

## WAUPACA MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR HANDBOOK

2015-2016

Mrs. Leder

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Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/waupacaschools.org/leder/home>

### 1. The following will be required of each student during class..

1. Everyday you **MUST** have the following in class: music, a pencil, your agenda, your three ring binder. Grades will drop each day those items are not with you in class.
2. **GUM, CANDY, SNACKS, OR OTHER FOOD IS NOT ALLOWED IN CHOIR.** It is a choking hazard and causes the singer to not be able to shape their mouth in the appropriate way for singing.
3. **CELL PHONES AND IPODS/IPADS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CHOIR.** There is no need for these devices in the room or at the rehearsal. These items are to be kept in the student's street locker during rehearsal. Any student found to be using or have a cell phone, Ipod, or Ipad in rehearsal will have it confiscated and receive a failing grade for that day as well as a minor offense report write up.
4. A **covered** water bottle is encouraged and welcome in class.
5. **BACKPACKS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN ANY REHEARSAL.** There is ample time to get to your locker and pick up your backpack at the end of the day.

### 2. Rehearsals will consist of the following:

1. Warm Ups
2. Theory Work
3. Vocal and Aural skills
4. Concert and performance music
5. Daily assignment

### 3. Students will be expected to become proficient in the following areas over their time in WMS choir:

1. Music theory
2. Sight singing
3. Vocal performance and Concerts
4. Aural dictations skills

### 4. Concert Attire consists of a t-shirt designed by each grade level and black bottoms.

1. T-shirts will be available for new members to purchase for a cost of \$12 each.
2. Guys wear t-shirt, black pants, black socks, and black shoes.
3. Girls wear t-shirt, black pants, skirts, or gauchos, black stockings/nylons, and black shoes.
4. Each Sixth Grade Choir will design their own shirts in the fall. That will be the shirt they will wear all three years of choir at WMS.

### 5. Grading will be done as follows on rehearsals, projects, tests, and concerts:

1. 20=A+; 19=A; 18=B+; 17.5=B; 16=C+; 15.5=C; 14.5=D+; 13=D; 12.5 and below = F
2. To receive an A in rehearsals, a student must have all required items in class each day, follow directions, and be an asset to the choir. **It is the discretion of the director to determine grading each day based on observation and individual work during each rehearsal.**
3. To receive an A on projects, a student must turn the project in on time and have it completed to the fulfillment of all project requirements. Project assignments will be put on the vocal music website and will be handed out in class.
4. To receive an A at concerts, a student must attend the **ENTIRE** concert, wear appropriate performance attire, and be on time. If a concert must be missed, a note or phone call to the director is needed at least two weeks prior to the concert. Anyone absent from school on the day of a concert is automatically excused. Emergencies just prior to performances will be excused for family, illness, or

other reasons deemed as excused by the director.

6. Classroom and rehearsal behavior and expectations.

1. Any student disrupting the rehearsal, using rehearsal for social time, not following directions, and/or not rehearsing up to the expectations of the choir/director will be asked to leave and move to the office. This includes sitting in the incorrect/assigned seat. A minor offense report will be written each time this happens. **Being asked to leave the room three times during the course of the year will result in the student being immediately dismissed from choir for the rest of the school year. PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

2. There are three times students may socialize and talk during rehearsal:

1. Before class begins.
2. Between songs.
3. When class is finished and everyone is cleaning up.

3. Because choir is a workshop type of class and a rehearsal cannot be made up, students who are habitually tardy to class or who habitually bring notes from teachers to leave class will see their grade drop. Time is always given for students to get help with an assignment, makeup a test, do corrections, etc. This is on an as needed basis and students will only be able to leave if their teacher makes arrangements with the director ahead of class. The music department tries to be very conscious of the fact that some students have both band and choir. However, daily or weekly requests to be out of class will be discussed between the director, teacher, parents, and student.

4. **ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE.**

5. Tests and quizzes will be given periodically on sight singing, concert memorization, music theory, and aural dictation. Some of these will be done individually with the director and some will be done together as a class. Retakes for low grades will be given at the discretion of the director. Absent makeup work will always be allowed.

7. Students will be given extra credit points for the following work outside the classroom:

1. Solo and ensemble, outside performances, Briosio Chorale (girls), the Middle School Musical, Candles and Cabaret, and Honor's Choir. If a student attends an outside performance, they will receive extra credit for it if a parent/guardian signed program is brought in.

2. All students in grades 6, 7, and 8 may participate in the All School Musical. All choir students are able to participate in outside performances. Ladies in 7 and 8 grades are also able to participate in Briosio Chorale. Solo and Ensemble is open to all 7 and 8 grade choir members. Honor's Choir is open to 7 and 8 grade students by invitation only.

8. Lost/destroyed choir folders and music will have a book fee assessed to them at the end of the school year.

9. All parents of band and choir members of WMS are part of our WMS Music Boosters. During the year we have various fundraising events to help our department keep up with instrument repair, music, folders, accompanists, equipment, etc. It is the hope of our department directors that parents would be able to help out as they can. Our large fundraisers are as follows:

1. Annual Music Boosters Mr. Z's Fundraising Sale. This happens in February.
2. Piggly Wiggly receipts can be turned into an of the directors at any time.
3. Candles and Cabaret is a spaghetti dinner served to the public with music and a concert. This year's tentative date is March 17.

10. Concert dates and other important dates are included on the attached sheet.

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE PAGE

**PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED SYLLABUS THOROUGHLY.** If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Leder. The student and parent/guardian need to be fully informed of the guidelines and expectations of choir students here at Waupaca Middle School.

By signing below, you verify to have done the following:

1. Have read and understand all-important information in this choir handbook.
2. Have written all important dates on the family calendar.

**PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. LEDER BY FRIDAY SEPT. 4, 2015**

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Student Signature	Date	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
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PARENT E-MAIL (USED FOR GETTING DEPARTMENT INFORMATION TO PARENTS ONLY)

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NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: If you are interested and willing to become involved in the **WMS MUSIC BOOSTERS ORGANIZATION**. Please write your telephone number here \_\_\_\_\_.

A list of telephone numbers will be compiled to distribute to organization member.