

# DIXIE MIDDLE CHOIR



## The Dixie Choir Family



Find your VOICE

Build your SKILL

Belong to the TEAM

*Every voice is essential as we discover, grow,  
and create something great together.*

### Materials & Attire

Concert attire is the same for both ensembles!

We want to look our best on stage.

- Black Pants\*- solid black dress pants preferred.  
Any solid black long pants will work
- Black shoes\*- dress shoes preferred, but any black shoes will work
- DMS Choir shirt -\$10
- 1 inch choir binder (black recommended but any color is fine.)\*

\*You provide these items

### Course Description

In Dixie Choir, every rehearsal builds musicianship. Students develop healthy vocal technique, strengthen music literacy through daily sight-reading, and gain confidence through meaningful performances.

### Contact



ASHLEY.RICKS@WASHK12.ORG



JOIN BINDERLY TO TEXT

## What are we Learning?

Our repertoire explores music theory, history, and performance practices through diverse styles—including sacred, secular, folk, classical, multicultural, world languages, Broadway, pop, and contemporary literature—all while reflecting the National Core Arts Standards.

Whether students are new to choir or experienced performers, they will be challenged to grow while becoming part of our Dixie Choir family—a community built on excellence, respect, responsibility, and teamwork.

## Rehearsal & Performance Expectations

**Be Prompt-** on time & in your seat

**Be Prepared-** music, pencil & water. Correct attire for performance.

**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

## Senior Music Service

We have been fortunate to be recipients of the Peter R. Marsh Foundation Grant in previous years, and will apply again this year. This grant provides additional funds for our program to purchase choral music. The Marsh Foundation aims to connect youth with the aging population in communities through music in an effort to increase empathy. Throughout the year, we will visit a variety of Senior Living facilities. These trips happen during the school day, typically on B day mornings. This minimizes the amount of class singers miss outside of choir. We perform our concert repertoire, have a Q & A with residents, and then invite our students to visit with residents in a social time. Parents are welcome to join us on these trips, and chaperones will be needed. If you have suggestions of facilities we can visit in town, please email me! These visits are especially effective when our students have personal connections.

## Media Policies

We utilize a variety of Music Tech Resources. Most are integrated into Canvas. Sight Reading Factory, Three Minute Theory & PlayScore are the most commonly used resources. Instructional videos related to technique and musicianship may be shown in class. Occasionally we may watch a movie or musical that is music related.

*Practice with Purpose.*

*Sing with Heart.*

*Perform with Courage.*

## Choir 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.

## Binderly

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.

- Download the Binderly App
- Find **Dixie High School** & Follow (my Binderly groups are all attached to DHS)
- Add **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR**
- I will accept your addition to the ensemble. Please use your name when you sign up.

## Phone Policy

**STATE LAW IS IN EFFECT**

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

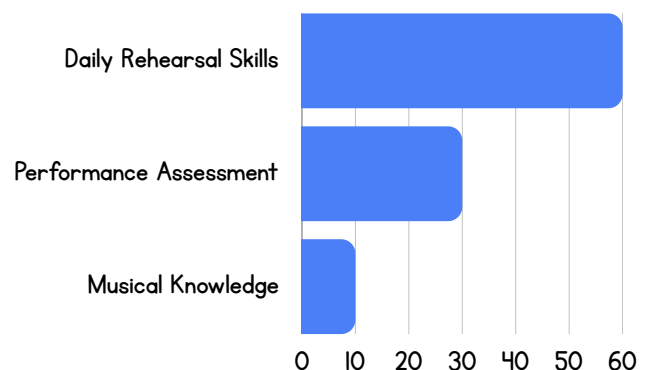
If you choose to have your phone out during rehearsal, you choose to accept the consequence of having your phone confiscated for the duration of class, or turned in to administration for repeat offenders.

## Grading Policy

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

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

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



Your voice matters.  
Let it Shine.

# Attendance Policy:

Every voice matters! Unlike many classroom assignments, a missing singer changes the performance for the entire ensemble. Choir is a team performance sport where live music cannot be replicated without you. Concerts and festivals are mandatory performance assessments. Students are expected to prioritize concerts and festivals when planning work schedules, vacations, and extracurricular activities.

Daily classroom rules apply to concerts and all performances.

|             |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------|
| October 12  | Fall Concert @DMS 6:30pm                 |
| December 14 | Winter Concert- Combined Cone Site @ DHS |
| March 18    | WCSD Middle School Choir Festival @ DHHS |
| March 22    | Festival Concert                         |
| May 8       | State Choir Festival- DECIBELLES         |
| May 10      | Spring Concert @ DHS                     |

## Save the Date

- Exceptions are rare and considered individually.
- Communicate by email or Binderly as early as possible.
- Communication does not guarantee an excused absence or makeup eligibility.
- In the event of illness or a family emergency, notify Mrs. Ricks as soon as possible.
- Approved makeup work will be assigned when applicable with a due date relative to the grading period.

## Makeup Work in Choir

ALL CLASS ABSENCES have the SAME MAKEUP WORK ASSIGNMENT regardless of the reason for the absence.

1. Complete 20 min of SRF practice (in Canvas) for every absence
2. 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!

## Emergency! What if I Miss a Concert?

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.)

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.

DISCLOSURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

