

### Hello WMS Choir Families!

I can hardly believe that school is starting in less than two weeks! Summer isn't over yet, but it's time to start thinking about some of the wonderful things we're going to enjoy together this school year in Choir as we SING! I'm thrilled to have so many amazing students singing in choir - over 300 this year! A special welcome to our 160+ incoming 6th graders! It's going to be so much fun getting to know you! This newsletter includes several very important announcements. Please read everything carefully and respond accordingly. Don't forget to sign the Choir Handbook online. Thank you!

#### Newsletter in a Nutshell...

Welcome to Mrs. Wiliford! Choir Website The Choir Handbook *(parent signature required)* Calendar of Events Choir Code Celebration (Save the date - Saturday, October 8th) Parent Volunteers Fall Fundraiser Why We Sing



### Welcome to Mrs. Wiliford!

The WMS Choirs are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Angela Wiliford to the family! With Mr. Wangeman's decision to stay full time at West Senior HS this year, and the enrollment of the WMS Choirs not just maintaining, but increasing, we are so thankful for the support from administration to be able to have Mrs. Wiliford co-teach two classes with Mr. Dee each day during 5th & 6th hours with the 7th Grade Treble Choir and the 7th & 8th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir! Each of these classes has over 50 students enrolled and having a co-teacher with that many students is such a blessing! Mrs. Wiliford is also working as an elementary music specialist at Long Lake. She has many years of experience at that level along with several years of teaching the All City Choirs and we're so thankful to have her!

### Choir Website

The choir website is the best resource for students and parents to learn more about the WMS Choir Program! Please visit <u>www.wmschoirs.com</u> to see what we're all about!

## <u> Choir Handbook (Parent Signature Required)</u>

The <u>choir handbook</u> is on the choir website. Please read this carefully together as student and parent. At the bottom of the handbook page is a link to a Google form where students & parents can sign the acknowledgement.





## Calendar of Events

The <u>WMS Choirs Google Calendar</u> is the most updated way to see all of the events for the year. Please subscribe. The most important dates to get on your calendar right now are... **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th**: 6th Annual CCC (ALL Students - ALL Day - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

## DECEMBER CONCERTS:

Tuesday, December 6th (7th & 8th Grade Choirs) Thursday, December 8th (6th Grade Choirs & Madrigals)

# FEBRUARY CONCERTS:

Tuesday, February 21st (7th & 8th Grade Choirs) Thursday, February 23rd (6th Grade Choirs & Madrigals)

# MAY CONCERTS:

Tuesday, May 2nd (7th & 8th Grade Choirs) Thursday, May 4th (6th Grade Choirs & Madrigals)



All events (except CCC) will be at Lars Hockstad Auditorium inside Central Grade School. Parking is on the street and may require a bit of a walk. Please plan ahead. Students need to arrive by 5:45 wearing ALL black formal concert attire. Please refer to the choir <u>handbook</u> for all details of formal concert attire. Performances will begin at 6:30. These events are FREE. There are no tickets needed. Seating is first come, first served. Some rows in the front may be reserved for students.

## Choir Code Celebration

I'm very excited to announce that the 6th annual Choir Code Celebration (CCC) is scheduled for Saturday, October 8th. *It's the biggest event of our year and it's FREE!* This all day event runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will include all  $6^{th} - 8^{th}$  grade choir students as well as some former WMS students who are now at West Senior HS returning to lead some of the team building activities. Nobody will want to miss this amazing day and attendance is expected if at all possible! If for any reason you can NOT attend part of the day, please attend as much as possible. All the details can be found on the

Choir Code Celebration page of the website. The basic itinerary is:

- 9:00 12:00...Team Building
- 12:00 1:00...Lunch (Pizza, salad, chips, fruit, pop, and water) 1:00 – 4:00...SING!

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- 4:00 8:00...Activities (Athletic activities in the gyms, open mic in the little theater, and more!) 5:00 – 7:00...Dinner & Dessert (Qdoba & Moomer's Ice Cream Sundae Bar)
- 8:00 9:00...Closing Ceremony (Parents, please join us for student presentations and performances!)



## Parent Volunteers

Parent Volunteers / Chaperones are needed for all events (CCC, Concerts, etc.) Please complete this TCAPS volunteer form first and then make sure to indicate your availability and interest in volunteering when you sign the handbook. Thank you! Volunteer

### Fall Fundraiser

The Music Department Fall Fundraiser kicks off on Friday, September 16th and runs for two weeks through Friday, September 30th. Two years ago the WMS Choirs chose not to do any fundraising due to COVID-19. In previous years we have done an outstanding job and last year was no exception...we awarded over \$2,000 in prize money! Our profit margin on this fundraiser is very high (about 85%)! All of the details for the fundraiser are clearly explained on the <u>choir website fundraising page</u>. Our past success has allowed us to award scholarships for private lessons and summer camps and provided us with the funds to host several very special guests and events! Thank you for your ongoing financial support and more importantly for encouraging your students' love of singing!

## Why We Sing

The main theme song for WMS Choirs will continue to be "Why We Sing" and I'm eager to share this message with students and their families throughout the year! For now, the lyrics by Greg Gilpin are:

A sound of hope, a sound of peace, a sound that celebrates and speaks what we believe. A sound of love, a sound so strong. It's amazing what is given when we share a song. This is why we sing, why we lift our voice, why we stand as one in harmony. This is why we sing, why we lift our voice. Take my hand and sing with me.

Soothe a soul, mend a heart, bring together lives that have been torn apart. Share the joy, find a friend. It's a never ending gift that circles back again. This is why we sing, why we lift our voice, why we stand as one in harmony. This is why we sing, why we lift our voice. Take my hand and sing with me.

Music builds a bridge, it can tear down a wall. Music is a language that can speak to one and all! This is why we sing, why we lift our voice, why we stand as one in harmony. This is why we sing, why we lift our voice. Take my hand and sing with me. This is why we sing!

Sincerely,

Mr. Emerick Dee Follow the TC WMS Choirs on Facebook & Instagram @ tcwmschoirs



