



Maquoketa Valley Middle School

6th Grade Choir Handbook

2025-2026

Ms. McCrary, Director of Vocal Music

meganmccrary@maquoketa-v.k12.ia.us

The MV Choral Program has a place for everyone, regardless of grade level, previous music experience or “natural talent.” The only requirement is that you show a sincere commitment to singing, a readiness to learn and an attitude of tolerance, respect and cooperation. This program is designed to provide students with opportunities to be expressive, engage in critical thinking, and learn about themselves through music. The elements that we will use to do this are singing, listening, and creating.

Ms. McCrary reserves the right to amend this handbook at any time.

Student Goals

In choir, students will strive to:

- Discover, appreciate, and value their talents, the talents of others, and the beauty of music.
- Create a community of musical collaborators striving to become better people through music and singing.
- Enhance their understanding of other cultures around the world and relate to them through music performance and study.
- Gain a sense of self-fulfillment by striving to reach their full potential.
- Develop a life-long enjoyment and appreciation of music.

Choir Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Critically listen, think, and respond in the classroom
- Understand the function of musical notation for sight reading music
- Understand the basics of vocal production and vocal health
- Perform with accuracy, energy, and musicianship
- Develop individual leadership and teamwork characteristics.

Classroom Policies

- Every student must be seated with their music and a pencil 1 minute after the bell rings.
- During rehearsal, it is expected that students will ALWAYS show respect to their peers, Ms. McCrary, and any other adult that is in the room. Talking during class, singing out of turn, singing intentionally poorly, or causing any other disruptions are considered unacceptable behaviors.
- No food, gum, drink (other than water) or earbuds are allowed during rehearsal.
- The schoolwide policies of Maquoketa Valley High School are always in effect.

What happens if I do not follow the classroom policies?

1st Violation: Verbal reminder of expectations and redirection.

2nd Violation: Individual conversation and follow-up with parent or guardian.

3rd Violation: Meeting with Mr. Mangold and Ms. McCrary to discuss the best response and plan moving forward.

Severity Clause

If a student disrupts the class to the point that the educational process is stopped and a student's presence in the ensemble has become detrimental to other students in the room, steps 1 and 2 may be skipped and the process would move directly to the 3rd violation.

Required Materials

- A provided binder with music
- A pencil
- A willingness to try your best

Voice Lessons

6th Grade Choir Students do not have choir lessons.

Concert Policies

Choir is a performance-based ensemble, and as such, concerts are a significant portion of a student's final grade. The dates for concerts are included in this handbook. Any additions or changes to these dates will be communicated to students and parents.

Concert attire requirements:

- Nice clothes: “Dress for success” attire- no jeans and no heels higher than 2”.
- As per the school dress code, no bare midriff, backless, or strapless apparel.
- No perfume.

Concert Absences:

Absence from a concert should only be in extreme circumstances. If you are going to miss a concert for any reason, you must contact Ms. McCrary in advance to determine if the reason is substantial enough, and to find an alternative assignment. If Ms. McCrary approves your conflict, you will be given a makeup assignment to be completed **within a week of the missed concert**. If your makeup assignment is not completed within a week of the missed concert, the concert grade will be submitted as a zero.

If an emergency comes up which will cause you to miss a concert, contact Ms. McCrary as soon as possible so that she can determine whether the reason permits a missed concert.

******If you miss a full day of school on a concert day, the MV school policy states that you will not be allowed to attend or participate in the concert. You must **STILL** contact Ms. McCrary so that she can determine an alternative assignment.

Required Performance Dates

Fall MS/HS Choir Concert	Monday, Oct 6 at 7pm
Winter MS Band & Choir Concert	Monday, Dec 15 at 7pm
Spectrum	Monday, March 9 at 7pm
Spring MS Band & Choir Concert	Monday, May 18 at 7pm

Grading and Assessment

- **Concerts (40%)**- Your concert grade is determined by attendance, punctuality, and professionalism. Professionalism includes wearing concert attire and behaving appropriately while onstage, backstage, or when watching another ensemble.
- **Rehearsal Skills (60%)**- Rehearsal skills includes daily classroom behavior, unexcused absences, effort, and any in-class assignments.

Choir Handbook Agreement Contract

Due Wednesday, September 3rd

By signing this document, we certify that we have read and understand the terms of the Maquoketa Valley Middle School 2025-2026 6th Grade Choir Handbook and have reviewed the following items:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Concert Policies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir Objectives | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance Dates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Policies | <input type="checkbox"/> Grading and Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Required Materials | |

↑ Student's Name (**PLEASE PRINT**)

Grade

↑ Student's Signature

Date

↑ Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Email:
