

	Sedro-Woolley High School Choir Student Handbook 2024-2025	Director of Cascade Middle School and Sedro-Woolley High School Choirs: Ms. Olivia Lenoue CMS: 360-855-3020 (AM) SWHS: 360-855-3983 (PM) olenoue@swsd101.org
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Welcome to the Sedro-Woolley High School choir program! The following contains important information about the choral program at Sedro-Woolley High School and the remainder of the year. Students and parents, please read it over carefully, and sign and return the signature page before Friday, September 13th.

Sedro-Woolley Choir Vision Statement: Sedro-Woolley Choir Program strives to create belonging for each member of our ensemble through fostering a sense of family and unity in each of the choirs. Sedro-Woolley Choir Program will provide an enriching experience through high levels of collaboration and hard work, combined with the diligent study of the voice and the choral arts.

Principal objectives in Sedro-Woolley High School Choirs through daily work, effort, and participation:

- Develop skills in music reading and literacy, including:
 - the use of solfege and sight reading skills
 - ear training skills, such as identifying chord structures and progressions
 - following a musical score
 - reading pitch notation in the treble and/or bass clef
- Study vocal technique through daily singing and exploration of the head and chest registers
- Explore a variety of music both historically and stylistically

2024/2025 Concert/Important Event Dates

When	What/Where	Who
Friday, October 4th, 2024 2:30-6pm	Choir Retreat/Choir room at SWHS	All HS Choir groups
Monday, October 28th, 2024, 6-8:30pm	SJMEA High School Honor Choir Festival REHEARSAL @ Mount Vernon High School	Students undergo a nomination and selection process to participate in this event. Open to juniors and seniors.
Monday, November 11th, 2024 (All day event-concert for families at 4pm)	SJMEA High School Honor Choir Festival @WWU	Students undergo a nomination and selection process to participate in this event. Open to juniors and seniors.

Saturday, December 7th, 2024	Sedro-Woolley Christmas Parade	Both High School Choirs invited to participate (Blue Monarchs and Concert Choir)
Tuesday, December 17th, 2024* @7pm	Sedro-Woolley High School Auditorium	Combined CMS/SWHS Choir Concert-All choirs
Saturday, February 1st, 2025 (all day event-individual and group performance times can vary based on the final schedule)	SJMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival	Any student interested in preparing a song and participating
Mon. or Tue. March 24 or 25, 2025 (During the school regular school day at WWU)-Two day festival, performance time and day TBD	SJMEA Senior Large Group Choir Festival at Western Washington University	Both HS Choirs-Blue Monarchs (Advanced) and Concert Choir
Tue. or Wed. March 25 or 26, 2025	State Solo and Ensemble Contest at Central Washington University	Prerequisite required-student participates in regional Solo and Ensemble Festival on Saturday, January 25th and is potentially selected to compete at State.
Wednesday, March 26th, 2025* @7pm	Sedro-Woolley High School Auditorium	Both HS Choirs-Blue Monarchs (Advanced) and Concert Choir
May 17-20th, 2025	Disneyland-Music in the Parks Festival	Any students that want to go and are able to raise the funds.
Thursday, May 29th, 2025* @7pm	Sedro-Woolley High School Auditorium	Combined CMS/SWHS Choir Concert
Friday, June 6th, 2025* @7pm	SWHS Graduation-SWHS Football Stadium	All HS Choirs-

Please note: Performances may be added or canceled. Dates and location of the performances may change.

* Indicates a required concert as part of student grade.

Student Code of Conduct

Specific classroom rules and expectations will be made by the students and Ms. Lenoue. In addition to the SWHS discipline policy, a student may forfeit the privilege of attending trips and performances if he/she does not adhere to school and classroom rules and expectations.

Our choral ensembles function much like a sports team. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance.

Ensemble Behavior and Expectations

Our choral ensembles are essentially music teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is essential. Student may be asked to leave the ensemble if behavior interferes with the group's learning and rehearsals.

