



Hello WMS Choir Families!

I can hardly believe it's already the end of the first 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 10 for me in TCAPS and 21 overall! I'm thrilled to have so many students singing in Choir at WMS - nearly 300 this year! A special welcome to our 137 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...

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### Welcome to Mrs. Wolf-Schlarf!

We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Wendee Wolf-Schlarf this year to the WMS Choir Team where she will be co-teaching the 7th Grade Treble Choir of over 75 students! Mrs. Wolf-Schlarf brings decades of experience with her and spends the rest of her days conducting choirs at CHS and coordinating all of the TCAPS K-12 Music Department. We are also very excited to have Mrs. Angela Wiliford returning this year to co-teach the 8th Grade Treble Choir of 55 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's doing again this year!

### Choir Handbook (Parent Signature Required)

The [choir handbook](#) 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 link for parents to complete a volunteer form after you've hit submit.





## **Calendar of Events**

Check out the [WMS Choirs Calendar Page](#) to see all of the events for the year.

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

**Monday, 10/21** - 7th Grade Treble Choir

**Tuesday, 10/22** - 8th Grade Treble Choir

**Thursday, 10/24** - 7/8 Tenor Bass Choir & Madrigals

**NOVEMBER:** **SATURDAY, 11/16: 8th Annual CCC (ALL Students - ALL Day - 9-9 @ WMS)**

**DECEMBER:**

**Tuesday, 12/3** - 6th Grade Choir & Madrigals in Lars Hockstad Auditorium @ Central Grade School\*  
(6th Grade Students arrive by 5:45 / Madrigals arrive by 5:00 / Doors will open by 6:15 / Concert will begin at 6:30 and end by 8:00)

**Tuesday, 12/10** - 7/8 Tenor Bass Choir @ West Senior HS (Students arrive by 6:15 / Doors will open around 6:45 / Concerts will begin at 7:00 and end by 8:00)

**Saturday, 12/14** - Madrigals - [Winter Sounds](#) / [Mix & Mingle \(Tickets Required\)](#)

Madrigal Students arrive at WMS for rehearsal at Noon (Lunch at 2:00)

Leave WMS at 3:00 / Arrive at Art Park at 4:00 / Perform at 5:00

*Michigan Legacy Art Park: 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr, Thompsonville*

Leave Park at 6:00 / Arrive at Camp at 6:30 / Perform at 7:00 / Pick up at 8:00

*Lake Ann Camp: 18400 Maple St, Lake Ann, MI 49650*

**Monday, 12/16** - 7th & 8th Grade Treble Choirs @ West Senior HS (Students arrive by 6:15 / Doors will open around 6:45 / Concerts will begin at 7:00 and end by 8:00)

**JANUARY:**

Friday & Saturday, 1/24 & 1/25 - 7th & 8th Grade Tenor/Bass Choir will perform as a "demonstration choir" at the [Michigan Music Conference](#) in Grand Rapids. More details will be shared soon!

**FEBRUARY CONCERTS:**

**Tuesday, 2/25** - 7th & 8th Grade Choirs in Lars Hockstad Auditorium @ Central Grade School  
(7th/8th Grade Students arrive by 5:45 / Madrigals arrive by 5:00 / Doors will open by 6:15 / Concert will begin at 6:30 and end by 8:00)



### MARCH:

Tuesday, 3/18 - 6th Grade Choirs & Madrigals - in Lars Hockstad Auditorium @ Central Grade School (6th Grade Students arrive by 5:45 / Madrigals arrive by 5:00 / Doors will open by 6:15 / Concert will begin at 6:30 and end by 8:00)

### MAY CONCERT (3RD ANNUAL SING-A-THON):

**Saturday, May 17th: ALL STUDENTS - 3rd Annual SING-A-THON at Central Grade School**

\*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.

**FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE:** Students need to wear ALL black formal concert attire for their concerts from October through March. Please refer to the [choir handbook](#) for all details of formal concert attire.



### Choir Code Celebration

I'm very excited to announce that the 8th annual Choir Code Celebration (CCC) is scheduled for Saturday, November 16th. ***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<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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

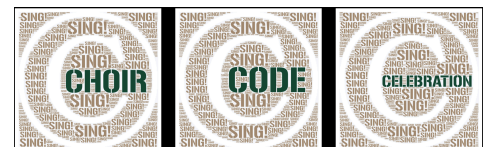
12:00 – 1:00...Lunch (Pizza, salad, chips, fruit, pop, and water)

1:00 – 4:00...SING!

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

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/TCWCO

Parent Volunteers are needed for all events (CCC, Concerts, etc.) Please complete this TCAPS [volunteer form](#) if you're available and interested in volunteering. We would also love to have more Middle School parents join the monthly parent meetings of the [TCWCO](#) (TC West Choir Organization) with the West Senior HS Choir parents on the second Saturdays of most months in the WSHS Choir Room. Thank you!





### Fall Fundraiser

The Music Department Fall Fundraiser kicks off on Friday, September 13th and runs for two weeks through Friday, September 27th. 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 [choir website fundraising page](#). 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!



### Week At A Glance & Newsletter Page

Please visit the [Newsletter page](#) to read the most recent or past newsletters as well as find a ["Week At A Glance" Google Slide](#) 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