

**Millard West High School**  
**Show Choir Parent & Student Handbook**  
**2014/2015**

**Zack Bjornsen**  
**Director of Show Choirs**

[zpbjornsen@mpsomaha.org](mailto:zpbjornsen@mpsomaha.org)

**Jenna Meuret**  
**Assistant Director**

[jenna.meuret@ralstonschools.org](mailto:jenna.meuret@ralstonschools.org)

**Millard West Show Choirs**

**West in the Groove – Varsity Mixed Show Choir**

Rehearses – Tuesday & Thursday morning 7:00-7:50 AM & Tuesday evening 7:00-9:00 PM

**Uptown Girls – Varsity Women's Show Choir**

Rehearses – Wednesday & Friday morning 7:00-7:50 AM & Wednesday afternoon 3:30-5:30 PM

**Swing Cats – Junior Varsity Mixed Show Choir**

\*Rehearses – Tuesday afternoon 3:30-5:30 PM & Thursday afternoon 7:00-9:00 PM

\*SCATS rehearsal schedule subject to change as Ms. Meuret and Mr. Bjornsen continue to brainstorm the best possible solution to scheduling issues.

**Extra Rehearsals**

At times, each group will have extra rehearsals, mainly choreography rehearsals. These rehearsals are extremely important to be at. We bring in choreographers from out of town, and it is very difficult to learn the choreography without the choreographer. The choreography sessions that have been scheduled at this point are as follows:

WIG – Aug. 4-7 – Times TBA

UTG – Aug. 11-15 – Times TBA

SCATS – TBD

## **Performances**

Premiere – Dec. 8 – Unveiling of shows to public – Two Shows

5 Competitions – Jan. 10, Jan. 17, 2 competitions in Feb (Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28 available Saturdays) & March 21 (With Hotel Stay) – Locations TBA

Singsation – Jan. 24 – MWHS Show Choir Competition

That Show Choir Show – April 10 – Final performances & Senior Celebration – Two Shows

District Music Contest April 22-25 – UTG Only - 1 Performance – specific Date TBD

Metro Magic Festival April 26 (Date TBD) – WIG Only

## **Financial Obligations**

All Show Choir Members (Singers, Band, & Roadies) are required to pay a \$60 Activity Fee to Millard West High School in order to participate in extra-curricular school activities. Please pay this fee to Millard West during Fall Registration.

Millard West will be charging **\$450** for costumes & travel this year. This money will be used for uniform and supply needs, as well as hotel costs for the March Competition. Covered with this expense: Girls – shoes, tights, dress, spankies, jewelry, make-up, leotard, and possible costume change. Boys – shoes, suit, shirt, tie, and possible costume change. Members will not receive uniforms until paid in full. The payment schedule is as follows:

<u>May 29</u>	\$200.00	Bring to Parent/Member Meeting
<u>June 30</u>	\$150.00	Mail or drop off at Millard West Main Office
<u>August 10</u>	\$100.00	Bring to Show Choir Bonding

Students may purchase extra shoes, tights, make-up, ties, and shirts at their own expense.

Band Members & Roadies will not be charged a costume fee. Roadies will be provided a costume and band members will be asked to wear performance black for shows. There is a small possibility that band members could also be asked to wear matching ties and/or scarves, if that is the case we will collect a small fee next fall, not to exceed \$20.

If Show Choir is a financial hardship, please visit with the accounting office at MWHS. There are options to help, and they would keep your situation confidential.

**Possible Additional Expenses**

Students usually purchase T-Shirts and Sweats for competitions. This is not a requirement. Additional expenses could include: food/drink/souvenirs at competitions, show choir camps attended during the summer, extra costume pieces, etc. All of the above expenses are not covered by the school.

**Bonding - Mandatory**

Every year the show choirs (Singers, Band members, & Roadies) go on an outing to meet each other and plan our year. The date for bonding is on **August 2, 2013**. More details to follow at the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Costumes**

It is the responsibility of show choir members to take care of their costumes. Our costumes are one of a kind and very delicate. Please take your costume out of the garment bag to air out, and follow all cleaning instructions given to us by our costumer. Be Very Careful if you choose to clean your costume!! If you lose or ruin a piece of your costume you will not be able to perform until your costume piece is replaced at your expense.

**Appearance**

Appearance is vitally important to our success and needs to have uniformity. This includes competitions as well as non-judged performances. Stage appearance is non-negotiable.

- Natural Hair color only.
- Men – Hair off the collar, ears, and eyebrows. Clean shaven.
- Women – Hair out of face, and styled as determined by the directors.
- No piercings or tattoos visible during performances. Only uniformed costume jewelry will be allowed during performances.
- All make-up will be uniform and determined by the directors.

### **Show Choir Expectations**

Students are expected to follow the following three guidelines to be in show choir.

**Reliable** – You are on time to all rehearsals & performances (3 unexcused absences may result in dismissal from group). You will be enrolled in choir for the full academic year. You will help with any necessary set-up, tear-down, loading, un-loading, clean-up, etc. You will maintain passing grades in order to remain performance eligible in accordance with NSAA policy. You will abstain from Drug/Alcohol use and any other illegal activity. In short, your teammates, directors, and school can rely on you.

**Respectful** – You will show respect to all directors, teammates, volunteers, school, opposing schools, etc. You will bring a positive attitude every day. You will keep show choir drama-free.

**Maximum Effort** – You will put forth your best effort in each and every rehearsal, performance, and choral event.

## Parent and Student Handbook Agreement Form

Student Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

I/We the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the above named, have read the Show Choir Handbook. We understand all the requirements, expectations, and consequences for improper actions. We understand the director(s), with the assistance of school administration, has the authority to remove a student from the ensemble. We know that the director's decisions regarding student placement within groups is final.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of the MWHS Show Choir, I have fully read the Show Choir Handbook and understand what is expected of me in order to participate. I will work hard at every rehearsal and communicate with my director and my parents. I understand the consequences of poor behavior and/or inappropriate actions and will take responsibility for those actions. I will always keep in mind that I am representing my school, my community, my state, and most importantly, myself.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Bring this form to your show choir audition. You will not be able to audition without it.**