



Show Choir/Show Band Information Packet

2025-2026

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AUDITION CHECK-LIST

SINGER/DANCER

- ☐ Join the Audition Google Classroom - **Code: 3aqm56o**
 - ☐ If you do not yet have a Millard email, please reach out to the Directors
- ☐ Fill Out the Online Audition Form
 - ☐ [Audition Form](#)
- ☐ Email your Teacher Evaluation Form
 - ☐ There will be a character component to your audition; these forms will provide the directors a snapshot of your personal character/integrity/commitment over the course of the previous year (whether in the MWSC Program or not).
 - ☐ If you have previously been a member of MW Show Choir - Email this form to your most recent show choir director - Mr. B, J-New, or Mr. Firkins.
 - ☐ [Returner Evaluation](#)
 - ☐ If you are new to MWSC - Email this form to one director/teacher of your choosing.
 - ☐ [NEW Auditioner Evaluation](#)
 - ☐ These forms are due before your audition.
- ☐ Read and Sign the "25/26 MWSC Agreements" Form
 - ☐ [Agreements Form](#)
 - ☐ Both the student AND parent/guardian must fill out this form
 - ☐ The form responses will be considered as legal signatures
 - ☐ You will not be considered for show choir without this form
- ☐ Attend Audition Clinic (OPTIONAL)
 - ☐ Thursday, March 27 - 4:00-5:30p @ MWHS in Wildcat 2
 - ☐ Friday, March 28 - 4:00-5:30p @ MWHS in Wildcat 2
 - ☐ There will also be tutorial videos for individual practice posted online:
 - ☐ Google Classroom
 - ☐ Tutorials will be posted after the first clinic on March 28th.
- ☐ Sign up for an Audition Time
 - ☐ [Signup Genius](#)
 - ☐ Groups of 4 (any combination is acceptable)
 - ☐ Please add names to comments when signing up.
- ☐ Audition
 - ☐ Monday, March 31 - 3:45-10:00p @ MWHS in Choir Room
 - ☐ Results will be posted on Classroom on Friday, April 4th

BAND MEMBER

- ☐ Join the Show Band Google Classroom - **Code: ua27pnt**
 - ☐ Continually check Classroom as material and schedules will be posted there

- ☐ Fill Out the Online Audition Form
 - ☐ [Audition Form](#)

- ☐ Read and Sign the "25/26 MWSC Agreements" Form
 - ☐ [Agreements Form](#)
 - ☐ Both the student AND parent/guardian must fill out this form
 - ☐ The form responses will be considered as legal signatures
 - ☐ You will not be considered for show bands without this form

- ☐ Audition Music will be posted in the Classroom

- ☐ Attend the Audition Clinics (optional)
 - ☐ Rhythm Section: TBA in Classroom
 - ☐ Brass & Saxes: TBA in Classroom

- ☐ Attend the Group Audition
 - ☐ Wednesday, April 2 - 3:30-6:00p @ MWHS Choir Room
 - ☐ Results will be posted on Classroom on Friday, April 4th

AUDITION PROCESS

	Singers/Roadies	Show Band
Audition Date	Monday, March 31	Wednesday, April 2
Location	MW Choir Room	MW Choir Room
Requirements	1. Must be a MW Student 2. Must be registered for choir* - Full Academic Year** 3. Must complete the Audition Form 4. Email Evaluation Form to Director or teacher 5. Complete Agreements Form	1. Must be a MW Student 2. Must complete the Audition Form 3. Complete Agreements Form
Details	<u>Audition in Groups of 4</u> <u>Part I</u> Introduction "Hello, my name is... I will be a (freshman/sophomore/junior/ senior) next year and I sing (soprano/alto/tenor/bass)" <u>Part II</u> "My Country 'Tis of Thee" <u>Suggested keys</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soprano - G, Ab, A, Bb, B Alto - D, Eb, E, F, Gb Tenor - E, F, Gb, G, Ab Bass - Bb, B, C, Db, D <u>Part III</u> Audition Selection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Song/Dance - TBD About 1 min. You will sing and dance TWICE with track 	<u>Brass/Saxes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major scales Group audition song (practice materials for everything posted in Classroom) <u>Keyboards</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected major scales Selected chords Group audition song (practice materials for everything posted in Classroom) <u>Drums</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock grooves Swing grooves Group audition song (practice materials for everything posted in Classroom) <u>Bass, Guitar</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Song/riffs of your choice (whatever you'd like to show off) Group audition song (practice materials for everything posted in Classroom) <u>Student Conductor</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct group audition song Interview with Firkins <u>Sound Crew</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No audition, just fill out form
Results	Posted April 4th Google Classroom	Posted April 4th Google Classroom

