



Walled Lake Central Choir Handbook



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Room A100

WELCOME

Welcome to choir! If you are returning to choir this year or you are brand new we are going to have a great year together and I'm so glad you are here! **There will be many activities, so please watch for any changes to the calendar and any email/text reminders and mark them on your family calendar right away.** Please read the following information in this handbook as it will provide you with an overview of the policies and procedures you will need to achieve excellence.

PHILOSOPHY

The performing groups in our school are totally committed to offering each student the opportunity to grow in appreciation and performance of the finest musical literature available. The groups also offer members the opportunity to develop citizenship, a strong sense of self-discipline and increase social interaction while broadening their cultural development in the area of the Fine Arts.

COURSE INFORMATION

Women's Chorus (Muse) Course #94320/94321 Grades: 9-12 1.0 credit

This course is designed for all high school women who have not had any (or very little) previous singing experience at the high school level. This is a soprano/alto choir, which meets every day of the week and is a full year class. This choir serves to prepare students for the opportunity to audition for more advanced ensembles at Central if they choose. Primary level sight-reading, vocal technique and appreciation of various musical styles will be emphasized. Both sacred and secular choral music of all styles and centuries will be studied and performed. Consistent attendance at all course functions, including after school rehearsals and concerts is considered regular course work. This choir will perform at school concerts, music festivals and competitions, some of which occur in the evenings or weekends. Students in this choir may elect to travel on choir trips when offered.

Men's Chorus Course #94200/94201 Grades: 9-12 1.0 credit

This course is designed for all high school men who have not had any (or very little) previous experience singing at the high school level. This is a tenor/bass choir, which meets every day of the week and is a full year class. This choir serves to prepare students for the opportunity to audition for more advanced ensembles at Central if they choose. Primary level sight-reading, vocal technique and appreciation of various musical styles will be emphasized. Both sacred and secular choral music of all styles and centuries will be studied and performed. Consistent attendance at all course functions, including after school rehearsals and concerts is considered regular course work. This choir will perform at school concerts, music festivals and competitions, some of which occur in the evenings or weekends. Students in this choir may elect to travel on choir trips when offered.

Adv Women's Chorus (Valkyries) Course #94030/94031 Grades: 10-12 1.0 credit

Course note: Audition or Directors Approval

This auditioned female ensemble is designed for female singers with previous high school choral experience at an intermediate to advanced level. It is an intermediate level choir by audition or directors approval for women wishing to further their musical knowledge and singing skill. This course emphasizes vocal production, intermediate to advanced level music reading, listening skills, and the performance and study of sacred/secular songs of all styles and centuries. Consistent attendance at all course functions, including after school rehearsals and concerts is considered regular course work. This choir will perform at school concerts, music festivals and competitions, some of which occur in the evenings or weekends. Students in this choir may elect to travel on choir trips when offered.

Chamber Singers Course # 94070/94071 Grades: 11-12 1.0 credit

Course note: Audition or Directors Approval

Chamber Singers is an advanced level vocal ensemble, which requires a high degree of discipline, musicality and vocal musicianship. Because this group is a highly respected vocal music ensemble, members must possess qualities of leadership, maturity, stage presence, responsibility, self-motivation and a respectable character. This class meets every day and is a full year class. This course emphasizes vocal production, advanced level music reading, listening skills, and the performance and study of sacred/secular songs of all styles and centuries. This is a soprano/alto/tenor/bass ensemble. Consistent attendance at all course functions, including after school rehearsals and concerts is considered regular course work. This choir will perform at school concerts, music festivals,

competitions, community events and private parties, some of which occur in the evenings or weekends. Students in this choir may elect to travel on choir trips when offered.

Select Ensembles: After School

Vocal Ensemble

Course #: 94300/94301

Grades: 9-12

1.0 credit

Vocal Ensemble is a 7th hour class (does not conflict with their daily in-school schedule) that allows students to further their musical knowledge and experience. Students must currently participate in an in school choral ensemble. Vocal Ensemble splits into three choirs: a TTBB Men's Ensemble (Bards), an SSAA Women's (Legacy), and an SATB octet (Tónlist) which meet after school and is a full year class. This course emphasizes performance, advanced vocal production, intermediate to advanced level sight-reading and appreciation of various musical styles. Both sacred and secular choral music of all styles and centuries will be studied and performed. Consistent attendance at all course functions, including after school rehearsals, required sectionals, and concerts is considered regular course work. This choir will perform at school concerts, music festivals and competitions, and private events some of which occur in the evenings or weekends. Students in this choir may elect to travel on choir trips when offered. Additional information about each ensemble is listed below:

Bards: Bards is the select men's ensemble for young men in 9th-12th grade. This ensemble will rehearse on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 PM. Please check the choir calendar (www.wlcchoirs.org) for all dates and ANY changes. This ensemble will focus on the developing male voice and work on literature specific for male singers, especially TTBB intermediate to advanced literature. Bards will participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival on January 27th/28th and will perform at the various concerts throughout the year. Bards members are required to participate in an additional sectional hour outside of the weekly rehearsal time. This time is established at the beginning of the year within each section. Auditions are open to all 9th-12th grade male students currently in choir. Incoming freshmen can see Mrs. Lenze regarding auditioning for this school year's ensemble.

Legacy: Legacy is a select women's ensemble for young women in 9th-12th grade. This ensemble rehearses on Thursdays from 5:00-7:00 PM. Please check the choir calendar (www.wlcchoirs.org) for all dates and ANY changes. This ensemble works on SSA or SSAA literature and develops more advanced singing for the female voice. Legacy will participate in the Solo and Ensemble Festival on January 27th/28th. Legacy will also perform separate selections at the various concerts throughout the year. Legacy members are required to participate in an additional sectional hour outside of the weekly rehearsal time. This time is established at the beginning of the year within each section. Auditions are open to all 9th-12th grade female students currently in choir. Incoming freshmen can see Mrs. Lenze regarding auditioning for this school year's ensemble.

Tónlist: Tónlist (meaning sound art in Nordic) is an octet that performs advanced level SATB music. This ensemble is for juniors and seniors only. This ensemble rehearses on Wednesdays from 2:30-4:00 PM in the choir room. Please check the choir calendar (www.wlcchoirs.org) for all dates and ANY changes. Tónlist will participate at District and State Solo and Ensemble. They will also perform at very concerts and performances throughout the year.

Voicing/Chair Placement

At least twice a year we will do a voicing in chorus class. A voicing is where students will learn a short vocal passage that best demonstrates the abilities of their voices at that time. Then they will sing this passage, probably several times with various other singers until a desired combination of voices is found. From here students are placed in a seating arrangement that best enhances a group vocal sound. We are listening for blend, voices with similar qualities (reed/wind), vowel shaping, etc. Voicing is essential to a solid choral sound and student development. However, since each student brings individual strengths to the ensemble, the director will assign parts for some pieces to ensure the best balance for the ensemble. There are no challenges.

Materials List for All Classes

All Students:

- Black Choir Folder (provided)
- 2 Mechanical Pencils (no credit will be given to work in ink)- always in choir folder
- Water Bottle (no juice/soda)
- Sheet Music (provided) kept ORGANIZED in choir binder
- Music Reading Handbook (provided) keep in your choir folder slot
- Google classroom account (directions given in class)
- Sight Reading Factory account (directions given in class)

Classroom Policies:

1. Be the ABSOLUTE BEST you can be. You are part of a team from the moment you walk in the door and everyone is important and needed to make our team successful.
2. Be prepared.
 - a. Come with all materials
 - b. Practice daily
 - c. Keep up, stay focused
 - d. Stay organized
3. Respect instructor, equipment/materials, classmates, and self.
 - a. Encourage
 - b. Choose a positive attitude daily that builds our choir program and does not tear it down
4. Use the bathroom facilities **before** entering class. Written pass is required in order to use the facilities. Make all requests at an appropriate time.
5. Keep interruptions to a minimum. Raise your hand if you have a question that needs immediate attention.
6. Remember you are here to **SING**, NOT talk! No side conversations
7. **NO Gum or Food allowed in the music room on a daily basis!!!** We need to keep “visitors” from taking up permanent residence in our space.
8. Attendance in class is extremely important and tardiness or excessive absences will lower the effectiveness of our rehearsals and create tense situations for concerts.

Classroom Rehearsal Etiquette

Please note that **performance classes** are quite different from most classes that students will encounter at Walled Lake Central High School. The classes tend to be larger and students are sitting or standing in close proximity to their classmates. The success of the class depends heavily on the success of each individual's ability to be respectful and interact appropriately with each other. Excessive talking and/or distracting behavior will result in removal from class, parent/guardian notification, a detention or a referral which will affect the student's grade due to missed class participation.

