



August 18, 2010

Dear Wesleyan Chorus Students and Parents,

Welcome back to Wesleyan and welcome to Chorus! I hope that you have all had a fun and rejuvenating summer. It is hard to believe that school is starting again! I am excited about the new school year and what is in store for Wesleyan Middle School Chorus. As you can see from the syllabus, there are three planned concerts plus other special events such as Grandparents' Day, 4th Grade Chorus Day, LGPE and the Southern Star Music Festival. For students interested in doing even more singing, please review the "Additional Singing Opportunities" page; we are always thrilled to have students representing Wesleyan at choral events around the state. As you can see, it's going to be a fun and busy year!

Please review this syllabus with your child and record the rehearsal and performance dates firmly on your calendar. Parents AND students, please sign the next page to confirm your reading and understanding of all regulations and policies. Return the form to Mrs. Foster by **Tuesday, August 26th**. Students will receive a grade for turning in this form. Parents, please include your contact information as there are likely to be several updates during the year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to a great year with all of the singers in the Middle School!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Foster".

Meg Foster
Middle School Chorus
mfoster@wesleyanschool.org
(678)223-2192





5th and 6th Grade Chorus **2010-2011**

Teacher: Mrs. Meg Foster
Room: Fine Arts Building, Room 134
E-mail: mfoster@wesleyanschool.org
Office Phone: (678)223-2192



Materials and Repertoire

- Students will supply:
 - Pencil(s)
 - a block eraser
 - Folder with pockets AND 3 prongs/brads (this will serve as your journal and theory notebook)
 - 20 pages of notebook paper
- There is **NO** textbook needed for Chorus
- **Music and Folder:** Mrs. Foster will supply all music and leather chorus folder at no cost to the students to keep in his/her music slot. Students will share their music folder with a student in another class period. These music folders are not to leave the music room without the teacher's permission.
- Students are to return ALL copies of music and the folder to Mrs. Foster at the end of the marking period. **Students will be charged** for music and/or folders that are **lost, mutilated or marked in anything other than pencil.** (Because music is shared between two students, the cost for missing or damaged music will be split evenly between both students)
- **Repertoire:** Students will study music from a variety eras and cultures throughout the year to prepare for three concerts: Fall Concert, Christmas Concert, and Spring Concert. Students will sing in unison, two, and/or three parts.
- Silent Reading book – please bring this book to class with you every day, as there may be some “down time” while Mrs. Foster is working with another voice part.

Course Description and Goals

Your voice is a gift from God. It is the only instrument that you do not have to carry around in a case and “assemble” before you can use it. Your voice is also the only instrument that allows you to convey text in music. The goals in middle school chorus are to develop the unique (sometimes changing) voice while making music to praise God. Other goals of the program are to develop musicianship through singing, music reading, theory practice, and listening to, analyzing and critiquing music.

Grading Policy

Daily Performance & Rehearsal Etiquette	45%
Concert Performance and Jury	35%
Solfege Labeling/other Written Work	15%
Commitment Forms/Permission Slips	5%

At the end of the semester, each student will receive one of the following final grades:

E	90-100
S+	86-89
S	80-85
S-	76-79
N	70-75
U	below 70

Requirements in Grading Policy

Daily Performance – Each day, a singer is eligible for one of three marks:

√+ (94%)	Singer is prepared and exemplifies exceptional musicianship, attitude and participation
√ (86%)	Singer is prepared and exemplifies satisfactory musicianship, attitude, and participation
√- (70%)	Singer is not prepared for class and exemplifies below average musicianship, attitude or participation.

Rehearsal Technique

Students will learn proper rehearsal and performance technique and behavior throughout the year. Students will always conduct themselves in an appropriate manner in accordance with the FISH Rule!(S) and the Wesleyan Family Handbook 2010-2011.

Specific behavior that is expected on a daily basis:

1. Enter the classroom promptly and quietly, take assigned folder, and report to assigned seat.
2. Have a sharpened pencil in your folder to mark music (some markings may be graded).
3. Fully engage in all music activities, including warm-ups, scales, sight-reading, repertoire work, theory lessons and class discussions.
4. Sit quietly if another section or group is working on a part in which you are not involved.
5. Students **may not** return to their lockers after the bell has rung for any reason. Students who are unprepared for class will not receive full credit for daily performance.