- In seat and ready for rehearsal when the bell rings.
- Quiet during rehearsal when not singing.
- Demonstrates correct posture while singing.
- Respect for self and others.
- Participates appropriately during rehearsal.
- Put forth your best effort and have a positive attitude.
- Be responsible and show respect to the learning environment by using the bathroom or getting out of your seat at appropriate times.
- Cell phone should stay in backpack and be turned off during rehearsal, as well as in the school hallways.
- Treat vocal instrument with care. Be careful with your voice at sporting events etc. and stay hydrated!
- No gum, food, or soft drinks are allowed. Water is permitted.

Performances

As this is a performance-based ensemble, attendance at all required performances is mandatory. The dates and places are listed above. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them. If you anticipate a schedule conflict, please communicate with Ms. Lenoue in advance of the concert to the best of your ability. Family emergencies do occur, in which case, concert attendance will be excused. Transportation issues can usually be easily resolved. Please communicate with Ms. Lenoue if you need assistance with transportation to and from concerts for your child. Sports conflicts are also usually easily resolved, because coaches are typically flexible and understanding.

Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

- Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this group. Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
- Performances are the means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.

- Choral singing is a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing voice. We rehearse together and we perform together.

Grading and Student Assessment

Choir is a year-long commitment and is a performance-based class. There are three major concerts in which attendance is required. Concert attendance is required as part of students' grades. Concerts are NOT optional. In the rare event that your child has a conflict with an evening concert, notify Ms. Lenoue.

The percentages are broken up as follows:

30% Daily Participation and Effort

45% Performance Attendance

25% Assignments

A Note about Concert Etiquette

Student concerts are the culmination of many weeks of demanding preparation. A portion of that preparation involves instruction in the appropriate types of behavior while in performance. In an effort to provide both performers and audience with an enjoyable concert experience, we offer these guidelines for audience behavior. By observing these, everyone contributes to the success of the concert.

It is important to attend the entire concert out of respect to the efforts and dedication of all those involved. If one must leave or enter while the concert is in progress, please do so only during the applause between selections.

Please refrain from conversation during musical selections.

Young children develop audience habits early. Please help them to understand and follow the no noise during the performance guideline. That may necessitate removing them from the concert hall for a time. Baby noises are welcome and expected. We want to welcome people of all ages to our concerts, which are a community event.

Applause at the end of a jazz solo is appropriate to the style, but it is not commonly expected during a band or choral solo. In the same manner it is usually appropriate to hold applause in a multi-movement selection until the whole piece has concluded.

Finally, we deeply appreciate your attendance at our concerts. We understand that many people attend in support of a specific person. Please remember that while your person may have completed his/her contribution, someone seated next to you could be listening intently for another special person's performance. Please help everyone enjoy all performances by respectfully adhering to these guidelines. We encourage you to revel in the efforts and achievements of all the performers. Thank you!!

-The SWHS Music Department Staff and Students

Concert Dress

The purpose of uniforms is to create a sense of uniformity and professionalism that matches the quality of our sound. Uniformity allows the focus to remain on the music and keeps the focus on the group effort as a whole. There is a direct relationship between how we look and how we sound. Uniforms will be decided on by the ensemble after class research, discussion, and deliberation in class, but it will likely include concert black, which is standard for music performances. Uniforms will likely include black dresses or a black pants, shirt, vest combo, unless the ensemble has voted to implement something different. The parent booster club will be consulted in order to find out the full spectrum of options available to us.

Black dress shoes are an essential part of our uniform and are not provided as part of the uniform check-out. The purchase of dress shoes is the responsibility of individual families. Please let me know if you need financial assistance. We do have some shoes available for use if needed, but correct sizes cannot be guaranteed.

Social Media

A SWHS Choir page may be created on Facebook and/or instagram for you to join and subscribe to. Choir officers will be in charge of updating and maintaining the choir page, with teacher guidance and oversight. It will be a great way for you to receive reminders about fundraisers, upcoming concert dates, keep up with pictures of our various field trips and performances, and more! We try to take pictures and occasional video clips to capture the joy and learning in the classroom and on our field trips so that I can share that with students, parents, and the community.

