



WMS Choir

TEACHER: Mr. Brian Potts **EMAIL:** pottsb@wyomingcityschools.org **PHONE:** 206-7149

CLASSROOM: # 118 **WEBSITE:** www.wyomingchoirs.com

Course Overview

This is a vocal music course for middle school students who have a desire to learn, sing and perform music. The goal of this course is to teach students the fundamentals of music, help create independence while learning and singing music, foster confident singing, and develop an appreciation for choral music.

Concerts & Performances

- October 7th - seventh & eighth choirs
- December 8th - all WMS choirs
- March 10th - all WMS choirs
- May 12th - all WMS choirs

Please see the complete student handbook regarding concert grading and absences. www.wyomingchoirs.com

Concert Attire

7th & 8th Grade



- Order your shirt by Monday, September 14th
- More info = www.wyomingchoirs.com
- check out the choir handbook.

Grading

- Concerts & Performances 30%
- Rehearsal Skills 50%
- Assessments [singing & writing] 20%

Class Supplies

- 1 inch 3-ringed binder (black is best)
- Sticky Tabs (post-it/3M) to organize music
- Pencil - in folder everyday for class
- Concert Wear

Daily Rehearsal Strategies

1. Bring necessary materials (choir binder, pencil, passport, music)
2. Demonstrate correct vocal posture
3. Participate in singing (small group and large group work)
4. Support the success of the choir by completing given tasks
5. Demonstrate sight singing with vocals and Curwen hand signs
6. Demonstrate given rhythms by clapping, marching, etc.
7. Demonstrate correct vocal technique
8. Demonstrate healthy vocal breathing technique
9. Support the success of the choir with respectful words and actions.
10. Support the success of the choir by following directions.



About Mr. Potts



- My 21st year of teaching choir.
- I am a graduate of Otterbein University and U. of Cincinnati (CCM)
- I enjoys fostering dogs through a local rescue organization.
- I'm passionate about teaching kids music.
- I'm a Steelers fan.

Choir Website <http://www.wyomingchoirs.com>

Become a supporter of music through our WSMA Music Boosters www.wyomingmusic.org

WMS CHOIR HANDBOOK
7th & 8th Grade Choir
2026-2027 School Year



Directors:
Mr. Brian Potts
Choir grades 7 & 8
pottsb@wyomingcityschools.org
513.206.7170 Ext. 7149

CLASS SUPPLIES

Provided by each student

- ☐ **1 inch Three-Ring Binder:** It is best to have regular black binders with no additional rubber edges or added thickness. Binders that fit will be able to stay in the choir room in the assigned folder storage spaces.
- ☐ **Sticky Tabs:** for organizing your music.
- ☐ **A Pencil:** Each student is responsible for having a pencil easily accessible for each and every rehearsal.
- ☐ **Concert Wear:** Black shoes, nice black pants and purchased choir t-shirt.

RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Student's Responsibilities – CLASS RULES

1. Be quiet & attentive when the teacher is teaching, conducting, or giving instructions.
2. Give your best effort.
3. Be on time and ready to learn.
4. Have a pencil and music at every rehearsal.
5. No food, gum, or cell phones are allowed in the classroom without permission.

GRADING

✓ Concerts and Performances	30%
✓ Rehearsal Skills	50%
✓ Assessments [singing & written]	20%

Grading Rubrics will be based upon the following criteria:

Rehearsal Skills (10 points per rehearsal = up to 30 per week)

- **Prepared** - Binder, Pencil and making score adjustments daily.
- **Posture** - Correct *Body Alignment to aid in sound production*.
- **Engagement** - Actively participating in all aspects of rehearsal.
- **Singing** - Demonstrating correct vocal and breathing technique.
Demonstrating use of sound vs. silence in rehearsal.
- **Procedures** - Supporting the success of the choir through words, actions, and following directions/procedures.

DAILY REHEARSAL STRATEGIES

Earn 10 points per rehearsal by demonstrating the following strategies:

Prepared	1. Bring necessary materials (choir binder, pencil, passport, music)
Posture	2. Demonstrate correct vocal posture
Engagement	3. Participate in singing (small group and large group work) 4. Support the success of the choir by completing given tasks 5. Demonstrate sight singing with vocals and Curwen hand signs 6. Demonstrate given rhythms by clapping, marching, etc.
Singing	7. Demonstrate correct vocal technique 8. Demonstrate healthy vocal breathing technique
Procedures	9. Support the success of the choir with respectful words and actions 10. Support the success of the choir by following directions.

