

**WAMS CHOIR**

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Also visit us online at

[www.wamsmiddleschoolchoir.](http://www.wamsmiddleschoolchoir.)weebly.com

 *Dear Choir Students and Parents,*

*Welcome to the WAMS Choir Program!*

*We are so happy that you are joining us for the exciting year ahead.*

*This handbook will inform you of our plans for the year and will be a guide for any questions you might have. If anything is unclear, please feel free to call or email any of us.*

*We hope this will be a year of learning and growth for our students, and a wonderful experience for our parents as well.*

*Thank you in advance, students, for your hard work and participation in choir this year, and parents, for sharing your children with us!*

*Sincerely,*

*Carey M. O’Rarden, Director*

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*Online Acknowledgement Form must be submitted by* **Friday, Sep. 15th, and includes these consents:**

* 1. Choir Expectations/Grading/Absences/Discipline/Supplies/Calendar/Performance
	2. Extracurricular Parent Acknowledgement & Media Release
	3. Random Student Drug Testing Form English/Spanish

 ***www.wamsmiddleschoolchoir.weebly.com/forms***

**WAMS Choir Calendar 2023-24**

August 8th – 6th Grade WAMS Choir Camp!  1pm-3pm WAMS Choir Room

September 6 – MAIN EVENT Reward Field Trip 4:30pm-7:30pm.

September 15 – \*\*\***T-Shirt money and all Choir Contracts Due**\*\*\*

October  11 – WAMS Choir Fall Concert @ GPHS, 6:00p.m.  **Booster Club Meeting #1 @4:00p.m.**

October 27, 30, 31 – Ghost of the Woodland! Activity MPR

November 16 – Recruiting Concert at Pyburn/WAES Elementary, 9a.m.-1p.m.

December 2 – Region 33 TMEA Choir Auditions at Davis HS (Aldine ISD), 7a.m.-4p.m.

December 9 - TMEA Region 33 Choir Clinic and Concert @Westfield HS (Spring ISD)

December 12 – WAMS Choir Christmas Concert @GPHS, 6:00p.m.  **Booster Club Meeting #2 @4:00p.m.**

December 15 – Southside Fine Arts Showcase @GPHS

*ADMIN SING - December ?? –*

February 1 – WAMS VARSITY CHOIR Pre-UIL Concert @GPHS 8a.m.-1p.m.

February 2 – WAMS NON-VARSITY Pre-UIL Concert @ NSSHS 8a.m.-1p.m.

Feb. 27, 28 – Region 33 UIL Choir Concert and Sight-Reading Contest @ NSSHS 8a.m.-4p.m.

Mar. 8 – TMEA UIL Recording Submission Session – Tallowood/Foundry Church 8a.m. -1:00p.m.

March 27 - April 7th – WAMS Choir Popcorn Fundraiser

April 5 – 6th Grade UIL Evaluation!!  @NSSHS – All Day!!

April 11, 12 – All Popcorn Fundraiser Money is Due, NO EXCEPTIONS!!

April 25, 26 – All TYPHOON TEXAS Money is Due, NO EXCEPTIONS!!

April 27th – BAND Solo and Ensemble (Choir Room)

May 10 - Recruit Day Pyburn/WAES  9a.m.-1p.m.

May 15,16 – WAMS Solo and Ensemble Contest and Competition, 8a.m.-4p.m. @WAMS

May 22 **–** WAMS Choir Spring Concert and Awards Ceremony @GPHS, 6:00p.m.**Booster Club Meeting #3 @4:00p.m.**

May 25 **– TYPHOON TEXAS, ALL DAY!!  8a.m.-5p.m.**

May 30 – Varsity Choir Camp! 10am-12pm

August 5, 6 – 6th Grade WAMS Choir Camp 9am-12p.m.

