

White Hill Middle School

WILDCAT CHORUS



2010-2011 Handbook

Mrs. Megan Perdue, Director

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<http://www.meganperdue.com/White%20Hill%20Chorus%20Home.html>

Course Information

Weekly Rehearsals

Chorus meets during pre-period from 8:00–8:45 am. The class will be split into two groups, one that meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday and one that meets Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. Students will be assigned their groups based on other pre-period course commitments and to suit the dynamics and needs of the ensemble.

Repertoire

Music performed by the ensemble will emphasize a variety of styles including pop, musical theater, Western classical, vocal jazz, and a variety of multicultural musics, among others. Repertoire is ultimately chosen by the director, but student input on repertoire choice and relevance is valued. Most of the year will be spent on concert literature, with an emphasis on technique, music literacy, and performance.

Concert, Tour, and Festival Dates

Chorus members have the opportunity to represent White Hill at a variety of events throughout the region. There will be major performances in the winter, early spring, and late spring. We are planning to attend a regional choral festival in May. Also, choristers have the opportunity to attend a retreat where we will focus on group-cohesiveness and community-building as well as repertoire. Specific performance dates are being finalized soon and will be communicated to you in writing as soon as they have been approved by the school district.

Materials

Students will be provided with a music folder and repertoire. Students may bring music home to practice by checking out the folder from Mrs. Perdue. Please bring a pencil to class. Students are responsible for marking their scores **in pencil**. Music is the property of White Hill Middle School and students will be required to compensate the school for lost or severely damaged materials.



Grading Policies

Rehearsal Skills and Participation

Rehearsal skills will be demonstrated by a student putting forth his or her best effort and attitude in daily rehearsals, as well as taking responsibility for rehearsal materials. This area is weighted with much importance because it reflects your citizenship and commitment to music and your ensemble. Five points will be assigned per day for participation. Points missed for excused absences can be made up. Please see Mrs. Perdue for participation make-up work. You will be unable to make-up points for unexcused absences.

Your choir folder will be a very important part of your grade. You will be given a choir number. This is your folder number. This is also the number that will be on every piece of music that will be loaned to you. Here are the rest of your folder requirements:

- A sharpened pencil (This one lives IN your folder. Not just one that is brought everyday.)
- Blank loose leaf paper
- All music that is currently ON LOAN to you. If it has your number, it's your responsibility

As an individual, you will be creating a set of goals for yourself throughout the year. You will document these goals in your music folder. You and Mrs. Perdue will be monitoring these goals and working together to achieve them. Class goals will be written in your folder and clearly explained by Mrs. Perdue. Considering and writing these goals is very important to your growth as a musician and chorister and will be checked periodically as part of your participation grade.



Performances

Students are expected to attend all scheduled choir performances and rehearsals. Please notify Mrs. Perdue by phone or e-mail if a student must miss a concert because of a pre-planned commitment at least **two weeks in advance**. Students will be able to make-up excused absences for concerts. Unexcused absences cannot be made up and will lower a student's grade. If there is an emergency, please notify Mrs. Perdue by phone or e-mail as soon as possible.



Musicianship

Musicianship includes anything and everything that assesses your singing, listening, music reading or vocabulary skills. This area reflects your individual commitment to music. Here are the different ways that musicianship may be assessed:

In-class performance checks: These are to make sure that all students are learning the music that we will study and perform. Since middle school is stressful enough, these will never be a surprise. Mrs. Perdue will always announce performance checks ahead of time. These are opportunities to show what you have learned.

In-class sight-singing checks: Same rules apply. These will always be announced ahead of time.

Written music theory quizzes: To test the definable aspects of music that will be taught in class. Students will only be tested on material that has been covered in class.

Written performance summaries/critiques: To apply those definable aspects and put the vocabulary in context. This is critical for lifelong musicianship.

Rehearsal Expectations

During rehearsals and performances, students are expected to be on time, not talk or distract, and use good judgment when working with other people, equipment, and the room. Participating in a music ensemble requires striving for a common goal, sacrificing for the team, and acknowledging that achievement through the group effort is a rewarding and character-building activity. Rehearsals that are focused, rigorous, and controlled will be productive, positive, and **FUN**.

As Wildcat Chorus members, we will...

1. Be on time.

By being prompt to rehearsal, we improve ensemble and individual performance as well as maximize rehearsal time. We set a standard for the entire ensemble, indicating that the ensemble is important to us as individuals.

2. Focus in rehearsal.

By restricting conversation to musical matters, we improve rehearsal and individual performance as we allow sections to rehearse. We set a standard for the entire ensemble, indicating that the ensemble is important to us as individuals.

