Woodland Middle School

Choral Handbook 2019-2020

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**Phone:** 356-7300 ext. 1821 **Webpage:** woodlandmiddlemusic.weebly.com

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to Chorus! I am excited to share this year with you. Each student deserves the opportunity to experience music as a team of positive and hardworking participants. Our musicians proudly represent the importance of friendship, teamwork, creativity, and the arts in our schools.

As you will be representing yourselves individually, myself as your teacher, and Woodland Middle School as student ambassadors, I will hold you to high standards. It is my goal that you will not only be accomplished singers by the end of the year, but strong musicians as well. As with all opportunities, this class comes with a set of responsibilities. Please read this handbook carefully and sign the forms on the back page. Chorus is a full-year school course, and to participate you must be willing to commit to the after school performances and the time we need to be our best. Please fill out all of the information at the end of this handbook and return page 5 complete with signatures by Friday, September 6th.

Again, I am thrilled to share this experience with you all this year. I believe in working hard and working smart so that we can have fun in the process. I ask all students to be willing to try new things. I expect you to be respectful to adults and peers at all times and to follow directions consistently. With your hard work and determination, our music program can be incredible and we can sing some seriously awesome music. My door is always open. Never hesitate to contact me at lauren.bridgesloyer@kenton.kyschools.us or by calling the school at 356-7300.

Many Thanks,

Mrs. Loyer

Director, Choral Department

# Class Description

Students will sing a wide range of middle-school appropriate repertoire in 2, 3 and 4-part harmony. Special emphasis will be placed on basic singing technique and the performance of high quality music from a variety of time periods, cultures, and genres. Students will also learn the function of music in society throughout history and focus on music from other cultures. Classes will consist of warm-ups, rehearsal of music, sight singing, ear training, music history and basic music theory.

# Materials

**Students need to bring a pocket folder with 3 prongs or a 3-ring binder for their music each day. They also need paper, pencil, and a water bottle for class**. For paper, they may also use a spiral notebook that has pockets. Choral music is provided by the school. This folder of music is our version of a textbook and is the student’s responsibility. There will be folder slots available in the chorus classroom for students who would prefer to leave their music at school.

# National Standards and Learning Objectives

Students will create, perform, respond, and connect to music. More specifically, students will…

* Sing in unison, 2, 3, and 4 part harmony in a varied range of repertoire
* Perform music from different cultures and in different languages
* Sight-sing various melodies and rhythmic patterns on solfege/Kodaly rhythm syllables
* Identify the rhythmic names and values of notes and rests down to 16ths
* Sight read rhythmic passages in duple, triple and quadruple meters
* Identify and name the lines and spaces in treble and bass clefs
* Name and explain dynamic and tempo markings
* Respond to musical performances and articulate their opinions using musical terminology
* Describe and identify musical forms
* Describe how art music compares/contrasts with the pop music they hear every day
* Perform the assigned musical literature demonstrating proper posture and professionalism throughout the performance
* Demonstrate proper breath management throughout the performance of the assigned musical literature
* Perform the music literature demonstrating appropriate interpretation and application of all musical notation observed in the musical score
* Describe how and why music can elicit different emotions and responses
* Listen to, perform and classify music representing a variety of cultures/time periods
* Explain how music reflects culture, including cultural beliefs, and use examples to show how music has influenced society or culture
* Explain how the influence of time and place are reflected in the music of various historical periods and genres
* Analyze and explain the various purposes of music in society

# Course Content

Posture, Breath Management and Tone Production All taught concurrently

Sight-Singing through assigned musical

Structures of Music literature and practice papers.

