

# SHOREWOOD CHOIRS



## S I S H A N D B O O K

*2021-2022*

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# 10 Things that take zero talent but have a huge and positive impact on your results

1. Being on time
2. Your work ethic
3. The quality of your effort
4. Your body language
5. The energy you bring to the room.
6. Your attitude
7. Your passion
8. Being teachable
9. Doing more than the minimum
10. Being prepared

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the SIS Choirs! I am excited to get the opportunity to work with you! My goal is to have lots of fun making the best music we are able. Seventh graders, I hope to expand on what you learned in elementary music class and apply your knowledge to the music we perform. Returning eighth graders, I hope to see you get even better, and provide strong and positive leadership for the choirs this year. This is an exciting time for all of us. We have a great opportunity to work together and have a great time making terrific music!

I am sure that for most of you, a Choir Handbook is something new. One of the main challenges of running an organization like a choir is to keep everyone informed as to their responsibilities and the benefits of their participation. This handbook has been written to better inform members, parents, administrators and friends about the choir and its related activities and functions. Please read all of the information that addresses your involvement in choir at SIS.

## HANDLING QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Rules or requirements may create questions, confusion or concern at times. Veteran choir members can often answer questions about policies and procedures, but the best way to deal with serious concerns or questions is to make an appointment to discuss them one-on-one with the director. If your concerns are dealt with in this way, you are assured of getting the time you deserve to express yourself, and the atmosphere of rehearsals will remain positive and productive.

## COMMUNICATION

In this age of technology there are many more means by which we can communicate: it is very important to learn how, and when to use the proper and appropriate form of communication. The three most common types are; written word (e-mail, note, text message), a phone call, or face-to-face interaction. As a general rule, the more serious the conversation, the more important it is to have face-to-face communication.

## SHOREWOOD INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL SINGING OPPORTUNITIES

### CANTARE (7<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR)

Membership is open to any seventh grade student. This class meets three out of every four days. Cantare performs three concerts a year. This chorus is geared toward improving basic musical knowledge, learning how to best use and improve your singing voice, learning how to be a good group or team member, and applying that knowledge to the music we sing in rehearsal and performance.

### CHORALE (8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CHOIR)

Membership is open to any eighth grade student. This class meets three out of every four days. Chorale performs three concerts a year. This chorus is geared toward improving basic musical knowledge, learning how to best use and improve your singing voice, learning how to be a good group or team member, and applying that knowledge to the music we sing in rehearsal and performance.

## KANTOREI

Kantorei is open to any seventh or eighth grader based on audition. This group is intended as an advanced choir and is made up of band, orchestra and choir students with advanced abilities and a high level of motivation. Members of Kantorei rehearse before school 7:20-8:00 and may perform a few selections for our concerts in the spring semester and serve as a madrigal ensemble each year for District WSMA music festivals. Auditions for membership are reopened every quarter and rehearsals will begin late in the second quarter.

## WSMA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVALS

For students interested in expanding their performing experience beyond that of large ensembles, there are WSMA District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals. The format for this year's District Solo and Ensemble Festival will depend on the impact of the pandemic. This means at this time we do not know whether these events will be in person or virtual. As soon as I have that information, I will communicate it to choir families and we will begin preparations in earnest. These events afford students the opportunity to perform in small groups from solos to madrigals. Solo and Ensemble Festivals are great experiences and I encourage those interested to participate. If you would like more information, come and see me or send me an email and I can help answer your questions and help you begin your preparations.

## WISCONSIN SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION HONORS MUSIC PROJECT

The Wisconsin Honors Music Project offers talented young musicians the opportunity to rehearse and perform with nationally recognized conductors in a professional setting. All Honors groups perform at the WMEA State Music Conference in Madison in late October. Honors Students learn their music with me before the October concert and rehearse with their group before the fall concerts. Auditions for the Honors Project are held at a local area high school in April and include:

- Performance of a Class A solo for a judge- the solo must be from the WSMA Required List.
- Tonal Memory Exercises- Students will hear recorded melodic and rhythmic patterns and sing them back to the judge.
- The judge will present sight-reading material.
- Range- The student will sing short scale patterns moving up and down by half steps accompanied by the judge.

Being selected to perform as a member of one of the Wisconsin Honors Music Project Choirs is a prestigious honor. In the fall of each year, I will ask for names of students interested in training for this unique challenge, and we will begin your preparations immediately.

## SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FEES

Each student is responsible for paying his or her own entry fee for his or her solo and a percentage of the fee for each ensemble (*based on the number of performers in the group*) for District and State Solo and Ensemble Festival. For this fee, students receive a written critique from a WSMA-approved judge, a performance rating from \*I-V, and the medal they earn for their performance. All entry fees are non-refundable, regardless of the reason for not performing.

## ACCOMPANIST FEES FOR WSMA EVENTS

Accompanist fees are \$40.00 for Honors Auditions and District Solo and Ensemble Festival and \$30.00 for State Solo and Ensemble Festival and will include:

- Two run-through rehearsals with your accompanist for District and Honors.
- One run-through rehearsal with your accompanist for State.

All rehearsals are to be arranged by the student and accompanist. Payment is due for any of these services at the first rehearsal for each event.

## VOICE PLACEMENTS

At the beginning of each year, I will hear groups of two or three students sing. This is very important to determine which section you should sing in. I want to make sure that you are singing comfortably at all times, and that you are in the section best suited for your voice while at the same time working to expand your range. Over the course of the year some of your voices may begin to expand (boys in particular). Therefore, it is likely that you will not sing the same voice part all year. Please know that this is normal and will in all likelihood make your experience in choir more interesting and enjoyable. Voice placements will take about ten minutes per group and will consist of the following:

1. The student fills out an audition card detailing their musical experience, extracurricular involvement, and standard personal information.
2. The student sings ascending and descending scale patterns to determine ranges and their voice part.

## BEHAVIOR

While a member of any Shorewood Choir, students are expected to demonstrate exemplary behavior. This is to be the case whether in rehearsal, at a contest, festival, out bi-annual Music Department trip, or concert. Choir members represent themselves, their school, and their community while participating in choral activities. Failure to behave in an honorable, kind, responsible and respectful manner will result in penalties outlined in this handbook and school policies.

## MR. CLARK'S CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

The expectations below are to be followed any time you are in chorister mode:

1. Be in your assigned spot with a positive attitude, commitment to excellence and be ready to work when the bell rings (Responsibility)
2. Bring **ALL** required materials to every class, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher (Responsibility)
3. Listen and stay seated when someone is speaking (Respect)
4. Follow directions the first time they are given (Respect and Responsibility)
5. Turn in and complete assignments on time (Responsibility)
6. Treat everyone and their property respectfully (Kindness and Safety)

## CONCERT ATTIRE, FOLDERS, MUSIC, AND FINES

### CONCERT ATTIRE

Just like any music group or sports team, it is important for any group including the choir to have a unified look. Therefore, we have a concert dress requirement. It is each student's responsibility to provide his or her own concert attire. The following guidelines are to be followed when choosing your concert dress. Variation from these guidelines is unacceptable. If there is difficulty in finding or getting the required concert attire, please notify Mr. Clark immediately. Over the years, we have developed great relationships with local businesses and have had families donate concert-clothing items that their choristers have outgrown. We will in all likelihood be able to help you get what you need.

#### Women

Either . . .

- I. A **BLACK** Tea-length (to mid-calf) skirt with a **WHITE** minimum three quarter-sleeved blouse, **BLACK** hose, and **BLACK** dress shoes.
- OR
- II. **BLACK** pants with a **WHITE** long-sleeved blouse, **BLACK** hose, and **BLACK** dress shoes.

**Women may wear one RED accent piece.**

#### Men

- I. A **BLACK** pair of dress pants (no jeans, sweatpants, or corduroys please), a **WHITE** dress shirt, a **RED BOW** tie, **BLACK** socks and **BLACK** dress shoes.

### FOLDERS AND MUSIC

The school provides music to each student at a substantial cost. Each student is responsible for the music that is issued to him or her. If a student loses or damages their music they must pay a replacement fee for lost or damaged copy.

#### REQUIRED DAILY CHOIR SUPPLIES

1. 1 Black 1 inch, "D" or "U" Ring binder with pockets.
2. Regular Pencils
3. Red Pencils
4. Highlighters
5. Post it tabs
6. Name tag on binder with your name and folder number

## FINES

Standard fines to cover replacement of lost or damaged equipment are as follows:

Lost or damaged music - \$2.00 - \$10.00 per piece (cost of replacement.)

## GRADING

Your grade in choir is earned. It will be based upon the contribution you make toward the success of the group and demonstration of individual growth and improvement. Please remember, you are tested differently here than you are in your other classes. Your grade will be based on your improvement, the quality of your effort, your attitude and contributions to the team. Participation in all classes, rehearsals, activities and concerts is expected! You must demonstrate, through your actions, that you are dedicated to the excellence of this organization and your own personal improvement.

