD



☐ Cash



☐ Check payable to  
Parkland School