Music Theory

Music History

**Course Expectations**

* Be on time for rehearsals and bring all necessary materials. I will respect your time and release you from rehearsal on time. Please respect my time and that of your classmates by making an effort to be ready to sing when your class period begins.
* Show kindness to everyone in the room. Follow the class rules that we will establish together at the beginning of the year as well as the ones outlined in your student code of conduct. Listen to instructions and demonstrate professionalism.
* Have a pencil, a water bottle, your binder/folder, and all of your wits about you at all times.
* Technology usage without teacher permission will not be tolerated. Devices that are out without permission will be confiscated and go to “phone jail” for the rest of class. Please refer to the school policy on cell phone usage.
* Excessive talking or class disruption will merit a warning. In a second offense, students will lose locker break/activity time, and with a third or a more serious issue I will contact parents/guardians. If issues are recurring, I will request a meeting with the principal, student and parents to decide the best course of action. Excessive disruptive behavior may result in students being unable to perform on a concert or attend Chorus field trips and may result in removal from the class.
* There should be no food or gum in the classroom without teacher permission. Students are encouraged to bring a see-through water bottle, but must have a doctor’s note for any food or a beverage other than water.
* Restroom and drink breaks should happen at locker breaks and/or during lunch. Excessive restroom breaks/leaving class may lead to parent/admin contact and/or a hall contract.
* Students who audition for extracurricular activities or solos in class agree to accept any solo offered to them. Students who receive solos or are accepted into honors ensembles and auditioned extracurriculars are expected to work on their parts outside of class and act with humility.

**Attendance Policy**

For daily rehearsals, see the school’s attendance policy.

All outside rehearsals and performances for curricular choir are mandatory. An absence is excused if you miss a rehearsal or concert for **illness** or **a family emergency.** If possible, a written and signed note or email from a parent/guardian should be sent to the director at least 24 hours in advance. (In a true emergency, notification may be given as soon as possible.) Any other reason for missing a rehearsal or concert will be considered unexcused unless special arrangements have been made with Mrs. Loyer at least a week in advance. For an excused missed performance, the student will be able to do an assignment to make up the concert for full credit. After an unexcused absence, the student may make up the assignment for 80% credit.

Homework, work, and extracurricular activities are not excuses for missing a Chorus commitment. You will know all performance dates at the beginning of the year and any rehearsal dates at the beginning of the grading period. Students and parents/guardians are responsible for planning your extracurricular time.

Tardies are unacceptable without express written permission, either from the administration or myself. Please refer to the school handbook for details concerning the attendance policy.

**Concert Dress Code**

Professionalism is key. As an ensemble, we represent our school by going into the community and providing musical experiences. Below are appropriate items of clothing. Please refrain from including distracting jewelry, hats, and other pieces that may distract from the musical performance.

* **Black shoes (no sandals)**
* **Black socks**
* **Black tights or leggings (under a school dress-code appropriate black skirt or dress only)**
* **Black dress pants (no shorts or sweatpants; leggings may only be worn under an appropriate length skirt or dress)**
* **Black dress shirt**
* **Black dress (appropriate length and coverage according to school dress code)**
* **Black skirt (appropriate length according to school dress code)**
* **Black blouse**

**Grades**

Fear not! As a choral director my job is not to grade how talented a student is. My grading system is based on what students learn in my class.

* Students will be given daily grades based on demonstrating choral skills (25% of final grade) and grades will be updated in Infinite Campus weekly. If a student is too ill to sing, they must inform the teacher prior to the start of rehearsal and may have an alternate assignment. Refusal to participate will result in a 0% for that day’s rehearsal.
* Students will be graded on formative assessments, which are written assignments completed in class and occasionally practice assignments to be done at home. (25% of final grade)
* **Written tests** (summative assessments) and **Concerts,** both in school and in the evening, are summative assessments and will be worth 50% of the final grade. Excused absences include serious illness and a wedding or death in the family. Absence notes are due 7 days prior to the concert, if expected, and the day the student returns if the absence is sudden. Make-up assignments will be given for full credit to students who have excused absences for concerts. Students who have unexcused concert absences will be able to do a written assignment to make up their grade for up to 80% of the missed grade.

**Student Data**

For my graduate studies, I have been asked to take written/video data on my current students based on various aspects of their music learning and behavior. I will be sharing this only with my professors. Students' privacy will be respected and no names or identifying information will be shared. Please let me know if you would prefer that your student's data not be included in my results.