DISCIPLINE

I am so thrilled that you have chosen to take choir! I promise that if you put forth the effort, you will be able to take advantage of so many wonderful and exciting new musical opportunities that I have planned for this year. It is my job to provide you with and prepare you for these opportunities and it is your job to be a dedicated student musician by trying your best and asking questions. If you do these things, you will be well on your way to becoming an accomplished musician. For you, the sky will be the limit!

However, in my experience, there are sometimes students who do not share your passion for music and therefore do not take this class seriously. These students repeatedly disregard our class etiquette, policies, and procedures. For those students, I say this...we will diligently follow the discipline procedures listed in the Walled Lake Central Policies and Procedures. I will be happy to speak with you, contact your parents/guardians, schedule a teacher/counselor conference, assign detentions, create a contract, etc. Students who have been found in violation of the Walled Lake Central Handbook policies and procedures will be issued a warning/citation. A second violation is a phone call/email to and set up of a face-to-face meeting. Any student issued three (3) warnings will not be allowed to participate in any extra vocal music department events; i.e.: trips, etc. In order for our ensembles to reach their full potential we need 100% class participation from everyone. No exceptions.

I am looking forward to our upcoming year! It is important to me that your high school musical experience this year is one that you cherish and you can take pride in. I hope you will look forward to this class and all the new musical changes that await you.

I can't wait to get started! Let's have a great year together! ☺

Always remember...**I want you to succeed!**

The easiest way to do this is to be attentive, cooperative, and respectful throughout the rehearsal process...

TARDIES

You are considered tardy if you are not in the Choir Room when then bell rings. You will also be required to be in your seat warming up/completing the MRH assignment and ready to go by 5 minutes after the bell. All directions will be on the whiteboard.

Grade Requirements

Students will be evaluated through participation, performances, tests/quizzes, written assignments, and practice assignments. Tests will be written, singing, or rhythmic interpretation. Daily participation and performances will be the strongest factors of each student's grade; however, students will also be graded on music skills, small group research projects, written assignments, homework assignment/practice assignments, and additional rehearsals. Grades are not rounded.

Assessment: Semester grades will be computed as follows:

Please Note: I am usually always available before school and after school by appointment. I encourage you to come in for extra help whenever you need to. Remember, I am always here to help you!

<u>Daily (10% of your total grade)</u>	<u>Events (30% of your total grade)</u>	<u>Frequent (30% of your total grade)</u>	<u>Benchmark Assessments (30% of your total grade)</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal Skills: 20-25 points per day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on your ability to be prompt, prepared, attentive, follow directions, show effort and be cooperative, <u>attend all</u> scheduled classes. ○ Missed classes: students who have an <u>excused absence</u> will have an opportunity to complete a daily make up assignment to receive their daily points. ○ Adds up to 100 points a week. • Music Reading Handbook (MRH): 10 points per day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Every day students will need to come into choir, pick up their binder, and check the board for the MRH assignment that needs to be completed in the first 5 minutes of class that day. Each assignment will be an introduction to a concept being worked on in class. • Folder check: 10 points per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have ALL of your materials. Music, MRH, Mechanical Pencil NEAT and ORGANIZED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts: major concerts this year. Concerts are MANDATORY ATTENDANCE. Students will also be graded on singing skills, effort, focus, attention, participation, and preparedness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fall Concert- 100 points ○ Collage Concert #1 and #2- 100 points each ○ Festival Concert- 100 points ○ Festival- 100 points ○ Pops Concert #1 and #2- 100 points each • Additional Rehearsals: These rehearsals are to help students be prepared for each major concert. These rehearsals are very important to help our concerts go smoothly and students to be prepared and focused. Mandatory attendance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fall Concert Dress Reh: 75 pts ○ Collage Concert Dress Reh: 75 pts ○ Pops Concert Reh: 75 pts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluations and Juries: 40-60 points per quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluations and juries are a way to evaluate your progress on singing skills like solfege, scales, hand signs, and intervals, and literature understanding and mastery. ○ The format is always improvement and students could schedule times to re-do ○ Grading rubrics provided before evaluation/jury • Written Assignments: 10-30 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These can range from a written homework assignment, practice assignment, or concert evaluation. These are usually to help you prepare for upcoming evaluations or quizzes. • Quizzes/Tests: 20-40 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Music reading/skills quizzes to help you improve your emerging reading skills. • Projects: 100-200 points per project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specific information given at time of project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA's- 40-75 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Each BA will have a pre and post-test. This will help students to identify the areas they need to work on. ○ The format is always improvement and students receiving a C or below should schedule time to meet with Mrs. Lenze to work on the material and then re-take the benchmark assessment ○ Grading rubrics provided as needed ○ Occur once for each marking period (4 times a year)

