

Hello WMS Choir Families!

I can hardly believe it's already the second week of school! Summer isn't officially over yet, but the smell of fall is in the air and 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! It's year nine for me in TCAPS and twenty overall! I'm thrilled to have so many students singing in Choir at WMS - almost 300 this year! A special welcome to our nearly-150 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 read and sign the Choir Handbook online. Thank you!

Newsletter in a Nutshell...

Welcome to Ms. Donahue & Mrs. Wiliford!

The Choir Handbook (parent signature required)

Calendar of Events

Choir Code Celebration (Save the date - Saturday, October 28th)

Parent Volunteers

Fall Fundraiser

Week At A Glance & Newsletter Page

Why We Sing



Welcome to Ms. Donahue & Mrs. Wiliford!

The WMS Choirs are thrilled to welcome Ms. Olivia Donahue, student teacher from the University of Michigan - GO BLUE! Ms. Donahue is a native of Traverse City and will be spending most mornings at WMS working with some of the 6th Grade Choirs and the 8th Grade Treble Choir as well as the 6th Grade Exploration in Music class. She will spend the rest of her day working with Mrs. Brazee at Willow Hill Elementary School as she pursues her degree in Music Education. To ask that your child not be included in video or audio recordings made by/for Ms. Donahue, please contact the Educator Preparation Program. We are very excited to have Mrs. Angela Wiliford returning this year to co-teach the 7th Grade Treble Choir of 65 students! 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 which she'll be doing again this year - we're so thankful to have her!

Choir Handbook (Parent Signature Required)

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. There is also a student sign-up for the CCC and parent volunteers on this form.





Calendar of Events

The WMS Choirs Google Calendar is the most updated and accurate way to see all of the events for the year. Please subscribe. The most important date to get on your calendar right now is...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28th: 7th Annual CCC (ALL Students - ALL Day - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. @ WMS)

OCTOBER CONCERTS (7th & 8th Grade Only...arrive at West Senior HS by 6:15): Calendar Sle

Thursday, October 12th: 8th Grade Treble Choir

Tuesday, October 17th: 7/8 Tenor Bass Choir & Madrigals

Thursday, October 19th: 7th Grade Treble Choir



Monday, December 4th: 7th Grade Treble Choir (arrive at WSHS by 6:15)

Thursday, December 7th: 6th Grade Choirs & Madrigals (arrive by 5:45 at **Central Grade School**)

Monday, December 18th: 8th Grade Treble Choir & Madrigals (arrive at WSHS by 6:15)

Tuesday, December 19th: 7th & 8th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir (arrive at WSHS by 6:15)

FEBRUARY CONCERTS:

Tuesday, February 20th: 7th & 8th Grade Choirs (arrive by 5:45 at **Central Grade School**) Thursday, February 22nd: 6th Grade Choirs & Madrigals (arrive by 5:45 at **Central Grade School**) Monday OR Tuesday, February 26 OR 27 (not both dates): 7th & 8th Grade Choirs will attend MSVMA District Choral Festival @ TC Central HS (most likely during the school day)

MAY CONCERT (2ND ANNUAL SING-A-THON):

Saturday, May 18th: ALL STUDENTS - 2nd Annual SING-A-THON at Central Grade School 7th & 8th Grade students might also attend MSVMA State Choral Festival (details TBD)

For concerts at 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 inside Lars Hockstad Auditorium wearing ALL black formal concert attire. Please refer to the choir <u>handbook</u> for all details of formal concert attire.

GRADE-SPECIFIC CONCERTS & EVENTS QUICK VIEW:

6th Grade: Thursday, 12/7 | Thursday, 2/22

7th Grade Treble Choir: Thursday, 10/19 | Monday, 12/4 | Thursday, 2/20

8th Grade Treble: Thursday, 10/12 | Monday, 12/18 | Thursday, 2/20

7th & 8th Grade Tenor/Bass: Tuesday, 10/17 | Tuesday, 12/19 | Thursday, 2/20

Madrigals: Thursday, 10/17 | Thursday, 12/7 | Saturday, 12/9 | Monday, 12/18 | Thursday, 2/22



Choir Code Celebration

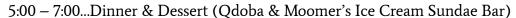
I'm very excited to announce that the 6th annual Choir Code Celebration (CCC) is scheduled for Saturday, October 28th. *It's the biggest event of our year and it's FREE!* This all day event runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will include all $6^{th} - 8^{th}$ grade choir students as well as some former WMS 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!

4:00 - 8:00...Activities (Athletic activities in the gyms, dunk tank, karaoke in the little theater, and more!)



8:00 – 9:00...Closing Ceremony (Parents, please join us for student presentations and performances!)



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



CODE

CELEBRATION

CHOIR

Fall Fundraiser

The Music Department Fall Fundraiser kicks off on Friday, September 15th and runs for two weeks through Friday, September 29th. Last year the WMS Choirs had a very successful fundraiser and we're banking on another great year! Our profit margin on this fundraiser is very high (nearly 90%)! All of the details for the fundraiser are clearly explained on the <a href="https://choirs.nearly.com/choirs.nearly.c

Week At A Glance & Newsletter Page

Please visit the <u>Newsletter page</u> to read the most recent or past newsletters as well as find a <u>"Week At A Glance" Google Slide</u> for more information regarding what students are learning in class and any homework, including many helpful links to curriculum, learning goals, and practicing resources!



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