Dates that remain flexible are in green

Dates that have changed initially since 5/30/23

New Dates/Changes Added

WAMS CHOIR EXPECTATIONS

**Classroom Expectations:**

**1.   No Attitudes.**

**2.   No Gum.**

**3.   Be Respectful.**

**4.   Complete your work on time.**

SUPPLIES

What the student will need this year: ***ALL SUPPLIES MUST BE READY IN CLASS BY FRIDAY SEPT. 15, 2023***

***Supplies:***

* Pencils and **MAP PENCILS** and Erasers
* Highlighters (All Different Colors)
* **ALL** Boys **Suit and Tie**; Girls **Sunday best Dress** (for Holiday Performances/Solo and Ensemble and Awards – if you are having trouble with a suit and tie/dress and shoes please email CIS for assistance.
* Black Dress Shoes and Black Socks (Boys); Flats/Pumps less than 2” (Girls)
* 2” or bigger Black Binder (Music Portfolio) MUST BE BLACK.
* **Choir T-Shirt ($15.00 – Due Sep. 15) – Choir Hoodie \**optional* $35.00 REVTRAK**
* 1 pair CORDED headphones.
* Varsity and Non-Varsity Ensembles will be issued out UIL performance uniforms that will need to be maintained throughout the school year, and then returned.

Additionally, students will be asked to participate in after-school activities and rehearsals. **\*\*\*Students will also be required to buy a choir T-Shirt for this year’s field trips, concerts and functions. If they already have one from last year they are good to go!!\*\*\***

**DISCIPLINE**

**Consequences:**

1st Infraction: Warning

2nd Infraction and beyond: Sign the **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT** **BOOK**

3rd Infraction: Parent Phone Call

4th Infraction: Parent/Teacher Conference / Assign Detention if Necessary

**When a student in class is called for an infraction they will sign the STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT BOOK.**

Any serious infractions will be directly handled by the Assistant Principal/Principal, and the student will be removed from the class pending a Parent/Teacher conference. Any highly disrespectful or abusive conduct will result in immediate referral to the front office.

**GRADING PROCEDURES**

**Grading Procedures: The WAMS Choir program will follow GPISD grading policies. Due to the TEKS and course objectives, both in and out-of-school will be graded.**

Students will receive 1-3 grades per week, Major or Daily. More grades may be taken at the director’s discretion based on assignment and content need. Since choir is heavily dependent on participation including movement, performance, written, and aural assessments, it is important to note that the participation grade includes many areas of choir. In addition, a student that is tardy to class / rehearsals, or a student refusing to follow directions or refusing to participate fully will have a diminished participation (daily) grade because it disrupts the preparation of the ensemble. If a student loses points for participation for one or more instructional infractions (materials, singing posture, music score preparation, etc..) during the class, they will be given an opportunity to make up those points with an alternate assignment. In WAMS Choir, we want every student to have a second chance to succeed! Behavioral infractions will be according to WAMS and GPISD policy for student conduct.

Any student who fails during a six-week grading period and is enrolled in a varsity ensemble will be placed on probation. If there are any subsequent class failures, that student will be removed from the class and placed in a non-varsity ensemble. Additionally, just because a student does not like the teacher or wants to get out of the class is not a reason to move them out. **Once a student is enrolled in choir they have committed to choir for the school calendar year.**

***It is the parent and child’s responsibility to check grade status frequently*** and if you feel there could be a problem, please contact the choir director. This ensures a correct understanding of your child’s progress in class. Tutorials will be on **WEDNESDAYS *from 4:00-5:00pm*** in the choir room and any student not completing assignments or needs extra help will be assigned a **Tutorial Ticket** for Choir. They must attend that tutorial or it will be reported to administration for further action. Also, students dismissed from tutorials will need to wait inside the building before being picked up by parents after-school. We will be using Google Classroom for all assignments in a PASS-OFF format this year so please make sure you keep up to date on your student’s progress in Google Classroom.

**Grading:**

**60%** Classroom work, Participation

**40%** Major Grades, Concerts, Competitions

**Expectations:**

**Participation/Major Grades will be assessed for those students that meet and fail to meet expectations as previously outlined in the WAMS choir class expectations/syllabus. Choir is a performance class, and as such, the expectation is that each student models performance behavior at** ALL **times.** **Off-task behaviors during classroom rehearsal or performance are considered when assessing participation grades.** As productive members of society, students will have the unique opportunity to establish themselves as a legitimate and highly recognizable force at WAMS. It is always important to speak with candor, tact, and appropriateness when communicating with other students and staff. Honor and integrity have great meaning to this program, so think before you act. With great attitudes, desire, ambition for success, and love for one another we can accomplish the success of the WAMS Choir Program.

