



# *Washington High School*

*2018-2019*

## *Choir Handbook*

Jessie Patterson, Director

**Washington High School  
Over a Century of Excellence**

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Dear Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Washington High School Vocal Program! Whether this is your first or fourth year in the program, I am so glad you are apart of it! This is my third year at Washington High School and I am looking forward watching our program continue to grow. I am hopeful to provide various performance opportunities and the introduction into different cultures with some interesting music!

My goal this year is to also provide more opportunities for the students to get to know each other. Our student leaders have been working with me to ensure all students feel apart of our department and to welcome the new students. I am also looking forward to more parent organization meetings. We had several parents involved last year and I am hopeful for even more. It really provided us a way to connect and share valuable information about upcoming events. I believe that parents and guardians are the backbone of the program and with your help we may better support these students and their talents. With that, I am looking for a few parents who would like to help me chaperone as needed and various other functions or events.

This handbook is designed to familiarize you with the policies, procedures and information to continue to operate a successful program. Please read through this carefully as it has some changes from last year. All choir members will be held to the highest standards in both academics and conduct. Please be aware that by signing and returning these forms, you acknowledge and agree to abide by the contents of this handbook. **These forms will also serve as the first assignment and must be returned by Friday, August 31st. You may submit online from the website, follow the QR Code on the schedule or print the form and send it in.**

I have attached a calendar of the dates of events that I know of thus far. I will keep you updated as other events arise and they will also be posted in the room. I will also be using Remind, the website, Facebook and Twitter to send out any reminders that you need to be aware of. You will find more information about it in this handbook. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone if you have any questions or concerns.

Musically Yours,

*Ms. Patterson*

## **Grading Policy:**

### GRADES ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. Attendance: All members must attend ***all required*** functions!
2. Conduct and personal appearance for public performances, especially in uniform
3. Rehearsal techniques
4. Singing tests in groups of 4, 6, or 8, Individual recordings during rehearsals, listening tests, ect.
5. Written tests and assignments

#### Quarter Grade Breakdown:

**300 Points -Performance Attendance:** Attendance is expected of all students for required concerts and rehearsals. Unexcused absences from a rehearsal or performance will receive 100 points for rehearsal and 300 for performance, and will be deducted from their overall grade. Missing a performance may result in a drop in a letter grade for choir, which may make the student ineligible for extracurricular events. Furthermore if a student is tardy, this will result in a penalty. Call times are typically 30 minutes before the concerts, so students and parents must plan accordingly. Students who are not in full uniform or fail to have good conduct during performances will also have points deducted.

**10 Points - Daily Participation Grade:** Participation grades will be given each day to reflect the student's work during rehearsal and regular classroom activities. Attendance and tardies will be considered since the student cannot participate if he or she is not present. Tardies are also considered if the student does not have music, pencil or other required materials for rehearsals. Students may only have 5 excused in class absences with makeup credit eligibility. Posture, vocal technique, preparedness, organization, participation and attitude are also included in the daily grade points.

**50-100 Points- Tests, Quizzes and Written Work:** Written assignments will be given throughout the school year, including but not limited to semester exams, quizzes, singing tests, or other written work over the material being taught in class. Excused in class absences and excused performance or rehearsals will be given a written assignment to make up for that grade. This will be determined between the director and the student.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Since choir is a performance- based class, it is imperative that all students be present and on time for every event. For this reason Washington Choir has a very strict attendance policy. If a rehearsal or performance is missed, and the absence unexcused, points will be deducted from your grade. If you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to see the director about a possible make-up assignment.

For an absence to be excused a phone call or written note from a parent or guardian is required at **least 24 hours** before the performance/rehearsal (for emergencies, a note is required after).

A student's absence not only affects oneself, but also the entire ensemble! Make sure that you compare your choir calendar with other events to avoid conflicts!!!

Excused Absences:

1. Extreme illness (required note from doctor or parent)
2. Death or funeral of a relative or close friend
3. Family emergencies

If you are involved in a conflicting school- sponsored activity, it is your responsibility to try to resolve the conflict on your own. If it is still unresolved, notify the director at least one week in advance.

Unexcused Absences:

1. Work
2. Personal Trips
3. Non-emergency doctor/dentist visits
4. All other absences not listed under "excused absences" at the director's discretion.

## **Eligibility:**

Choir students are expected to be exemplary students both musically and academically. Passing grades should be maintained in ALL CLASSES in order to be eligible for extracurricular activities and performances. Please keep in mind that if you fail a class, you are ineligible to attend competitions/contest performances as well as due to grades, attendance or discipline issues. We will follow all MSHSAA rules when it comes to performing.

## **Uniforms:**

All choir students will be supplied with a uniform at the beginning of the school year. Students are expected to take pristine care of their uniforms, and students will be charged a fee for a choir t-shirt. Choir member's robes will be worn during most major performances.

What is worn under the robes is also important and failure to comply with the concert attire will result in point deductions.