2026-2027 WMS CHOIR PERFORMANCES

Oct 7	7:30 p.m.	WMS/WHs Fall Concert <i>7th through 12th grade choirs only.</i>	Pendery Auditorium
Dec 8	8:00 p.m.	WMS Winter Concert <i>All WMS choir students</i> <i>Concert 1 - 7:00 p.m. 5th and 6th choirs</i> <i>Concert 2 - 8:00 p.m. 7th and 8th choirs</i>	Pendery Auditorium
March 10	8:00 p.m.	WMS Choir Concert <i>All WMS choir students</i> <i>Concert 1 - 7:00 p.m. 5th and 6th choirs</i> <i>Concert 2 - 8:00 p.m. 7th and 8th choirs</i>	Pendery Auditorium
May 12	8:00 p.m.	WMS Choir Concert <i>All WMS choir students</i> <i>Concert 1 - 7:00 p.m. 5th and 6th choirs</i> <i>Concert 2 - 8:00 p.m. 7th and 8th choirs</i>	Pendery Auditorium

Opportunities for 7th & 8th Grade singers:

1. OMEA Honor Choir – TBD
This is a teacher recommendation/audition opportunity that happens in 2027.
2. Concert Solos - sign up in Canvas for a time to audition.
3. WSMA and Community events.

*****Per school guidelines, any change to a music class option must be done within the first full week of school. This year's deadline is Friday, August 21, 2026.*****

CONCERT ATTIRE

All WMS choir student performers should wear:

- Choir Shirt - 7th and 8th Grade: Black required Choir T-Shirt
- Black pants or skirt with tights
- Dark shoes (black preferred)

Purchase a choir shirt: (go to www.wyomingchoirs.com or the QR below)

7th and 8th Grade Choir Shirt



***** Shirts should be purchased before Monday, September 14th 2026.***

CONCERTS

A portion of choir assessments consist of a performance credit. All students are required to participate in these scheduled events. Choir is an academic subject and part of the grading requirement comes in the form of performances that occur outside of the school day. It is the student's responsibility to avoid scheduling conflicts with the choir calendar.

The following reasons qualify as an EXCUSED ABSENCE from concerts:

1. Serious Illness
 2. Family Emergencies/Hospitalization
 3. Anything approved by Mr. Potts prior to the concert.
- Excused Absences require a **make-up project - written or singing** - to be determined by the director in order to make up the 30% of the student's grade that was missed by not being able to attend the concert.
 - An unexcused absence from concerts will not be allowed a make-up project. This will result in a lowering of the final grade by two letter grades.

PERFORMANCE ABSENCE POLICY: To be excused from a performance, the director must have at least ONE week notice prior to the performance date (except in the case of sudden illness or serious emergencies). If you fail to notify the director at least one week before a performance without just cause, the absence will be labeled "unexcused." The director and principal reserve the right to grant or refuse excused absences.

To receive full credit for concerts, each student must:

1. Arrive on time.
2. Wear the uniform as instructed.
3. Follow the student code of conduct.
4. Showcase a high level of presentation/performance practice on stage.
5. Use proper concert etiquette when watching others perform.

If you have any questions regarding any concert, please contact your teacher.

7th & 8th Grade Choir To Do List - please return Aug. 21st.

STUDENT Name: _____

1. WMS CHOIR - Family Information Form



Scan the QR code to complete the family information form for the 26-27 school year. The information submitted will be used to notify you of upcoming concerts and information pertaining to 7th and 8th grade choir.

2. HANDBOOK SIGNATURE



Read over the choir handbook for 7th & 8th grade choirs. Please add the concert dates to your family calendar. Signing below indicates that you are aware of our handbook, class procedures, and all performances. It's going to be a great year!

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

*****Per school guidelines, any change to a music class option must be done within the first full week of school. This year's deadline is Friday, August 21, 2026.*****

CHOIR CONCERT T-SHIRT



All singers need a choir shirt to wear for our upcoming performances. Please use the QR code to purchase a choir t-shirt if you are in 7th grade choir, new to choir, or need another one for this season. Reach out to Mr. Potts if you have any questions.



***** Shirts should be purchased before Monday, September 14th, 2026***