The items below contribute to your grade in choir:

1. Be in attendance for all classes, performances, field trips and tests unless illness or a family emergency prevents it. Excessive absences, for whatever reason, will result in a lowered grade. Since this is a group experience and the Choir's success depends upon everyone's contribution, attendance is VITAL.
2. Be on time to class and in your assigned spot on the risers with your folder, music, and pencil, without gum or food in your mouth, and be ready to sing when class begins.
3. Having worked on the music daily, demonstrate adequate knowledge and preparation of your music in periodic group performance tests and quizzes and at the concert.
4. Demonstrate a positive attitude and disciplined behavior that the Choir's excellence and your improvement is of prime importance.
5. Show a willingness to cooperate in every way your talents permit.
6. Exhibit proper care of your equipment (music, etc.), as well as the facilities and equipment of the school.

In general, each rehearsal, activity, assignment and event has an assigned point value. At the end of each grading period, the points are tallied to reach a percentage, which is applied to the following grading scale:

A = 93 and above.	B+ = 87-89 %	C+ = 77-79 %	D+ = 67-69 %
A- = 90-92 %	B = 83-86 %	C = 73-76 %	D = 63-66 %
	B- = 80-82 %	C- = 70-72 %	D- = 60-62 %
			F = 0-59 %



## Concert and Performance Attendance

1. Concerts and performances are the reason we do all this work in the classroom.
2. **All** students are to be in attendance for **all** concerts.
3. Absences from concerts or performances are excused only if the performer is ill, a family emergency emerges or there is a conflict with religious observances and the performance date.
4. Dates for all concerts and performances are communicated at the beginning of the year and are available at each of the music websites, in the music department handbooks for each group and on the district calendar.
5. We are committed to accommodating student needs with regard to concerts including arranging for car-pool opportunities if need arises.
6. In the event of an excused absence, the teacher will provide a concert makeup opportunity. Details of your performance or concert makeup will be arranged between the student and director prior to the absences if known, or upon the student's return to school.
7. An absence will be determined excused or unexcused based on the determination of the director and the administration.

## HOW YOU EARN YOUR GRADE

Each quarter you will receive an outline of the grade requirements for the quarter. This outline will contain information regarding assignments, activities, performances, tests, and quizzes. These outlines explain the expectations for each quarter in detail including the point value for each assignment or category.

***The most important component of how you earn your grade is to be sure you work to improve every day.*** As long as you are getting better at singing, gaining musical knowledge, being a cooperative team member and performer you will do well in choir.

## MUSIC THEORY, SIGHT SINGING, AND PERFORMANCE TESTS

Music Theory, Sight Singing and Performance Tests are crucial parts of the choral curriculum. Students are expected to complete some music theory work or sight singing each quarter.

Additionally, in order for me to accurately measure each student's progress I will need to hear you sing portions of the music for each concert prior to each concert in small groups. There will be regular intervals by which each assigned performance test is to be completed by your group.

Sight singing exercises will consist of some written work and some performance work. Once the written portion is corrected, the instructor will choose exercises from the packet for the students to sing. Sung exercises will be done in small like part groups during the warm up procedures. All singing and theory work will be done during class time.

## TYPICAL PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

5:30 PM	Warm-up space opens
6:15 PM	Warm-up begins on stage
7:00 PM	Concert Begins
8:30 PM	Concert Ends
8:45 PM	Reception (if applicable)

## 2021-2022 Concert Season

SHS/SIS Choirs Winter Concert SHS Auditorium	- Thursday, December 16, 2021 Call - 6:15, Curtain 7pm
Shorewood Choirs Spring Concert North Shore Presbyterian Church, Shorewood	- Thursday, March 17, 2022 Call - 6:15, Curtain 7pm
Shorewood Choirs Benefit Concert SHS Auditorium	- Sunday, May 22, 2022 Call - 1:15, Curtain 2pm

## AWARDS AND HONORS

The **Outstanding Eighth Grade Choir Member Award** is presented to an outstanding eighth grade member of the choir who has demonstrated excellence in vocal music in the areas of performance, leadership, service, teamwork and commitment.

The **Outstanding Seventh Grade Choir Member Award** is presented to an outstanding seventh grader who has demonstrated excellence in vocal music in the areas of performance, leadership, service, teamwork and commitment.

**WSMA District and State Solo and Ensemble Awards** are given to students who participate in WSMA District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals and earn a Division I or II rating.