A new Sedro-Woolley choir website has been created and is still under construction. It will contain pertinent information, including the choir handbook and calendar. Please subscribe to our choir calendar, which can be found at our new choir website:

[Sedro-Woolley Choir Website](#)

Video Reflection

Please also be aware that we may use video recordings in the classroom and concert setting as a form of assessment and reflection to help us reflect and refine our performances. We often record a song and then watch it together and discuss as a class what we are seeing so that we can identify strong points and weak points and figure out ways to progress and improve. Let me know if you have any questions/concerns about what this process looks like.

Choir Travel Opportunities

This year we are planning a combined band/orchestra/choir trip to a music festival at Disneyland. The dates of the trip are May 17-20th, 2025. Please let me know if you would like to chaperone for this trip. The estimated cost of the trip, per student, is \$1,500. The first deposit will be due Tuesday, October 1st, 2024. I will be sending out a survey soon to find out who is planning on participating.

Choir Leadership Opportunities

Choir officer positions are new this year. They were implemented because a successful choir program requires student leadership and a culture of committed singers who consistently exhibit character and a strong work ethic. As we strive to build an outstanding choir program together, serving on the Choir Leadership Council provides singers with a chance to help the choir attain musical, personal, and organizational excellence, and to bring input and influence to the choir's various activities, to advocate for the choir within the school community, and to help build a positive and supportive student culture within and between our choirs.

Participation in the Choir Leadership Council is also something that can be put on college, scholarship and job applications, and students can be proud of the contribution that they make. They will be actively contributing to something bigger than yourself.

Students submitted applications at the end of last year. Leadership positions will be announced this week, the first week of school, and the choir leadership team will begin regular meetings, likely once a month (frequency determined by student availability and choice). The officer roles include:

- President
- Vice President
- Historian
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Music Librarian
- Publicist/Social Media VP
- Wardrobe VP
- Ensemble manager
- Spirit/Hospitality
- Barista
- Section Leader
- Student director

Parent Involvement Opportunities

The easiest way to get involved is to attend our monthly booster club meetings, which are the first Tuesday of every month. Our parent booster club is combined with the band and orchestra and we work collectively on fundraising to bring awesome opportunities to our music students in Sedro-Woolley, such as our trips to Silverwood and Disneyland. My goal is always to get to know every family in my choir program. I want to build relationships with you, the parents, because I believe that it provides the best possible support to each and every child that comes through my classroom door. Please consider attending the booster club meetings, chaperoning, or volunteering in the classroom. Our program is stronger with your involvement. The more parent support, the more opportunities we can bring to the students in the program. I very much look forward to meeting you! Volunteers will need to have a current background check and a picture of a driver's license on file with the SWHS office.

Choral Handbook Signature Page

Please detach this sheet and return to Ms. Lenoue no later than
Friday, September 13th, 2024

IMPORTANT!

Read and discuss this entire handbook with your student before signing and returning the signature page. Please return the completed signature page to Ms. Lenoue before Friday, September 13th. Make sure to keep the concert schedule and mark the dates on your calendar now. If any changes occur, you will be notified as soon as possible.

By signing below I indicate that I have read and understand all of the above information on the expectations and guidelines laid out for the SWHS Choral Program. I also understand that my child will be financially responsible for any lost/damaged uniforms at the end of the year. I understand that my student may be photographed or videotaped in class or performances for educational purposes. I understand that my child's photograph may be shared with the community to promote the performing arts program here at Sedro-Woolley High School.

Student Signature_____Date_____

Parent Signature_____Date_____

____Yes I'd be interested in chaperoning for choir field trips

____No I'm not interested in chaperoning for choir field trips

Choir T-Shirt Size: Mark an "X" in the box below the size you would like to order. T-shirts cost \$10 each. We will order your child a shirt and they can collect it as soon as they have turned in their \$10.

Youth Large	Adult Small	Adult Medium	Adult Large	Adult XL	Adult XXL	Adult XXXL

Parent Email (This is my primary form of communication with choir parents, so please include an email to avoid missing important information throughout the year):