PERFORMANCE / REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE /CONCERTS

PERFORMANCE:

If you are on-time and sign-in then your performance grade starts at 100. If you are late to a performance (without prior notification to the director), you will start with a 75. If after 10 minutes you fail to arrive you will have earned a 0. If you are more than 10min. late you will receive credit for being present, but your performance grade will be 50. Also, if you do not attend the Concert Rehearsal(s) before a major concert, you will not be allowed to perform at the given concert and your grade will be 0. You are still required to attend the concert if you are not performing. As a choir member you are still expected to set an example for the program by being a supportive listener even though you may not perform. These are part of your TEKS evaluation guidelines.

There are no make-ups for missed rehearsals. Students who notify the director prior to a performance of an extenuating circumstance may be assessed an excused absence in rare cases. An alternative assignment will be given at that time or when they return. Also, students missing more than 5 days of choir class in each semester might not be able to perform with any UIL performing group as their absences create a liability for the competition ensemble.

REGARDING SCHOOL RELATED ABSENCES FOR OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS:

Students must talk to Mr. O about any time they might be missing from class as this affects the entire ensemble if they are not there. This includes in-school activities during the day AND family trips that happen throughout the school year as well athletic events, UIL academic, Student Council, Dance, Cheer, etc. Also, make sure to communicate any CHOIR events to your other teachers beforehand and in a timely manner. Do not assume that your teachers or office staff will take care of it for you. You need to show them your schedule ahead of time and communicate any conflicts to them. THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

REHEARSALS/FIELD TRIPS/CONCERTS:

Students must be picked up PROMPTLY for a scheduled rehearsal, performance or choir function. Students, it is your responsibility to inform your parents of start and end times for each rehearsal or performance that you have during the year. If you are not picked up from rehearsal on time it will be difficult for your student to participate in the choir after-school activities and field trips/reward trips in the future. So, parents, please pick up your student on time. This is especially important for concerts, competitions, and field trips. If students are walking home then they need to communicate clearly to Mr. O’Rarden before the rehearsal begins, in a timely manner, that they are walkers. *Fine Arts courses are curricular academic classes. To fulfill the requirements of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as well as the objectives of this course, rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts are seen as extensions of the classroom. They may be required and are graded. This includes activities such as Region Choir, UIL, Fall and Spring Concerts, etc…*

ENSEMBLES, ABSENCE POLICY

ENSEMBLES and PLACEMENT

Every year students are assessed based on a number of factors including musical ability, eligibility, attendance, attitude, work ethic, etc. Students are assigned to ensembles based on the combination of these factors and at the director’s discretion. Varsity ensembles have naturally more responsibility and commitment because of the work load – however, students who are in a varsity ensemble who are not performing to Mr. O’s expectations can be moved into another ensemble at any time. Part of this is covered above in “GRADING PROCEDURES” above. Here are the ensembles and the different requirements:

Varsity TTB Boy’s/SSA Varsity Girl’s Choir – Returning Students are auditioned at the end of the school year and are asked to be able to sing competently through several LEVEL 2 sight-reading examples (This includes moderate rhythmic understanding) along with scale wise perception and mastery of the M3rd and the P5th above and below the octave . New students must demonstrate the M3rd and P5th accurately and must sing F, G and C major scale in tune. Students are also ranged, and an analysis of the year’s solo and ensemble performance is also considered. The final decision incorporates classroom proficiency, UIL, region, and morning/afterschool practice attendance and overall general attitude. Region choir and UIL CCR are standard requirements, and students selected for region choir must attend the clinic and concert or return the entry fee of $10.00 to GPISD.

Varsity SATB Mixed Choir – All students in varsity SSA and varsity TTB will be required to be in the mixed choir.

Non-Varsity TB Boy’s/Girl’s SA Choir – Open to any student willing to attend practices and engage with their peers and have a willingness to improve their skills with the goal of making varsity in the future!

6th Grade Choir – All incoming 6th Grade students will be learning the introduction to WAMS Choir and the standards and pedagogy that sets the foundation for their success in the WAMS Choir program.

ABSENT POLICY

Students will be responsible if they are absent to make-up any assignments/notes if they are absent for any reason. This is done by asking a student in their class for the notes/assignments they missed or asking the instructor. A **2” Ring BLACK music binder** will be kept in your student’s back pack this year and will be use **DAILY**.

