



Wheeler Middle School Chorus

2014-2015 Handbook for Students and Parents

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Welcome to Chorus!

The success of our chorus this year is **entirely in your hands**.
Our group will be as rewarding and challenging as YOU are willing to make it.
My thought is: **it's more fun to be GOOD**. So let's make it happen!

What You Need

Come prepared with the following materials to every class:

- Pencil
- Black binder or folder with provided chorus music and handouts

Grading

Rehearsal Skills

This means doing everything you can to help our group succeed. Tardiness, lack of materials, lack of focus, or lack of participation will all result in loss of points. If there is a reason for your low participation on any day (sickness, personal issues, etc.), it is the student's responsibility to communicate with me.

Written Work

This will include homework, tests, projects, and activities. Most written work will assess music literacy concepts or self-assessments of performance.

Singing Assessments

We will assess singing in a variety of ways. These will be a normal part of daily activities, not a "big deal" event to get stressed about! You will never have to sing alone in front of others. You will, however, be expected to sing concert repertoire and literacy exercises in small groups, or alone in a private setting. Singing assessments can always be re-attempted for a better grade, outside of school hours. You may reserve the recording room or submit a high-quality recording from home.

Rehearsal and Performance Attendance & Etiquette

This is a performance-based class; performances are **mandatory!** Conflicts with extracurricular activities, work, or transportation needs are the families' responsibility to resolve. Unexpected absence will be excused with a doctor's note of illness or a parent's note explaining a family emergency. You will make up the grade by "performing" the concert materials for me one-on-one.





Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will include:

- Voicemail (see below)
- Attending concerts outside of school
 - Performing outside of school
- Eastern Region and All-State participation

Voicemail

At any time, you may leave me a voicemail on my school telephone number. Leave me the following information for up to 5 extra credit points:

- Your name
- The name of anyone who is singing with you
- Sing me the song (I recommend you use an mp3 from the www.wheelerchorus.pbworks.com to help you sing accurately)

You can earn extra bonus points by:

- Singing with a peer: +1
- Harmonizing with a peer: +2
- Teaching the song to a family member and singing with them: +3

Concert Attire: Please wear:

- **Something dressy.** *This shows that you take pride in your hard work.* Dress pants, skirt, or dress are all good options. Please wear dress shoes.
- **Something modest.** *This shows that you take pride in your public image.* Please avoid anything that would draw attention to yourself and detract from the unity of group (neon colors, distracting sparkles, hats, etc.). Skirts should be knee length or longer, due to the elevation of the stage. Shirts should follow dress code. Make sure you can walk safely in your shoes.

I am happy to offer assistance providing concert attire if necessary. Notify me at least two weeks before the concert with needed items and size.





**Wheeler Middle School Winter Concert
Thursday, December 4th
6:00 PM**

Performers must arrive at least 30 minutes early!

**There will be a Music Boosters meeting on
Tuesday, September 2nd, 6 PM in the Band Room.
The Boosters provide valuable support services to Wheeler musicians.
We rely on parents of Wheeler musicians to run this group.
Please attend to find out about this year’s initiatives and to have a
voice in the activities the Boosters support.**

Please consider trying out for the Eastern Region festival. It is a great opportunity to receive feedback on your singing, and the festival is a great experience! 10 points extra credit will be given for auditioning.

Check out www.wheelerchorus.pbworks.com for practice mp3s as they become available.

Please do not hesitate to communicate with me!
Email is the best and fastest way to reach me:
bennettc@northstonington.k12.ct.us



Wheeler Chorus Contract

Please detach and return by Friday, September 5

“We have read and understand all expectations of Wheeler Chorus. We have checked our long-term plans, and will commit to attending the Winter Concert on Thursday, December 4th.”

Singer’s Signature

Graduating Year

Parent/Guardian Signature