* Transcendence does not fulfill the "Curricular Large Ensemble" requirement

** Accepted Career Academy students ONLY: 1 full year of choir = eligible for WIG, UT, SCATS
 ½ year of choir = eligible for UT and SCATS

Show Choir Handbook

2025-2026

The Staff

- Show Choir Directors
 - Zack Bjornsen, Jordan Newhouse, Austin Lempke, & Matthew Swanson
- Show Band Director
 - Mr. Keith & Dr. Zimmerman

Contact Information

- ➔ zpbjornsen@mpsomaha.org
- ➔ jtnewhouse@mpsomaha.org

Millard West Show Choirs

- The show choirs are EXTRACURRICULAR ensembles that meet outside of school hours
- Each show choir member will learn a 15-20 minute show that includes singing and dancing.
- Each show is a complex production that requires costuming, custom music arrangements, and lighting to communicate a theme or a story.

West in the Groove [WIG]	Uptown [UT]	Swing Cats [SCATS]
Varsity Mixed Choir Head Director: Mr. B	Varsity Treble Choir Head Director: J-New	Junior-Varsity Mixed Choir Head Director: Mr. Lempke
<u>Rehearsals</u> Tuesdays 3:25-5:25p Thursdays 7:35-9:35p	<u>Rehearsals</u> Tuesdays 7:35-9:35p Thursdays 3:25-5:25p	<u>Rehearsals</u> Tuesdays 5:30-7:30p Thursdays 5:30-7:30p

Millard West Show Band

- The show band provides the music of each show, an important role in the success of the program.
- Includes a full rhythm section (piano, keys, drums, guitar, bass), a wind section (trumpet, trombone, alto, tenor, and bari sax), and a sound crew.
- Does not begin until marching season is over, and can work with athletic conflicts
- Rehearsals: Saturdays November-December, Thursdays January-March

Groove House [WIG]	Fine Musicians [UT]	Snazz Cats [SCATS]
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EVENTS & EXPECTATIONS

All Program Informational Meeting - Monday, April 21, 7p (MWHS Auditorium)

Attendance at this meeting is **MANDATORY** for all show choir members (Singers & Band) along with at least one parent/guardian. The detailed schedule, choreo dates, and communication information will be shared.

Measuring Days

- WIG/SCATS Suits - Monday, May 19, 3:30p (MWHS Dressing Rooms)
- WIG/SCATS Dresses - Tuesday, May 20, 3:30p (MWHS Dressing Rooms)
- UT - Wednesday, May 21, 3:30p (MWHS Dressing Rooms)

Every singer must be measured on these dates. We will be ordering costumes on June 1st. If you have not been measured by our Costume Moms, your costume may not be delivered on-time in the fall. It is imperative that you make every effort to attend these measurement days.

Rehearsal Schedule

The following schedule will be used for the entire year, with some exceptions (holidays, choreo dates, etc.).

	TUESDAYS	THURSDAYS	All rehearsals will take place in the Choir Room <u>unless communicated otherwise</u>
3:25p-5:25p	West in the Groove	Uptown	
5:30-7:30p	Swing Cats	Swing Cats	
7:35-9:35p	Uptown	West in the Groove	

Choreography Workshops

These rehearsals are **MANDATORY** for singers/dancers. We bring in choreographers from around the country, and it is very difficult to learn the choreography without the direct help from the choreographer. These dates are currently being scheduled and will be communicated as soon as they are finalized.

Costume Expectations

Our costumes are one-of-a-kind and very delicate. 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. At the conclusion of the year, you will be asked to turn in your garment bag and a portion of your costume. Your show choir fees only cover a portion of the costuming.

Appearance Expectations

Appearance is vitally important to our success and must be uniform. Stage appearance is non-negotiable and directors have the final say on any appearance issues in question.