Students with excessive absences (more than 6 per semester) may require a conference with Mrs. Foster. Students who are present at school are expected to be present in chorus.

Concert Attendance/Performance – Students will have several opportunities this year to share what they have learned in concerts. It is important that all students commit to being present, prompt, dressed in proper concert attire (see Concert Attire), and ready to sing. Students should also behave with proper decorum during performances (both as performers and as audience members). Several weeks before a performance, students and parents must sign a commitment form to ensure the students' participation in the concert.

*Only conflicts listed on the commitment form signed by both parent and student and approved by Mrs. Foster will be considered excused. Excused absences earn a grade of 80%; unexcused absences earn a grade of 0%. **Also: if a student checks out of school sick the day of an after school rehearsal or performance, he/she may NOT return to school to participate (per 2010-2011 Family Handbook). Sick absences are excused (80%)***

- **Performances (in bold) and Dress Rehearsals (please mark these on your calendars now; students are expected to report at least ONE HOUR before performance time):**
 1. MS Chorus Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday, October 19th 3:40-4:30pm (Powell Theater)
 2. **MS Chorus Fall Chorus Concert: Wednesday, October 20th; 7pm concert (Powell Theater)**
 3. **Grandparents' Day (during school): Tuesday, November 23rd 1-2pm (Powell Theater; exact performance time TBA)**
 4. Christmas Celebration Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 2nd 3:40-5pm (Powell Theater)
 5. **Christmas Celebration Concert: Monday, December 6th; 7pm (Powell Theater)**
 6. **Large Group Performance Evaluation (during school): Thursday or Friday, March 17th or 18th During the School Day (tentative date; please note that this is just before Spring Break)**
 7. **4th Grade Chorus Day (during school): Thursday, March 31st 10:30-noon**
 8. **MS Fine Arts Day (during school): Thursday, March 31st noon-3pm**
 9. **Southern Star Music Festival (tentative date): Friday, April 8th (during school); Six Flags (optional) – Saturday, April 10th**
 10. Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal: Monday, May 9th, 3:40-5pm (Powell Theater)
 11. **Spring Concert and Awards (Powell): Tuesday, May 10th, 7:00pm (Powell Theater)**

Choral/Singing Skills – As students learn how to exhibit proper posture, breathing, tone quality, pitch accuracy, diction, and phrasing, they should work daily to develop good habits in all of these areas. At least once per semester, each student will participate in a “**jury**” where he/she will be asked to sing a portion of his/her part for Mrs. Foster. The student will have a choice of several excerpts to perform. Students may be asked to sing in small groups with other parts. Juries may also include scales, sight reading and/or other exercises/music learned in class.

Written Work – Written work includes: journal entries, vocabulary lists, theory worksheets, quizzes, score markings, program design, etc.

- Journals: periodically, students will be assigned to write in their journals. Entries must include the proper MLA heading and be neat, thorough, and reflective. Spelling and grammar will be taken into consideration for the journal grade according to the 5th and 6th grade policies. All entries must be done in pencil; 5th grade entries are to be in cursive.
- Vocabulary lists: as a class, we will accumulate a vocabulary list of musical or non-musical words we come across in class. Students are expected to keep a complete and accurate list in their chorus folder and use this vocabulary as the words become more familiar.

- Part Labeling: students will be asked to label their part with solfege syllables during and/or after class. Assignments will be graded for completion and/or accuracy.
- Quizzes, score markings, program design: more details as the year progresses . . .
- **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**: Assignments may be turned in one(1) day late for up to 90% credit. Assignments more than one(1) day late will receive a zero(0). (5th Graders will receive a PC slip for missing homework).

