



DMS Choir

2025-2026

Mrs. Ashley Ricks



Contact

Ashley.ricks@washk12.org

Please add our class on BINDERLY

Parents are encouraged to join the class to receive class information & updates. This is especially helpful for evening performances & travel.

Free to use!

Follow Dixie High School, then join **"Middle School Choir"**

Expectations

- **Be Prompt**- on time & in your seat
- **Be Prepared**- music, pencil & water every day
- **Be Productive**- employ excellent rehearsal skills & habits daily
- **Be Polite**- be kind & considerate to everyone & everything in the room
- **Be Persistent**- don't give up when things get tough

Welcome!

I'm so glad you're here! This is my 23rd year teaching, and my 6th year at Dixie. I've taught every grade level from kinder through college. Singers in my ensembles have ranged in age from 3-95!

Dixie Choir courses are designed to give students the tools to strengthen and refine their choral skills. Through daily rehearsal participation, sight-reading practice, and live performance, students build confidence and grow as individual musicians.

Our performance repertoire introduces students to a wide range of musical concepts, music theory, and music history, helping to expand their musical understanding and vocabulary. Throughout the year, we will explore many musical genres, including folk, sacred, secular, classical, multicultural, foreign language, Broadway, pop, and contemporary music.

Performance Expectations

Participation in performances is a required part of this course. Students are expected to attend all scheduled evening concerts and festivals. These dates are set in advance—please add them to your calendar now.

Daily classroom rules apply to concerts and all performances.

Flip over for more!

Performance Expectations Continued

Students have 3 responsibilities for performances

You must be in your appropriate place for warm-ups by the call time given..

You should have all music memorized, unless directed otherwise.

You need to be dressed in the appropriate **concert attire**

Attire Policy

Choir shirt (\$10 @ finance office)

*if cost is a concern, please let me know!

Black Pants- dress style slacks, leggings or similar
(Please avoid multi color athletic pants & jeans)

Black/dark closed toed shoes (Dress shoes & ballet flats work GREAT!)

Hair should be worn secured away from the face

Music Apps

We utilize a variety of music tech resources

SIGHT READING FACTORY

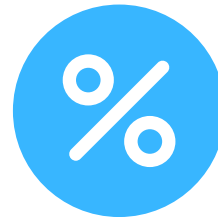
all students have access integrated via Canvas. SRF work can be completed on any computer or mobile device.

Three Minute Theory

an interactive music theory program that can be accessed directly from canvas.

PlayScore

FREE app to download. Allows students to easily receive & playback part recordings (optional)



Grades

the easiest part!

60%

daily rehearsal skills

30%

performance assessments
(concerts, part checks, SRF, etc)

10%

musical knowledge

Daily Rehearsal Skills: Includes daily rehearsal skills: Proper body alignment, Rehearsal Markings/Notes, Vocal Phonation, Rehearsal Engagement & Productivity (includes tardies/absences)

Performance Assessments: Includes all concerts/performances, part checks, SRF assessments

Musical Knowledge: Solfege & theory assignments & additional assignments (varies by quarter)

Makeup work in Choir

What to do when you're
absent



ALL ABSENCES

have the SAME
MAKEUP WORK
ASSIGNMENT

Complete 20 min of
SRF practice (in
Canvas) for ANY
absence

Take advantage of
the "bonus points"
to avoid makeup
work!

BONUS POINTS

Earn 2 bonus points **PER CLASS** for being on time & in class. If you are rarely absent, these bonus points can cover absences, or count as extra credit!

Fees

This Washington County School District-approved fee (\$20) applies to all choir students and is collected once per school year. This year choir shirts are \$10 through the finance office. Shirts will be delivered in September.

*Decibelles may incur an additional fee for participation in the State Choir event held in the spring.

Choirs may also have additional fees related to travel. If opportunities arise to attend educationally beneficial activities beyond our annually scheduled events, parents will be notified and involved in the decision to participate (e.g., State Choir). These trips carry additional fees that vary depending on the specific trip and location.

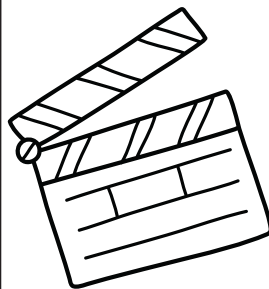
Phone Policy



NEW STATE LAW IS IN EFFECT

Keep your phone, earbuds/headphones in your backpack or assigned phone pocket during rehearsal.

If you choose to have your phone out during rehearsal, you choose to accept the consequence of having your phone confiscated for the duration of class, or turned in to administration for repeat offenders.



Movies & Media

Instructional videos may be shown in class and via canvas. (Warmups, vocal technique, performance factors, etc..) These videos have been previewed. Occasionally we may watch a movie or musical that is music related. This is rare! Examples include: Hello Dolly, The King & I, The Sound of Music, STOMP, Amadeus, The Greatest Showman, The Marriage of Figaro (Opera), etc. These movies are rated G and PG.

Concerts & Important Dates

September 11: Patriot Day Celebration @ Towne Square Park

October 7: DMS Commons

December 15: Winter Concert @ DHS Auditorium

February 26: MS Choir Festival during school.

March 2 : Spring Concert @ DHS Auditorium

May 1-2: State Choir (Decibelles only)

May 4: Pops Concert @ DHS Auditorium



EVENTS NOT LISTED: Senior Music Service Field Trips (during school) For these field trips, we travel to various care centers throughout the year to perform for and visit with residents.

Cut and keep on the fridge!

Emergency! What if I miss a concert or festival?

Participation in performances is a required part of this course. Students are expected to attend all scheduled evening concerts and festivals. These dates are set in advance—please add them to your calendar now.

If an unavoidable conflict or illness arises, communication from the student & parent must be made to Mrs. Ricks as early as possible, with at least two weeks' notice whenever feasible. Individual circumstances will determine whether full, partial, or no points are available.

Concert/Festival Makeup

To recover points missed due to an excused absence from either a concert or festival, the student must:

1 Attend a live concert (choir, band, or orchestra) at their grade level or higher and be a respectful, engaged audience member.

2 Complete one of the following assignments in addition to the concert attendance:

Option A:

Submit a song list from the concert you attended, along with a reflection. Write at least one paragraph per song, describing your thoughts and emotional response to each piece. (You may want to quietly record brief notes or take written reminders during the concert.)



OR



Option B:

Perform your concert or festival music for Mrs. Ricks. This can be done solo or with classmates. (No accompanist will be provided.) In-person performances must be scheduled and completed in advance. If you perform for your family instead, the performance must be recorded and shared with Mrs. Ricks via Google Drive.

ALL MAKE-UP WORK MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED BY THE DATE OF THE MISSED CONCERT OR FESTIVAL