THE FINAL SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

The final semester grade (the one that will appear on a transcript) is an average of the two marking period grades and the semester exam (mid-term or final) grade according to the following district percentages:

40% Marking period grade
 40% Marking period grade
 20% Semester Exam grade

The district-wide grading scale for grades four through twelve is as follows:

100% and above = A+	79% - 78% = C+
99% - 92% = A	77% - 72% = C
91% - 90% = A-	71% - 70% = C-
89% - 88% = B+	69% - 68% = D+
87% - 82% = B	67% - 62% = D
81% - 80% = B-	61% - 60% = D-
	59% and below = E

Concert Attendance:

Concert attendance is mandatory, not optional. Concerts are a way for students to exhibit what they have learned over the course of a semester, and are a vital part of each student's music education. Performances count for 30% of an overall student's grade for each marking period.

Concerts are generally no more than 2 hours and students must attend for the entirety of the concert in order to receive credit.

A sign in and sign out sheet will be posted before the concert in the choir room and then posted after the concert/clean up. Students are responsible to sign their OWN name at sign in and sign out.

Call time is generally 45 minutes to one hour before the performance start time. This time is crucial for the choirs to warm up and prepare for the performance.

Make sure that you have planned **AHEAD OF TIME** for your transportation. If you are having difficulties, please let Mrs. Lenze know in advance to see if other arrangement can be made.

Since unexcused absences from performance situations cannot be tolerated, *a student's overall grade may be lowered by a maximum of two grades for a missed performance.* The director may consider special circumstances for absence. **Written excuses** from the parent/guardian must be submitted at **least 1 week prior to a performance.** Emergencies and illness will be treated on an individual basis, but generally **an illness excuse requires** a phone call or email to Mrs. Lenze the night of the concert and must be presented **IN WRITING to the teacher WITHIN 24 HOURS of the students return to school.** Improper notification could result in an unexcused absence.

Excused absences from a concert/performance need to be made up. An individual who finds himself/herself in this situation needs to make an appointment with Mrs. Lenze to be assigned the appropriate make-up assignment.

If you are aware of a concert conflict PLEASE see me as soon as possible to understand and begin your make-up assignment. Some assignments are time sensitive.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is the intention of the Central Music Department that students will be able to be members of the Choir, Band or Orchestra and still successfully participate in after-school extracurricular activities such as clubs, sports, religious organization, part-time jobs, etc. It is essential that students bring choir/activity conflicts to Mrs. Lenze as soon as possible.

In general, performing arts students should use the following guideline for alleviating conflicts:

A performance or game outweighs a rehearsal or practice.

Conflicts between a rehearsal and a practice should be worked out by the student between Mrs. Lenze and the activity sponsor/coach – in advance. Is it the STUDENT'S responsibility to give the name of the sponsor/coach, their email address/phone number, and the date of conflict to Mrs. Lenze well in advance of the conflict. It will be Mrs. Lenze's position to work toward a 50/50 compromise.

Similarly, conflicts between a performance and a game should be worked out ahead of time. Every attempt will be made to make both co-exist.

Concert Attire for Walled Lake Central Choirs

There is a ***\$50 deposit that is required (checks made to WLCHS-this is a school fee since the uniforms are district owned)*** when students sign up for choir. As long as the uniform has been returned, professionally cleaned, and in good condition a full refund will be issued.

Men	replacement cost	Women	replacement cost
*Black tux jacket	\$130	*Blue concert dress	\$100
*Black tux pants	\$40	Black nylons/knee highs (purchase self)	
*Blue tux vest	\$45	Black character shoes (purchased for \$25)	
*Blue tux tie	\$15	Pearl necklace and earring set (purchase set for \$15 \$10 necklace \$5 earrings)	
*White tux shirt	\$20	Garment Bag	\$20
Black tux shoes (purchased for \$25)			
Black dress socks (purchase self)			
Garment Bag	\$20		

*indicates a school provided uniform part

CLEANING

It is recommended that concert outfits be dry-cleaned after each performance

ALTERATIONS

DO NOT cut or permanently alter your uniform. Do not use fusible hemming tape for pants or dress hem. We will have a seamstress that will be at Choir Orientation on September 22nd. The alteration fees (in general- any extremes will impact cost) are as follows:

Hems-\$15

Seam adjustment-\$8-10 depending on the complexity

Fix buttons/zipper-\$8-10 depending on the complexity

Parents/Students are welcome to use their own seamstress/tailor for alterations, but all uniforms must fit **PROPERLY** for performances.