Concert Attire

(Suggested shopping: Belk's, Old Navy, Marshalls, TJ-Max, other department stores, www.formalfashionsinc.com – see below)

• **Girls' Concert Attire**

- White, long sleeve blouse (no knit shirts, t-shirts, or sweaters); there is to be NO GAP between the blouse and the skirt, even when student's hands are raised.
- Long, black skirt (no more than **3 inches** above the ankle); no slits above two inches above the knee. **Black skirts may be ordered individually from www.formalfashionsinc.com. Styles 502F, 504F and 509 are acceptable in Knit or Crepe Black Satin.** Parents may want to combine orders to save on shipping.) OR check the used textbook Wiki for used skirts.
- Black, close toed shoes
- Black or nude panty-hose/stockings
- Wesleyan Green Cummerbund (available on loan from the school)

• **Boys' Concert Attire**

- White, long sleeve button down shirt
- Black pants
- **Black socks and chocolate brown or black shoes**
- Wesleyan Green Cummerbund and bow tie (available on loan from the school)

*****ALL** Chorus members must bring in their concert attire for approval by Mrs. Foster before **Friday, September 10th**.

***The MS Chorus Department will lend cummerbunds and bowties to students for each concert. Students will return cummerbunds immediately after each Concert. Students will be held financially responsible for lost or damaged cummerbunds.

I would like to offer the following in closing:

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Psalm 100:1-2

The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

Wesleyan Middle School Chorus
Due Tuesday, August 24th

Parents' Names: _____

Child's Name: _____ **Class Period:** _____

Hm. Phone: _____

Wk: _____ **Cell:** _____

Email: _____

- ☐ I have read the MS Chorus syllabus, I have recorded important dates, will abide by the stated policies.

_____ **(Child's signature)**

_____ **(Parent's signature)**

- ☐ All Chorus announcements, schedule changes, etc. are distributed via **e-mail**. Please indicate below how often you check the e-mail address you submitted above:

- a. I check my e-mail at least once a day**
- b. I check my e-mail every other day**
- c. I check my e-mail once a week**
- d. I rarely check my e-mail – please contact me another way****

- ☐ I am best reached by: **Email** **Hm. Phone** **Wk. Phone** **Cell**

Please put any questions or comments on the back, or feel free to contact Mrs. Foster.



Additional Singing Opportunities

5th Grade

- Statewide Elementary Honor Chorus

Fourth and fifth grade students from all over Georgia combine into two 300-member Statewide Elementary Honor choruses under a master director. Students must work with Mrs. Foster outside of class time to learn repertoire (several sessions during study hall and/or backwork). Students participate in a rehearsal workshop on Friday, November 5th and Saturday, November 6th. Students perform in a concert on the afternoon of Saturday, November 6th.

 - **Date:** November 5-6, 2010 (Friday-Saturday)
 - **Audition:** Small audition with Mrs. Foster if needed
 - **Location:** Clayton County Schools Performing Arts Center (Jonesboro)
 - **Must declare interest by: Tuesday, August 31st**
 - **Cost:** \$30.00 + music, travel, meal and lodging expenses (as needed)

6th Grade

- Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Chorus

Sixth grade students from all over Georgia combine into two 300-member Sixth Grade Statewide Honor choruses under a master director. Students must work with Mrs. Foster outside of class time to learn repertoire (several sessions during study hall and/or backwork). Students participate in a rehearsal workshop on Friday, February 4th and Saturday, February 5th. Students perform in a concert on the afternoon of Saturday, February 5th.

 - **Date:** February 4-5, 2011 (Friday-Saturday)
 - **Audition:** Small audition with Mrs. Foster
 - **Location:** Clayton County Schools Performing Arts Center (Jonesboro)
 - **Must declare interest by: Tuesday, August 31st**
 - **Cost:** \$25.00 + music, travel, meal and lodging expenses (as needed)



Wesleyan Middle School Grade Chorus
Additional Singing Opportunities

Due Tuesday, August 31st

Child's Name: _____

Child's Grade: _____

My Child is interested in:

- A. Elementary Statewide Honor Chorus (5th grade)**
- B. 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus (6th Grade)**
- C. Not interested in Additional Singing Opportunities**

Parent's Signature: _____

*** If you child is interested in any of the additional singing opportunities, Mrs. Foster will be contacting you with details soon.***