



August 16, 2012

Dear 5th & 6th Grade 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. There are also additional opportunities for select students; please let Mrs. Foster know if you are interested. As you can see, it's going to be a fun and busy year!

Please review this syllabus and record the rehearsal and performance dates firmly on your calendar. Parents AND students, please sign the final page **on your tablet** to confirm your reading and understanding of all stated policies. Return the form to Mrs. Foster **via Drop Box by Wednesday, August 22nd**. (Instructions for how to use Drop Box can be found on the Wiki). Students will receive a grade for turning in this form **correctly**. 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 2012-2013

Teacher: Mrs. Meg Foster
Room: Fine Arts Building, Room 134
Mrs. Foster's Office: Fine Arts Building, 208
E-mail: mfooster@wesleyanschool.org
Office Phone: (678)223-2192

Materials and Repertoire

- **Students will supply** a Pencil and a Block Eraser
- **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.

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

Weekly Performance – Each week, 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 2012-2013. 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 (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 are exempt from a grade; 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 2012-2013 Family Handbook). Sick absences are exempt.*

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.

- **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).

Tablets

- Students will abide by the Tablet Use Contract, the Tablet PC Care and Maintenance guide, and the Banned Software list at all times
- When not in use during chorus, tablets will be stowed in their bags under the student's individual chair.

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 Calendar

EVENT	DATE/LOCATION	WHO	TIME
All-State Chorus Region Auditions	Saturday, October 13th North Gwinnett Middle School	Select 7 th and 8 th Grade	
District 13 Honor Chorus	Fri-Sat., October 19 th -20 th Athens Classic Center	Select 7 th and 8 th Grade	
MS Chorus Fall Concert Rehearsal	Wednesday, October 24 th Powell Theater	All Students	3:30-5:00pm 5 th and 6 th Grade
MS Chorus Fall Concert	Thursday, October 25 th Powell Theater	All Students	6pm call 7:00pm perform
Statewide Elementary Honor Chorus	Fri-Sat., November 2 nd -3 rd First Baptist Church of Jonesboro	Select 5 th Grade	
Veterans' Day	Thursday, November 8 th Yancey Gym	All 7 th and 8 th Grade	9:40am
Gwinnett Gladiators Game	Saturday, November 17 th Gwinnett Arena	All Students	5:30pm-11pm
Grandparents' Day	Tuesday, November 20 th Powell Theater	All 5 th and 6 th Grade	Performance time TBA
Christmas Celebration Dress Rehearsal	Thursday, December 6 th Powell Theater	All Students	2:30-3:30pm All Students (combined pieces)
			3:30-4:30pm 5 th and 6 th Grade
Incarnation Celebration	Sunday, December 9 th Powell Theater	6 th Honors	Report 4:00pm Event 5:30pm
Christmas Celebration Concert	Monday, December 10 th Powell Theater	All Students	6pm call 7:00pm perform
All-State Chorus Final Auditions	Thursday, January 17 th Brookwood High School	Select 7 th and 8 th Grade	After school time TBA
Statewide Sixth Grade Honor Chorus	Fri-Sat., February 15 th -16 th UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center	Select 6 th Grade	
All-State Chorus	Thurs-Sat., February 21 st -23 rd Savannah Civic Center	Select 7 th & 8 th Grade	
Large Group Performance Evaluations	Thurs. or Fri., March 21 st or 22 nd First UMC of Lawrenceville	All Students	Performance time TBA
Southern Star Music Festival	Fri. and Sat., April 5 th and 6 th Doubletree Hotel – Marietta Six Flags Over Georgia	All Students	Perform – Friday Six Flags – Sat. (optional)
4th Grade Chorus Day	Thursday, April 18 th Wesleyan School	All 5 th and 6 th Grade	10:30am-Noon
MS Fine Arts Day	Thursday, April 18 th Wesleyan School	All Students	12:00-3:00pm
MS Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal	Monday, May 13 th Powell Theater	All Students	3:30-5:00pm 5 th and 6 th Grade
MS Spring Concert and Awards	Tuesday, May 14 th Powell Theater	All Students	6:00pm call 7:00pm perform

Concert Attire

Suggested shopping: www.formalfashionsinc.com (see bolded text below), Belk, Old Navy, Marshalls, T.J.Maxx, other department stores

Girls	Guys
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.	White, long sleeve button down dress shirt
Long, black skirt (no more than 3 inches above the ankle); no slits higher than two inches above the knee. Black skirts may be ordered 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 dress pants
Black, close toed shoes	Black shoes
Black or nude panty-hose/stockings	Black socks
No ribbons, bows, or large jewelry. Stud or small hoop earrings are fine.	Wesleyan green bow tie (available on loan from the school)
Wesleyan green cummerbund (available on loan from the school)	

***All Chorus members must bring in their concert attire or submit a picture of student wearing the attire to the teacher for approval before **Friday, September 7th**.

***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.

Wesleyan Middle School Chorus
Due Wednesday, August 22nd to DROP BOX

Parents' Names:_____

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

T-shirt Size (circle one): YM YL AS AM AL AXL

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)

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