**Calendar of Events**

# Evening Concerts

Holiday Concert All Scott HS Auditorium Dec. 10th, 6:15 (Mixed) and 7:30 (Treble)

Festival Concert Mixed Chorus Scott HS Auditorium March 3rd, 7:00 (Mixed Chorus)

Year’s End Concert All Scott HS Auditorium May 12th, 6:15 (Mixed) and 7:30 (Treble)

# Other Important Dates for In-School and Extracurricular Events

* Veteran’s Day - Treble Chorus ……………..…………………….. Nov. 11th, 2019, during school
* NKY Jr. High Honor Choir (select students) held off-campus from 12-8p.m. Auditions held in September……………………………………………………………...….…….Field Trip November 15th, 2019
* Chorus Fundraiser……………………………………………………..……….……..…….Fall 2019 (TBA)
* The Little Mermaid, Jr. Auditions………………………………………………..December 12-15th, 2019
* KMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival………………………………..………Campbell County Middle School …………**……………………………..…………………………………………………..…………….**February TBA, 2020
* The Little Mermaid, Jr. Performance………………………………….……mid March, 2020 at Scott HS
* KMEA Large Group Assessment Field Trip………………………….…...late March 2019 (Mixed only)
* Incoming 5th Grade Day - Performance In school – Treble Chorus………………………..……….TBA
* Kenton County All-Star Chorus……..selected students……………………………….……Turkey Foot MS …………..………………………………………………………………………………………………………. April 2019 TBA

**\*\*Have important reminders sent to your cell or e-mail with Remind.com!\*\***

* + Students/Parents can text their class code to join a class. Send the class code to the number 81010.
  + Mixed Chorus students will send the text message @wmschorusm to the number 81010. Treble Chorus students will send the text message @wmschorus6 to 81010.
  + Join online: Visit [remind.com/join](http://www.remind.com/join) and enter the class code there along with your phone number.

***Mixed Chorus Code (3rd & 5th Period): @wmschorusm***

***Treble Chorus Code (2nd & 6th Period): @wmschorus6***

**WMS Chorus Website: Woodlandmiddlemusic.weebly.com**

***Keep this handbook for future reference. Please don’t hesitate to call or email with questions, concerns or ideas. You are a valuable resource to our program!***

**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Parent/guardian support is essential for the success of our program! There are plenty of ways to be involved with your student’s choir experience, and I encourage you to participate. First and foremost is our fundraiser, which is happening in October! Please help your student find opportunities to support our school program. There will also be opportunities to chaperone and help out with various musical events throughout the year. Information will be sent regularly through Infinite Campus, Remind 101 and our Weebly website. Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date in the Infinite Campus system. Dusty Ashford and Carole Benjamin in the front office can help you with Infinite Campus.

Please check if you would like more information about the WMS Band and Chorus Boosters and may be available to help with fundraisers and event planning. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Field Trips:** One of my greatest challenges is finding chaperones for field trips! Thank you to all parents who have volunteered in the past. If you are on the approved list for chaperones, or if you are interested in becoming approved, please **circle** an option below.

YES - I am on the approved list of chaperones.

INTERESTED - I am not on the approved list yet, but I am interested in chaperoning!

<http://www.kenton.k12.ky.us/Content2/218> - All of the information about becoming a chaperone.

**Concerts**: We will need chaperones and parents to hand out programs at our concerts and supervise students before they perform. Please circle the concert(s) at which you will be willing to help out!

December March May

**Chorus Contract**

**Please sign and have your guardian sign this form (page 5 of the handbook) and return by September 6th. Students may not be able to participate in all choral activities without page 5 of the handbook being signed and returned to Mrs. Loyer.**

My guardian and I have read the Choral Handbook and agree to abide by all outlined rules and policies.

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

Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Media Release (Please circle Yes or No)**

The Woodland Middle School music department has my permission to display my child’s name, age, image, and work, electronically or in print, in photo, text, or video form. YES NO