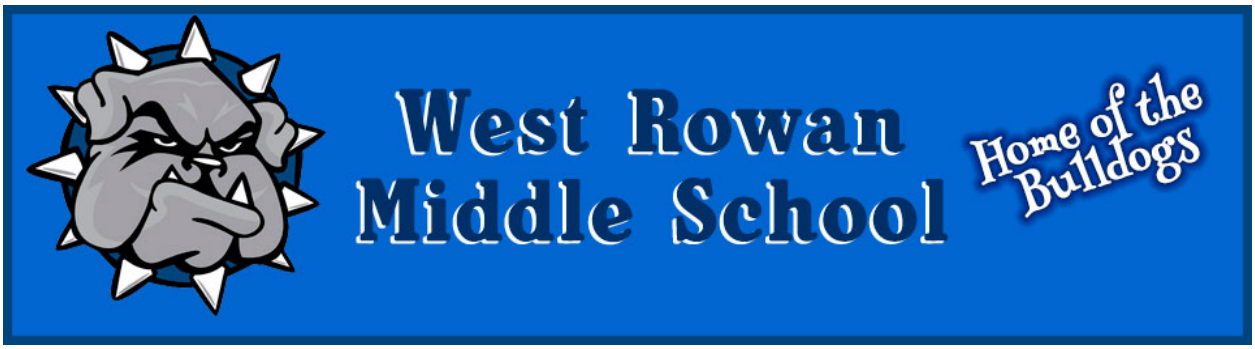
West Rowan Middle School Chorus

2018-2019



2017-2018
Chorus Handbook

Welcome to the WRMS Chorus! Chorus is not just another class, but a place to feel at home and find a family that relies on one another to learn and grow together. In this handbook, you will find a comprehensive explanation of the WRMS Choral Program. Each student AND parent is expected to read the handbook in its entirety so that everyone is aware of the expectations and responsibilities that will ensure the success of both students and the program as a whole.

WRMS BULLDOG MUSIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The West Rowan Middle School Music Program is dedicated to allowing students to mature musically, socially, and academically. Through musical performance, students learn how to perform and appreciate music of a variety of styles and levels of difficulty. Through group involvement, students learn how to work as an ensemble to achieve common goals and encourage one another to become more confident in their music making. Through the study of harmony, scales, rhythms, etc., students will develop their personal reading, writing, and improvisational skills that will assist them in daily life both inside and outside of school.

Classroom Expectations

- Look and listen to whoever is speaking
- Treat others as though you value them
- Speak kindly
- Keep your hands to yourself
- Take care of the class (each other and the room)
- Help one another
- Raise your hand to speak
- Act mature on the risers
- Use proper volume (“indoor voice”)

Basic in class procedures

- Students will line up outside the door before class and will walk into the classroom in an orderly manner.
- When entering the classroom, students will look at the board to determine what they will need for class and what songs we will be working on that day. Students should always have a pencil while in class.
- If students are not feeling well enough to sing, they must still actively participate in rehearsal by following along in their music and using solfege hand signs.

Required Classroom materials

Students must bring the following materials to class with them EVERY DAY. If they do not have the materials they need for class, this may be reflected in their classwork grade.

- Pencil
- Sheet Music (provided by teacher)
- iPad
- Folder to keep music/pencil

No music/no pencil/not singing

If a student shows up to class with no music, no pencil, or chooses not to sing, points will be taken off of their weekly class grade. If this happens 3 times in one week, a parent will be contacted by phone or email.

Discipline

All discipline issues will be handled in class. If student is disruptive, they will be given a paper assignment for the remainder of the class.

For major issues within the class, the student will be written up and will call their parent/guardian to explain the infraction. Parent/guardian and teacher will also discuss the class period to work towards integrating the student and serving the student better to avoid discipline issues in the future.

Concert dress

Students are expected to appear in concert attire UPON ARRIVAL to the concert and performance venues. The director will announce any changes to concert attire well in advance to the concert or performance. The uniforms are as follows for each student:

Option 1:

- Black Dress Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Shoes (closed toe, closed heel)
- Black Belt
- White collared shirt (button down the middle)
  *Bowties will be loaned by the school

Option 2:

- Black Dress Pants or Knee Length Black Skirt
- Black socks/Black or Nude
- Black Shoes (closed toe, closed heel and no taller than 1.5 inches)
- White Blouse or Shirt (NO sleeveless)

If the student needs assistance with proper dress, please inform the director as soon as possible BEORE the concert or performance to ensure that the student is in alignment with proper attire. Improper concert attire will result in a performance grade of zero.

Concert Expectations

There will be multiple concerts throughout the year as well as a choral competition in the spring semester for 7th-8th grade. These performances will be treated with the upmost importance and concert etiquette will be observed at all performances.

- A call time will be determined, written on the chorus schedule, announced in advance to the class, announced on REMIND and posted on the website. Students are required to be at the meeting location IN THEIR SEAT, in their concert attire, and ready to warm up at the posted time. Tardiness will not be accepted and will be reflected in their concert performance grade.
- Students are REQUIRED to stay for the ENTIRE DURATION of the performance. Each grade is required to stay and listen to the others in support. Concert etiquette will also be reflected in grading.
- Concerts have a start time, but not a set end time. Parents are STRONGLY encouraged to attend concerts to support their student and the WRMS Choral Department.
- In the event of an emergency, please contact me through email or REMIND as soon as possible. An emergency consists of: death in the family, contagious sickness or hospitalization (must provide doctors note).
- For those students with an EXCUSED absence, an alternate written assignment will be given as a make up grade. For approved absences, the written assignment will be due the morning of the concert day to receive performance credit.