3. Respect ourselves and each other.

By refraining from personal put-downs, offensive language, and unnecessary or hurtful comments, we improve rehearsal and individual performance as we allow sections to rehearse. We set a standard for the entire ensemble, indicating that the ensemble is important to us as individuals.

4. Respect property and the rehearsal room.

By taking the time to put choir folders in their proper storage place, taking care, even when hurried, and keeping the room picked-up from unnecessary debris, we improve ensemble and individual performance as well as maximize rehearsal time. **Folders left on the floor will result in lost participation points.** We set a standard for the entire ensemble, indicating that the ensemble is important to us as individuals.



White Hill Middle School Expectations

- **Gum:** Gum chewing is not allowed on campus, on school busses, during field trips, or during performances.
- **Electronics (iPods, phones, cameras, etc.):** All electronics are to be powered off and out of sight from the time students arrive until they line up for busses, or leave campus, after school.
- **Hats/Hoods Expectation:** Hats/hoods may be worn outside the classroom, and during outdoor PE activities. Hats/hoods are not to be worn indoors.
- **Dress Code:** Appropriate and distraction free clothing will be worn at all times. See student agenda for more details.

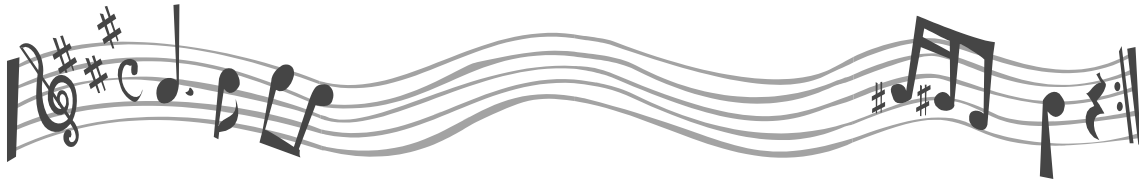


Choir Council

The Student Choir Council will meet twice per month before Wednesday rehearsals at 7:30 am to discuss issues to include (but not limited to):

Fund-raising opportunities
Performance obligations and responsibilities
Rehearsal atmosphere
Ensemble goals
Student and Council responsibilities
Choir social activities

Each Choir Council member is selected by majority vote. There are three available positions: President, Vice-President, and Librarian/Historian. Please see the Council sheet at the back of this handbook to apply for a position.



Handbook Acknowledgment Form

Please return this form to Mrs. Perdue by **Friday, August 27th**. Thank you!

Student Agreement

I, _____, affirm that I have read and understand the White Hill Middle School Choir Handbook. I further affirm that I will abide by the expectations outlined in this handbook. I have had all questions concerning the content of this handbook answered and will do my best to live up to the intent of this contract.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Agreement

I/We have read the White Hill Middle School Handbook and have discussed it with my/our child. I/We will do our best to encourage him/her to abide by the expectations of the Choral Program.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Teacher Agreement

As the teacher for this class, I agree to support the development and achievement of the chorus by:

Enforcing all expectations outlined in this handbook in a consistent manner.

Providing constructive comments that will help students and ensembles grow and succeed.

Providing opportunities for students such as concerts, festivals, and special events.

Attending all rehearsals, organized and on time.

Attending all performances on time, in concert dress in their entirety.

Megan Perdue
Mrs. Megan Perdue

Choir Council Interest Form

Please return this form to Mrs. Perdue by Wednesday, September 1st.

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Position interested in (circle one):

President *Vice-President* *Librarian/Historian*

Position descriptions:

- *President*
 - Assist substitute teachers
 - Assist Mrs. Perdue with record keeping, maintenance
 - Answer questions regarding choir handbook and expectations
 - Attend all Council meetings
 - Assist with special event preparation
 - Give Council summaries in rehearsals following meetings
 - Assist other Council members as needed
- *Vice-President*
 - Assist substitute teachers if the President is absent
 - Assist Mrs. Perdue with record keeping, maintenance
 - Answer questions regarding choir handbook and expectations
 - Attend all Council meetings
 - Assist with special event preparation
- *Librarian/Historian*
 - Assist Mrs. Perdue with choral library maintenance
 - Document social activities and special events
 - Help create end-of-year slideshow
 - Attend all Council meetings
 - Assist with special event preparation

Potential Council members will deliver a short (1-2 minutes) speech to the class on their experience and qualifications. Candidates for President will lead a short warm-up (see Mrs. Perdue for suggestions and help).

I, _____, understand my obligations as a potential Choir Council Member. I will attend Council meetings twice per month and perform my duties to the best of my ability. I will be a role model for other chorus members.

Signed: _____ Date: _____