Calendar of Events for 2016-2017

Check all EVENTS now and place on family and personal calendars. Please check the choir calendar (www.wlcchoirs.org) OFTEN for any changes and updates. You can sync the choir calendar with your home google calendar. Email rahme.rayes@gmail.com for assistance.

Tuesday September 13 th	Regional State Honors Choir App Due For those interested in State Honors Choir only	
Sunday September 18 th	Choir Picnic	Marsh Bank Park 1-5 PM
Thursday September 22 nd	Choir Orientation *Required for ALL choir members and at least ONE adult for each student	5:30 PM Auditorium
Saturday September 24 th	Choir Car Wash Students will work a 2-hour shift on this day to help out! Parents/families are encouraged and asked to come and help!	CAYA Smokehouse/Grill 9:30 AM-5:30 PM
Saturday October 1 st and Sunday October 2 nd	Chamber Singers Retreat	leave Saturday mid-morning return evening Sunday
Wednesday October 5 th	Regional State Honors Choir online singing submission DUE For those interested in State Honors Choir only	
Friday October 7 th	Choir Bonfire	following Homecoming game at Faubert household
Thursday October 13 th	For Men Only Field Trip Men's Chorus and Chamber Singers Men 9 AM-1 PM take bus from Central to Western	Western
Saturday October 15 th	Valkyries Victory Day	Al-Abawi household 11:00 AM-7:00 PM
Thursday October 20 th	Temple Israel Performance Performance for Chamber Singers, Bards, and Legacy	Temple Israel 11:30 AM-4:00 PM
Tuesday October 25 th	Fall Concert Rehearsal Required for ALL choir students	2:30-5:30 PM Auditorium
Wednesday October 26 th	Fall Concert General Admission- tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	7 PM WLC Auditorium
Friday October 30 th	Choir Bonfire	following Homecoming game at Faubert household
November 1 st -3 rd	Jury #1	In class- Professional Dress
Saturday November 12 th	MSVMA Musical Theater S&E	Grosse Point South HS
Tuesday November 15 th	Choir Booster Meeting PLEASE come and help support our program	7 PM Central Choir Room
Saturday December 3 rd	Regional State Honors Choir For those that make it into Regional State Honors Choir	South Lyon HS
Thursday December 8 th	Collage Concert Rehearsal and Performance #1 Assigned seating-tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	right after school Concert 7 PM WLC Auditorium
Friday December 9 th	Collage Concert Performance #2 Assigned seating- tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	7 PM WLC Auditorium
Tuesday December 13 th Friday December 16 th	Musical Information Meeting District Solo & Ensemble Google Form AND payment DUE	2:30 PM WLC Auditorium by 4 PM into choir safe