- Group hair and makeup is determined by the directors.
- Hair color cannot be distracting; directors will address individual cases as they come up.
- Only uniformed costume jewelry will be allowed during performances.
- Competition Day Clothing - please dress appropriately. Leadership will speak with anyone not complying with the MW Dress Code.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

<p>FALL SEMESTER Non-priority Season = prep season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 <u>unexcused</u> absences MAX • 5th unexcused absence will result in the student being put on PROBATION • Total absences (Excused & Unexcused) not to exceed 15 	<p>SPRING SEMESTER Priority Season = competition season</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 <u>unexcused</u> absences • 3rd unexcused absence will result in the student being put on PROBATION • Total absences (Excused & Unexcused) not to exceed 8
<p>UNEXCUSED = <u>Non-Millard West activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work, doctor appointments, lessons, dance, church, family dinners, babysitting, rehearsal non-participation* • These activities can and should be scheduled outside of rehearsals hours • Prior communication is expected • *Non-participation = being at rehearsal but sitting out in-front, not singing, not working through choreo, <u>on phone</u>. 	<p>EXCUSED = <u>Millard West activities/illness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marching Band, Forensics, Drama, Jazz Band, Athletics, college visits, etc. • Absences due to illness must be communicated by a parent/guardian. • 5 absences due to illness MAX; all absences beyond 5 will be marked "unexcused" • Prior communication is expected for those students missing for other activities
<p>PROBATION <u>Two weeks of disciplinary observation</u> of a student with too many unexcused absences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall semester limit = 5 unexcused absences • Spring semester limit = 3 unexcused absences <p>Successful completion of the two-week probation will remove the <u>latest</u> absence from the student's record. This means that the student is ONE unexcused absence away from being placed on probation again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are marked "unexcused" during probation, you will be dismissed from the program. • If you are put on probation more than TWO times during the 25/26 show choir year, you will be dismissed from the program. <p>All students begin with zero absences at the start of each semester.</p>	
<p>MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES We encourage students to take part in many groups, clubs, teams, etc. That's what high school is for! However, there are only so many hours available for practices and rehearsals. There WILL be conflicts so time management and communication is essential.</p> <p>Absences from rehearsals due to involvement in another MW activity/sport will be excused IF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students set up an agreed-upon "conflict plan" with Directors ahead of time • Students are <u>in attendance</u> for at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Fall Semester - 50% of rehearsal minutes each week (2 hours TOTAL) ◦ Spring Semester - 75% of rehearsal minutes each week (3 hours TOTAL) <p>As much as we encourage and respect a busy schedule, we do <u>not</u> recommend that students try to participate in <u>more than one</u> additional activity/sport in a given semester.</p>	
<p>PERFECT ATTENDANCE To encourage student engagement and participation, we are introducing an attendance contest! If a student attends ALL rehearsals and performances, they will be entered into a drawing... the prize?? <u>Winner's Travel Fees COVERED</u> (or refunded). One winner will be selected from Show Band, Scats, Uptown, and WIG (4 winners total). Perfect attendance is achieved when a student does not have any excused or unexcused absences (including illnesses). The only exception is if a rehearsal time is changed without two weeks notice. The drawing will take place at "That Show Choir Show" on March 20, 2026 at the 6p show! May the odds be ever in your favor!</p>	

CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to be in Show Choir or Show Band, students are expected to follow the guidelines listed below.

● RELIABLE

- Show Choir needs to be a PRIORITY
 - **Show choir is an EXTRAcurricular activity and therefore demands EXTRA sacrifice and EXTRA commitment.**
- Abstain from Drug/Alcohol use and any other illegal activity. This includes vaping.
 - Failure to adhere to this rule, can result in the Directors and MW Administration removing a student from the program.
- **Academics are a priority!**
 - In the Fall semester, we will check grades on the first of the Monday of each month. Directors will follow up with students who are struggling with grades to help keep them on track academically.
 - If a student has failed 2 (or more) classes in the Fall semester, they are ineligible to perform at **Premiere and Music Lives**.
 - In the Spring semester, we will check grades on the Monday of each competition/performance week. Directors will follow up with students who are struggling with grades to help keep them on track academically.
 - A student who is failing 2 (or more) classes during Semester 2 will be deemed ineligible. Ineligible students **will NOT travel or perform** with the group, but are still expected to attend ALL rehearsals while they work toward eligibility.
 - If you need extra help or retake a test, you need to plan around the set rehearsal times.