### **MEN:**

Black dress pants (no jeans)  
Choir T-Shirt or Washington T-Shirt  
Black socks  
Black shoes (No tennis shoes)

### **WOMEN:**

Choir T-shirt or Washington T-Shirt  
Black knee length skirt or black pants (no jeans)  
Black closed toed shoes (preferably flat shoes)  
No obvious jewelry

### **Concert Choir:**

**Men and Women:** We will be wearing tuxes and dresses as we have in the past. New members will be required to pay their fee at the beginning of the year. We will be going through Wedding Creations for rental and/or purchasing of the outfits. Returning members may wear the same outfit.

\*Payment plans are also available. \*

Further information will be sent home in the following weeks.

## **Communication:**

I will be using an application called Remind, to send out additional reminders of events and assignments. Each choir has their own code that students and parents may send through text or email, to begin receiving these reminders. I will share these codes to the students during the first week of school and at open house to parents. We also have a website [www.washingtonhighschoolchoirs.weebly.com](http://www.washingtonhighschoolchoirs.weebly.com), Twitter - @whsbluejaychoir and Facebook Page – search Washington High School Choir or @whsbluejaychoir to like and follow. These pages feature frequent updates to all events. As always, I am available by phone and email as well.

## **Classroom Expectations:**

- Treat others with respect at all times and you can be expected to be treated the same from others.
- Use attentive listening while others are speaking, not talking, interrupting, or ignoring, while looking and listening with our whole selves.
- Cellphones are to not be seen or used during class periods or concerts.
- Treat yourself, others and all property with words and actions that exhibit kindness.
- Give your best effort in every class and situation.
- Gum, food and drink, except for water, is not allowed.

## **Discipline:**

If a student commits any disciplinary infraction of the choir, school, or district rules, he or she may face many penalties, including the deduction of grades, loss of privileges and/or leadership positions, choir reassignment, and dismissal. Depending on the severity of the infraction, the director reserves the right to skip to a stronger consequence. The punishments may include, but are not limited to:

**First Infraction:** Warning and loss of participation points for the day.

**Second Infraction:** Loss of points and parent phone call.

**Third Infraction:** Office referral and parent contact/conference.

**Fourth Infraction:** Office referral and potential dismissal from choir.

# Washington Choir Schedule 2018- 2019

**September 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> 2018** -Pre Auditions All District Choir

**September 24<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Auditions for All District Choir – Hillsboro High School

3:30pm-8:00pm -Leave WHS at 2:30pm

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Homecoming Football Game - Meistersingers and Concert Choir

**October 11<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Fall Concert in CJB Performance: 7:00pm **Call Time: 6:30pm** – *All Choirs*

**November 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 2018** Musical – Guys and Dolls in CJB

**November 9<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Veteran’s Day Assembly – Concert Choir

**November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018** – All District Choir Rehearsal – State Auditions – Hillsboro High School – 5:30pm-8:30pm – Leave WHS at 4:00pm

**November 17<sup>th</sup> 2018** – All District Choir Performance & Rehearsal – St. Genevieve HS – Rehearsal 8:30am -3:30pm Performance – 4:00pm

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Madrigal Decorating at First Presbyterian Church – Concert and Meistersingers – After School until 6:30pm

**December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Madrigal Dress Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church – All Choirs 3:40pm – 6:00pm

**December 12<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Madrigal Cast Dress Rehearsal at First Presbyterian Church – All Cast Members 3:40 – 6:30pm

**December 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> 2018** Thurs– Sat Madrigal Dinner at First Presbyterian Church- All Choirs

- Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Performance: 7:00pm, **Call Time: 6:00pm**  
– **Concert and Meistersingers Call Time: 6:45pm – 4th Hour Mixed Choir**

- Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> Performance: 7:00pm, **Call Time: 6:00pm – Concert and Meistersingers Call time: 6:45pm – 5<sup>th</sup> Hour Mixed Choir**
- Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> Performance: 4:00pm Call Time: **3:00pm – Concert and Meistersingers**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019** – Pre- Contest Concert in Choir Room Performance: 6:00pm Call Time: 5:30pm – Solos and Small Ensembles Only

**March – 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>** Branson Trip - TBD (Concert and Meistersingers)

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Solo and Small Ensemble at East Central College

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** – State Contest Solos and Ensembles – All Day Mizzou

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019**- Wings Picnic - TBA

May 2019 Renaissance Assembly – Concert Choir TBA

**May 9<sup>th</sup> 2019** - Spring Concert at Immanuel Lutheran – All Choirs Performance: 7:00pm Call Time: 6:00pm

**May 10<sup>th</sup>** - Six Flags Music in the Parks Festival - All Choirs

**May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019** - Graduation Performance – Concert and Meistersinger Senior Choir Members

*Google Form QR Code:*



*Choir Handbook QR Code:*





**WHS Choir Student/Guardian Information Sheet**  
**Please Print Clearly! Needs to be Returned by August 31st.**

**Student:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: (circle one) 9, 10, 11, 12  
Class Hour \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the handbook and understand the requirements for my class(es)  
and have received a copy of the 2017-2018 calendar:**

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name printed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian:**

Mother or Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Father or Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you: phone or email? Best way to contact you: phone or email?

I would be interested in helping with the following:

Fundraising          Parent Organization          Chaperoning

I check my email consistently and would like to be part of the choir parent email  
group \_\_\_\_

**I have read the handbook and understand the requirements for the class(es)  
and have received a copy of the 2018-2019 calendar:**

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

Parent Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_