REHEARSAL/PERFORMANCE EXEMPTIONS

This rubric describes what is and is not exempted for rehearsals and performances. In short there are only 4 ways to be exempt from a performance:

A. Death/Tragedy in the Family

B. Medical Emergency

C. Doctor’s Appointment (only if approved with 10 day advance waiver. Does not apply to pre-performance rehearsal

 or performance itself)

D. Documented UIL conflict which has been pre-approved and discussed with director two weeks in advance.

Formally, any student wishing to be a part of the WAMS Choir program will need to follow this absence procedure for them to participate in the WAMS choral program.

REWARDS, MONEY, FUNDRAISING, SCHOOL STATUS

REWARDS!!

So, at the end of the year students that have participated in ALL of the concerts, activities, and competitions as deemed appropriate by Mr. O, with EXCELLENT conduct, work ethic and attendance, will be eligible for the reward field trip. Usually we go to a water park but every year this must be approved by the campus administrator before we announce it. Also, ALL students that have been in choir for all THREE years here at WAMS (or if they were in choir and transferred and show proof) will be eligible for a Diamond Tiara (Girls) or Ring (Boys) signifying their commitment to the Choir program!! However, they must have no discipline infractions, have an excellent record of conduct throughout the school year, and have participated in Solo and Ensemble and the final spring concert at the end of the year to get their reward.

MONEY/FUNDRAISING

We do one Fundraiser a year unless the Boosters add additional opportunities. This is the Popcorn Fundraiser in April. Any money turned in for fundraisers/payments for trips/clothing/fees must be CASH MONEY EXACT CHANGE, NO COIN and ON the day assigned for turn in. We WILL be piloting REVTRAK this year for T-Shirts and Hoodies.

If you have ANY questions please email me, Mr. O, at corarden@galenaparkisd.com and I will be more than happy to help!!

One last thing – we will be using SchoolStatus to communicate with you during the school year so please make sure your phone number is up to date so that we may communicate with you effectively.

**Parent Acknowledgement**

Standards for Extracurricular Activities

*Galena Park ISD*

I understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the District’s Student Code of Conduct. I also understand that my child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, shall be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in the Standards for District Extracurricular Activities at school, and at school sponsored or school district activities. This shall include, but not be limited to school sponsored as well as school related travel or activity regardless of time and location.

Students who represent the district by wearing uniforms of the district shall be responsible for conducting themselves as outlined by the Standards for District Extracurricular Activities during the entire time they are wearing such uniform. Reports of violations shall be subject to the principal/sponsors review and be made within twenty-four hours of the alleged offense or first school day. Subsequent action or non-action will be based on the principal’s decision and shall be final.

Students involved in extracurricular activities are expected to exhibit the highest standard of conduct. Galena Park ISD views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege, not a right. I understand that any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes any misconduct, regardless of time or location, which reflects upon GPISD in an extracurricular activity. Students involved in major disciplinary infraction, (i.e. including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, use of profanity, and violent behavior) will be removed temporarily or permanently from extracurricular activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This form must be returned to the designated sponsor and verified by the principal. Signatures must be obtained before students may participate in extracurricular activities.

**RANDOM STUDENT DRUG TESTING**

Per GPISD Policy, 7th and 8th grade band/choir students must consent to random drug testing in order to participate in extracurricular events, contests, and competitions. This permission form is included and must be returned with all forms.

**Eligibility Requirements/No-Pass No-Play**

Students must be academically eligible in order to participate in extracurricular activities such as: All-Region Auditions and Clinic/Concert, Solo and Ensemble Contest, non-curricular field trips, and other contests. Regardless of eligibility, students are still expected to participate in curricular events: Concerts, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading evaluation, rehearsals, clinics, and curricular field trips. The State of Texas considers a student to be eligible if they are passing all classes with a 70 or higher at the end of each grading period. Students lose eligibility if they are failing a class at the end of a grading period. Students regain eligibility if they are passing all classes at the three weeks’ grade check.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

(Please Initial ONE)

*\_\_\_\_\_* **I give** *my permission for my child’s name, photograph, interview, and/or student work to be published in the media.*

*\_\_\_\_\_* **I do not give** *my permission for my child’s name, photograph, interview, and/or student work to be published*

 *in the media.*

***If you do not return this form,******you are giving the District permission to recognize your child***

***successes and accomplishments in local newspapers, district publications, television stations,***

***and radio programs.***