December 19-22	Musical Auditions	
Tuesday January 10 th	Musical Parent Meeting	5:30 PM WLC Auditorium
Tuesday January 10 th	Choir Booster Meeting	7:00 PM Choir Room
January 17th	Jury #2	5:30-9:30 PM- sign up for a 7 min slot on choir board
January 19-21	Michigan Music Conference State Honors Choir Participants Performance	All Day Lansing
Friday January 27 th and Saturday January 28 th	HS Solo and Ensemble Festival (for students who elect to attend)	All Day Detroit Country Day
Tuesday February 7 th	Name of Love Solo auditions Chamber Singers (Bards and Legacy as assigned)	WESTERN Choir Room
Monday February 13 th	Name of Love Rehearsal	NORTHERN Aud 3-5 PM
Thursday February 14 th	Name of Love Tour Chamber Singers (Bards and Legacy as assigned)	All Day
Monday March 6th	Festival Concert	7 PM WESTERN Auditorium
Friday March 17-Sunday March 19	The Little Mermaid the musical performances! Please come and support our fantastic show! tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	7:30 PM evening shows 2:00 PM matinee show
Wednesday March 22nd	District Choral Festival	All Day WLN
Friday March 24-Sunday March 26	The Little Mermaid the musical performances! Please come and support our fantastic show! tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	7:30 PM evening shows 2:00 PM matinee show
Week of March 20-23	Jury #3	In Class-Professional Dress
March 27 th	Italy Bon Voyage Concert	7 PM Kirk in the Hills
March 29 th -April 7 th	ITALY TRIP	
Tuesday April 11 th	Choir Booster Meeting	7 PM Choir Room
Friday April 21 st and Saturday April 22 nd	State Solo and Ensemble Festival For those students who make it into State S&E	TBD
Tuesday May 2nd	Pops Concert Featured Act Auditions Theme this year! ROCK N' ROLL	2:45 PM WLC Auditorium
Monday May 15th	Pops Concert Stage Set Up *This is REQUIRED for all Featured Act performers*	2:30-9:30 PM WLC Auditorium
Tuesday May 16th	Pops Concert Act 1 Rehearsal	2:30 PM-9:30 PM WLC Aud
Wednesday May 17th	Pops Concert Act 2 Rehearsal	2:30 PM-9:30 PM WLC Aud
Thursday May 18th	Pops Concert #1 Performance General admission- tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	7:00 PM WLC Auditorium
Friday May 19th	Pops Concert #2 Performance General admission- tickets can be purchased online at www.wlcstickets.com	7:00 PM WLC Auditorium
Tuesday May 23rd	Advanced Choir Auditions- Women	2:30 PM Choir Room
Wednesday May 24th	Advanced Choir Auditions- Men	2:30 PM Choir Room
Thursday May 25th	Choir Banquet	5:30 PM arrival Location TBD

Friday June 2 nd	Senior Celebration	during school day
Sunday June 4 th	Graduation	take busses EMU Graduation at 1 PM
Thursday June 9 th	Coffee House/Jury #4	5:30 PM start WLC Choir Room
Tuesday June 13 th	Choir Booster Meeting	7:00 PM Choir Room

**** Additional events and changes to the current events will be announced through the weekly email as soon as possible (I will always try to give at least 2 weeks notice of changes) so students and parents will be able to adjust their schedules or let me know of prior conflicts.**

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

MSVMA Events

MSVMA (Michigan State Vocal Music Association) provides many wonderful performance opportunities for vocal and choral students throughout the school year. This year the following opportunities will be available to the choral students at East Middle School:

Honors Choir: Every year the Michigan Vocal Music Association holds a State Honors Choir for students in the 9th through 12th grades. There are three choir opportunities; an SSA choir, TTBB choir, or SATB choir. Students audition individually for each choir. Last year the format moved to a video taped audition that is submitted on line. This same process will continue this year. There are four rehearsals that are held at various locations and students perform at the Michigan Music Education Conference in January. Interested students should see Mrs. Lenze at the very beginning of school!

Solo and Ensemble Festival: This festival is designed to allow students the opportunity to improve their solo and small ensemble skills through evaluation by a judge on two selections of music. This is a great opportunity to develop performance poise and repertoire. Students can begin preparation as early as this summer. Mrs. Lenze is more than willing to help and guide you through this process. Students who study in private voice lessons will attend this festival. Preparations begin in the beginning of the school year with the District Solo and Ensemble Festival being held in February. If students receive a 1 at District Solo and Ensemble they are then eligible to perform at the State Solo and Ensemble level.

Choral Festival: Choral festival occurs in March (Music in Our Schools Month!) and is a wonderful learning opportunity for our students. During this festival each grade will sing two selections and be evaluated by a panel of adjudicators on their tone, diction, rhythm, interpretation, style, and stage decorum. Students will also be evaluated on their sight reading skills. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to grow in their musical development as well as see other choirs perform from all over the southern Michigan region.

Fundraisers

All of our funds for the choir depend on fundraisers!! How we are able to purchase music, equipment like microphones and stands, specialty tech equipment, pay our piano accompanist, pay to attend festival and the busses that go with attending festival, and all of our other choir expense come from the funds we raise during our fundraisers. If you are not comfortable participating in a fundraiser please consider making a donation to the choir program to help us achieve all of the fantastic performance opportunity our students achieve in the year with the help of these funds. Some of the fundraisers you will see this year and can alert family and friends to will be:

Little Caesars Pizza Kits

Choir Spirit Wear: This is a wonderful way to promote the excitement for students about participating in the WLC choir program. Orders are usually taken in the very beginning of October. All choir students are then given an opportunity to place an order. Our goal is to have the spirit wear available by the first choir concert at the end of October!