Concert Etiquette

When students arrive

- Arrive before the scheduled call time
- NO FOOD OR DRINK in the auditorium
- Enter quietly and orderly
- Once you are in your seat, remain in your seat. Do not wander the halls.

While you are waiting

- All cell phones should be OFF or on SILENT during the rehearsal warmup and during the concert. Any cell phone seen by the teacher will be taken IMMEDIATELY and will be returned after speaking with a parent or

guardian. If there is an extenuating circumstance, please notify the teacher and an exception will be made.

- Talk quietly

During the performance

- NO TALKING, WHISPERING, etc.
- Wait until the audience is applauding before entering or exiting the performance space
- Actively watch and listen (no slouching or falling asleep)
- ONLY CLAPPING is appropriate at the END of a song (no whistling or yelling)

Grading system

Daily Assignments (50%)

Weekly classwork scores (performance based)

Written or online assignments

Assessments (50%)

Concert attendance, behavior, and performance

Concert critique

Substitute Assignments

Projects

Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit can be earned by attending other musical events such as the WRMS Band and West Rowan High School Band and Chorus performances. In order to receive credit for attending, students must bring a copy of the program to school the next day AND a written performance review of AT LEAST one page.

Late Work Policy

Any work turned in late will be deducted 5 points a day until a maximum of 25 points (5 days late) is deducted. Once the initial 25 points are deducted, the highest grade a student will receive on late work is 75%.

A final date for ALL assignments due will be given to students. This date is usually 3 days before the end of the grading period. If work is not turned in by the final due date, a zero will be given as the grade and the assignment will not be able to be made up.

Absences

Missed Assignments

If written work is assigned to the class on the day of your absence, it will be placed in the absent work folder beside the turn in files beside the door. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to check the absent work folder. Absent work is due 3 days after the initial absence.

Missed Sight Singing Tests

If you are absent on the day of a sight singing test, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to reschedule your sight singing test outside of class. The director will be happy to help you find a suitable time for the makeup test.

Missed Concerts or Performances

If you have an EXCUSED absence from a concert or performance, an alternate written assignment will be given to you. The assignment will be due the morning BEFORE the concert.

Students with an UNEXCUSED absences from a concert or performance will not be given an alternate assignment and will automatically receive a grade of zero.

In-class singing tests

In class singing tests will be held variously throughout the year. These singing tests may be formal or informal. I may listen to individual students when they are doing small group work, or I may ask them to sing a few bars of music in front of the class. These solo assessments will be very short (about 15 seconds long).

We WILL applaud for ALL students who sing in front of the class.

Carowinds/MPA 7TH AND 8TH GRADE ONLY

In order for a student to be eligible to go to Carowinds or MPA (Music Performance Adjudicators), they must have met all of these requirements:

- Student must have AT LEAST a B average in the class
- Student should have only 1 zero in the grade book TOPS
- If student is assigned ISS or OSS within 14 days (2 weeks) of the trip, the student will lose his/her right to go on the trip and will also lose his/her deposit on the trip

These trips are a privilege to be a part of. Students will be performing together and receiving a grade of superior, excellent, average, below average, and poor.

Communication is key!

I encourage all parents to call, email, or set up a parent-teacher meeting at any time they feel is necessary. I will also work hard to keep parents involved with their student's struggles but even more importantly, their successes. Parents are welcome to come view rehearsals as well.

I use the REMIND app to quickly communicate with students and parents. I will be using one REMIND for all of chorus and will include what grade the information pertains to with each remind.

Text: @wrmschoir to 81010
If you join the REMIND, you will be able to text me directly in case of emergencies.

Contact Info:

Taylor L. Spakes

Phone: 704-633-4775 410206

Text/Remind: @wrmschoir to 81010 to be connected through Remind

Email: taylor.spakes@rss.k12.nc.us

Website: www.wrmschorus.weebly.com

2018-2019 WRMS Chorus Calendar

Choral Booster Kickoff Meeting @ 6pm .....September 10
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm.....October 1
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....November 5
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....December 3
WR Community Holiday Fest (@ WR High).....December 13
6th & 7th Grade Winter Concert (@ WRHS Auditorium w/ Band).....December 20
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....January 7
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....February 4
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....March 4
Pre-MPA Concert.....March 7
Music Performance Adjudication (@ Wingate University).....TBD
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....April 8
7th & 8th Carowinds.....May 4
Choral Booster Meeting @ 6pm .....May 6
Spring Concert..... May 16

Student Name: _____

Student and Parent Handbook Agreement & Information Form

Please complete and return this page to Ms. Spakes NO LATER THAN **September 10, 2019.**

- I have read and understand all of the guidelines and procedures written in this handbook and furthermore, agree to abide by these guidelines and procedures for the 2018-2019 school year.
- I understand the consequences if the guidelines and procedures outlined in this handbook are not followed.

****Failing to sign does not exempt students from procedures and events set out in this handbook.****

Student name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian name (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date:_____