● RESPECTFUL

- Show respect to all teammates, directors, volunteers, facilities, and other schools.
- Put others before yourself; this is not about you. This is about the Show Choir Family.
- We will not tolerate bullying of any kind. We will report all harassment directly to the MW Administration. This kind of behavior can result in the dismissal from the program.
- Keep show choir drama-free.
 - **How you respond to an issue can solve it or make it worse.**
 - **Drama is a choice. Kindness is too. Choose wisely. Everyday is an audition.**

FINANCIAL EXPECTATIONS

- **\$65 Activity Fee to Millard West High School**
 - All Show Choir Members (Singers & Band) are required to pay a **\$65** Activity Fee to Millard West High School in order to participate in extracurricular school activities. This is a separate fee from the following fees and does NOT go to the show choir program.
- **\$700 Show Choir Fee**
 - Millard West will be charging a **\$700** show choir fee this year. This money will be used for costumes, music rights and arrangements, choreographers, props, transportation, clinicians, and competition registration.
- **\$200 Show Band Fee**
 - There is a **\$200** show band fee. This fee will help cover costs for transportation, music rights and arrangements, band equipment, and competition registration.
- **\$400 Travel Fee**
 - Since all three groups will travel to Fairfield, OH, we will be collecting a **\$400** Travel Fee.
 - Show Band Members will also pay this fee.
 - This fee covers charter bus transportation, 3 night hotel stays, and extra activities.
 - This trip is OPTIONAL.
- **PAYMENT - ALL FEES DUE by AUGUST 12th**
 - The fees will be added to your school account. You can access them in ParentVue.
 - You have the option to pay online (via SchoolPay with a processing fee) OR by check.
 - Once we have received your payment, the school will update your account accordingly.
 - If show choir is a financial hardship, please contact the Directors. There are payment options available, and your situation will be kept confidential.
- **Refund Policy**
 - If a student quits show choir, a percentage of the Fees (including Travel Fees) will still be owed to the program. If the Fees have already been paid, a percentage will be refunded:
 - Between May 23rd and August 12th - 75% refund (25% due)
 - Prior to Fall Break - 50% refund (50% due)
 - Fall Break and later - 0% refund (100% due)
 - If a student has not paid any fees AND quits after the last day of school (5/23/25), their fee will be adjusted in their school account. NOTE: unpaid school balances affect graduation.
 - If a student is removed from the program, there will be no refund.
- **Show choir has many up-front costs** that must be paid before the school year begins; costuming starts in late spring, music and travel arrangements are finalized in the summer. Your financial commitment to the program begins with the posting of groups. We assume your involvement and plan costuming immediately.

SHOW CHOIR SEASON

*Choreography dates will be communicated as soon as they are finalized.

DATE	EVENT	TIME & LOCATION
March 7	Audition Information posted	Google Classrooms (codes above)
March 27	Singer/Dancer Clinic (<u>optional</u>)	4:00-5:30p - MW
March 28	Singer/Dancer Clinic (<u>optional</u>)	4:00-5:30p - MW
March 31	Singer/Dancer Auditions	MW Choir Room
April 2	Show Band Auditions	3:30-5:30p MW Choir Room
April 4	Announcement of Groups	Google Classrooms
April 14-18	Students can request feedback for auditions	E-mail to the Directors
April 21	ALL Program Informational Meeting	7:00p - MW Auditorium
August 12	ALL FEES DUE	Checks OR Cash OR SchoolPay
December 13	Clean Up Day - UT	1:00-9:00p - MW
January 3	Clean Up Day - WIG	1:00-9:00p - MW
January 5	Clean Up Day - SCATS	1:00-9:00p - MW
January 12	Premiere!	6:00 & 8:30p - MW Auditorium
January 23	Music Lives - Middle School	After School - MW
January 24	Music Lives - High School	All Day - MW
January 31	Spartan Spectacular - Lincoln East	All Day - Lincoln, NE
February 7	South Titan Classic - Papio South	All Day - Omaha, NE
February 21	South Omaha Classic - Omaha South	All Day - Omaha, NE
February 28	Fields of Talent - Norris	All Day - Firth, NE
March 2	"That Show Choir Show!"	6:00 & 8:30p - MW Auditorium
March 5-8	Crystal Classic - Fairfield	4-Day Trip - Fairfield, OH