Concessions at Concerts

Choir dinner nights at local restaurants (Chilli's, CAYA's, Applebee's, etc)

No-Fuss Fundraiser: We will be having a no-fuss fundraiser to help support our program. This program simply asks our choir families to make a tax-deductible contribution to the choir program. This dramatically impacts the funds we will have for the end of the year concert. More information to come!

SCRIP is the only ongoing Music Booster fundraiser, and it runs year long. SCRIP is similar to gift cards but with a percentage of the purchase coming back to the Music Boosters. The cost of the actual gift card does NOT increase when you purchase from SCRIP. Instead a percentage of that card goes right back to the choir program. When you purchase SCRIP cards you simply need to indicate that you are purchasing in support of the choir program. You can purchase SCRIP to be used on daily necessities such as gas, groceries, dining out, etc. There are over 600 vendors and companies that participate in this program! For more information on SCRIP, please see the link <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product>

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You will need to search Walled Lake Central HS Music Booster's and sign up to have your purchase points added to the music boosters account and then specifically divided among the three ensembles.

Choir Fee's

Choir fees are necessary in order for the choir program to give students as many incredible experiences as possible. Our program is very active in our community, school, competitions and festivals around Michigan and bringing in the best musicians to work with our students to help them achieve greater success and musical heights. In order to do this, we need to require a choir fee to cover all of the costs. **If there are financial concerns that would prevent a student from participating in choir please see Mrs. Lenze.** Payment plans can be worked out to spread the choir fee out over a longer period of time. Choir fees are paid at Choir Orientation on September 22nd. This payment is made directly to the Choir Boosters program that manages this financial account.

Women's Chorus

Men's Chorus

Adv Women's Chorus

Chamber Singers

<u>Breakdown:</u>	<u>Breakdown:</u>	<u>Breakdown:</u>	<u>Breakdown:</u>
t-shirts: 2@ \$10 each	t-shirts: 2@ \$10 each	t-shirts: 2@ \$10 each	t-shirts: 2@ \$10 each
food: \$10	food: \$10	food: \$10	food: \$10
busing: \$15	busing: \$15	busing: \$15	busing: \$15
accompanist: \$25	accompanist: \$25	accompanist: \$25	accompanist: \$25
Clinicians/MSVMA events: \$20	Clinicians/MSVMA events: \$20	Clinicians/MSVMA events: \$20	Clinicians/MSVMA events: \$20
		Valkyries Victory Day: \$30	Chamber Singers Retreat: \$70
Total = \$90	Total= \$90	Total= \$120	Total= \$160

Separate expenses that might come up in the year:
 Musical Theater Solo and Ensemble registration
 District Solo and Ensemble registration fee
 State Solo and Ensemble registration fee
 Honors Choir fees

PLEASE NOTE!!! We do a choir fee at the beginning of the year instead of pestering you for payments throughout the year. We try to do this as a courtesy you and your family. If there are any issues regarding the fee that would prevent a student from participating in choir please talk to Mrs. Lenze. The choir fee should NEVER stop a student from being in choir!

PRACTICE/HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:

Practice

Daily practice is for singers what homework is to other classes. In order for any student to be successful as a musician, **focused practicing is essential.** Please encourage your student to practice daily.

Students should **practice 15-20 minutes each day.** Students will be responsible for practice assignments, which will require submission through Google classroom or Sight Reading Factory. Each student will receive their own Sight Reading Factory account that they will be able to access from home on their computers or phones. This is a web based sight reading system that is geared at improving students sight reading abilities and giving them more immediate feedback on their skills. Some of the assignments may include word memorization, sight-singing examples, preparation for group singing assessments, etc. As noted in the grading policies, the practice assignments/evaluations will constitute 30% of a student's grade.

Students who need additional assistance on their choir music may make an appointment with Mrs. Lenze to seek help before school, lunch-time, SRT, or after school.

Simple Practice Sessions

Practice Tips

1. Physical Warm-up (2-3 minutes)	1. Practice five days or more a week
2. Vocal Warm-up: lip buzz, tongue trills, sighs (2-3 minutes)	2. Start with small sections of new music
3. Sight singing practice (5-10 minutes)	3. Ask for help when you hit a hard spot
4. Word Memorization (5 minutes)	4. Speak words separately in rhythm
5. Chorus Music Practice (5 to 10 minutes)	Practice with a friend sometimes
6. Fun review, pop music, etc. (5 minutes or more)	Practice slowly (does not need to be as fast as we practice in class!)
7. Enjoy music!	Find quality recordings of the songs and listen with a critical ear
	Pick a set time each day
	Sing some form of scales at every practice session- you have MANY to pick from
	Increase dynamic range (work on pianissimo all the way to fortissimo!)
	Use a metronome for part of the time
	Use a journal to record your progress

While schedules can get hectic and students suffer an unexpected sickness, there are practice techniques that can be employed in these circumstances. Please contact me if you need assistance with extra practice techniques.

Activities that also count as practice and the amount of time that can be counted per week:

1. Private lessons (30-60 minutes)
2. Attending a professional concert (non rock/pop) (60 minutes)

MAKE-UP WORK FOR A MISSED CLASS REHEARSAL

Choir is distinct from other subjects in that it is a performance-based and ensemble-based class. It is not possible for students to learn to sing on their own away from the choir and make up for ensemble skills developed and practiced during this time. Therefore, it is also not possible for students to make-up what they missed in choir the day(s) they were absent. Any student who is absent receives a ZERO for his/her Daily Participation grade for that rehearsal day because they were not there to participate.

Any student who misses a class rehearsal due to an EXCUSED absence (excused by the school) has the opportunity to earn up to 20 Daily Participation Points for that day through one of the following make-up activities. These activities help to increase student's musicianship, theory skills, listening skills, and observation skills which are vital to the overall development of each student. It is the *student's* responsibility to do the work on his/her own and turn it in to Mrs. Lenze in the *Make-up Work Bin*. For each day the student is absent he/she has 2 days from the day he/she returned to school to turn in the work. **LATE WORK will NOT be accepted for a grade. Papers turned into the Make-up Work Bin, must include:**

1. **Name**
2. **Class hour**
3. **Date of Absence(s)**
4. **Date turned in**
5. **Choir Folder Number**

*Students should complete one make-up activity for every day they are absent.
Fill out the form on the next page and submit.*

Make-Up Activities

1. **Website:** Spend 30 minutes on one of the following websites. *30 minutes= one day absence*
www.musictheory.net www.teoria.com www.emusictheory.com/practice.html www.good-ear.com/
www.8notes.com/games

These websites provide lessons and exercises that reinforce music theory concepts we are working on in class. When finished, students must turn in a written note signed by their parent verifying how many minutes they practiced working on the websites.

2. **Sing:** Students may prepare and sing 2 minutes of a choir song they are working on in class in front of their choir class. The more time spent preparing, the better your performance will be. Please turn in a written note signed by parents/guardian verifying any practice time spent on the song.
3. **Sight-read:** Sight-read 2 of the sight-reading examples we work on in class (2 examples for each day missed). Interested students should make an appointment with Mrs. Lenze. Time can be scheduled before school, after school, SRT (if within the same week), or possibly lunch (we have the same lunch time).
4. **Listen:** Students should listen to a "classical" choral CD and turn in a sheet with the name of the CD, who it was performed by, and two five-sentence paragraphs telling your thoughts about the performance. If you are having a hard time finding a CD or ensemble to listen to see Mrs. Lenze to borrow one from our WLC choir library. Below are suggested ensembles to look up:
 - a. **Chanticleer**
 - b. **The Monteverdi Choir**
 - c. **Polyphony**
 - d. **Swedish Radio Choir**
 - e. **Choral Arts (Seattle)**
 - f. **The King's Singers**
 - g. **The Tallis Scholars**
 - h. **King's College Choir, Cambridge**
 - i. **Brigham Young University Women's Chorus**
 - j. **Mormon Tabernacle Choir**
 - k. **The Real Group**
 - l. **University of Michigan Men's Glee Club**
5. **Research:** Research the composer or poet of one of the songs we are singing in choir. Hand in a one page paper on the information you found single-spaced in font size 12 and Times New Roman font.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR A MISSED CLASS REHEARSAL
ASSIGNMENT RECORDER
HAND THIS PAGE INTO MAKE-UP WORK BIN

Name: _____

Hour: _____ Folder Number: _____

Date(s) absent: _____ Date turned in: _____

Make-up assignment: _____

Time took to complete: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

**Description (what site you went to, what exercises you practiced, how this practice helped you, what part of class this might be similar to, etc) of EACH make-up assignment.
Remember to be thorough, thoughtful, and complete:**