

2011 – Choir Handbook – 2012

Welcome to Twin Falls Choir!

To Parents:

Thank you for supporting and encouraging your student's interest in Choir at Twin Falls! Music is a demanding art! It takes hard work, focus, discipline, patience, and team work to pursue successfully and get the results we all love to listen to. Your student will need your support and encouragement throughout the year(s) at they grow on their instrument and face new challenges. The skills your student will learn will prepare them for excelling in many subject areas, as well as for great performances, and will hopefully lead to a life-long love and appreciation for music. TFMS is building a legacy of having great musical groups with motivated, professional, disciplined, and enjoyable students. I am thrilled you and your student are on board!

You also have a unique chance to get involved in the program by joining the Twin Falls Music Boosters. This organization is the behind the scenes work force and support group that makes many of the amazing opportunities for music students at TFMS possible. I have been deeply impressed and touched by the commitment, skill, talent, and work ethic of parents in this community supporting their music students. Much of what we do in TFMS music would not be possible without the incredible support of the boosters!

The first meeting will be on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00pm in the band room. We will review the vision and purpose of the group, elect leaders, and begin addressing the music program's needs that are soon approaching! I hope you can join boosters and support your students in this exciting way!

www.tfmsmusicboosters.org

To Students:

Welcome to Twin Falls Choir! If you are new, I am excited to meet you and begin working together to make awesome music in a positive team environment! If you have been in Choir before at Twin Falls – you know the story – stand up straight using good singing posture, take a deep breath, and get ready for a great year of singing together!

In Choir we will constantly be learning how to effectively work together to create something beautiful, powerful, moving and thrilling that no one individual can possibly create on their own. Music is fun, yet challenging. It will require everything you have to offer, and you will accomplish things you never thought you could. Your Mission – should you choose to accept it – is to embark on this adventure and commit to giving your 100% effort at all times. I love working with you every day through both fun and difficult class time. I am looking forward to another outstanding year of music making.

Sincerely,

Mr. Wenman

wenmanm@svsd410.org

Office Phone:

425.831.4178

<http://sharepoint.snoqualmie.k12.wa.us/tfms/wenmanm>

Caring for your Instrument – Your Voice!

Unlike traditional band instruments that you have to play, everyone has their own instrument built right in to their body called the voice! Each individual's voice is beautiful and unique (some of you don't believe me when I say that, but it's true!). When used properly there are few sounds in the world more compelling, more inspiring, or penetrating than that of a chorus of voices.

Much like traditional band instruments your voice needs to be cared for and maintained. Have you ever "lost your voice"? This is much like pulling a muscle, forgetting to stretch before you exercise, or over working your body. To make sure your voice is in good vocal or "singing condition" you should be careful not to yell for long periods of time (common at sports events or on a roller coaster where people scream a lot). Drink water, not soda or other liquids with sugar before you sing. Also make sure that you warm up properly before singing for long periods of time or trying to sing very high or very low.

Practice makes perfect!

You probably sing more than you think you do, in the shower, the car, while you study – all of this is practice. However, because we sing in a group we have set a higher expectation for ourselves and we must set aside time to focus *only on singing*. Most classes have written or other assignments for homework, and though you will have those from time to time, your main homework will be to practice concepts from class at home. Each student is expected to practice *at least* three times a week for thirty minutes.

Practice Requirement: 30 minutes – 3 times a week.

Concert Attire

Dressing professionally is a part of every formal performance at Twin Falls. Each ensemble takes pride in sounding & *looking* great on stage! What you will wear for all performances:

6th Grade Men:

- Black dress shoes – NO sports shoes or sandals
- Black dress socks
- Black dress pants – slacks, ironed.
- Black button down long sleeve dress shirt with collar for tie or bow tie. No ruffled tux shirts.

6th Grade Women:

- Black dress shoes – dress sandals okay, no sports shoes
- Long Black skirt or pants – skirts at the ankles, no jeans
- Black dress shirt – no designs, no spaghetti straps
- OR Long black dress
- All must adhere to school dress code
- Black socks/leggings

7th & 8th Grade Choir:

You will be using the TFMS choir uniforms (dresses/slacks & dress shirts). These will be fitted at the beginning of the year. The rental fee for these uniforms is \$25 for the year. Funds go to hemming/adjusting, professional cleaning (if needed) and uniform replacement or purchasing. Please fill out the attached uniform contract and return it with your signed Choir Handbook on September 7.

Students who arrive to performances in non-concert attire will not be allowed to perform and will receive a zero for a performance grade. If you have any issues acquiring concert attire, please talk to me personally.

Grading & Expectations

40% Preparation & Participation

- Be in class on time with the required materials (music, pencil)
- Points earned are based on your daily participation in class and adherence to classroom expectations.

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and we will work together to solve problems that might arise. If what you are doing is not contributing positively to the atmosphere of the classroom, I will ask you to leave.

30% Test/Quizzes & Performances

- Attendance at all performances is MANDATORY.
- Written/online tests – music theory, vocabulary
- Singing tests – in class with partners – on assigned parts or excersizes

20% Homework/In Class Assignments

10% Professionalism

This portion of your grade will be determined by your over all behavior, attitude, performance, work ethic and musicianship. Students who work hard every day with a positive attitude and follow classroom guidelines will receive a full 10%.

Traveling and Outside Performances

Something unique (and awesome) about music is that we get opportunities to perform in our community, outside of school, and around the northwest. This is due to the responsible nature of the choir & band students and the high quality performances that we prepare. Students of any group that is travelling need to be caught up in ALL of their classes, and speak to their teachers a week *before* the date of the performance for make-up work.

Solo & Ensemble/Junior All-State

The Washington Music Educators Association hosts an East-Shore League Solo and Ensemble festival. This will take place March 10, 2012. 8th Grade Choir Students are required to perform and I am encouraging all other students to participate in this event – especially if you are taking private lessons.

I also want to encourage the 8th grade musicians to audition for Junior All-State. This is an Honor Chorus comprised of students who are accepted after submitting a recorded audition. The materials are online on my sharepoint website (see below) where you will find a link to the Junior All State website which has rules and dates. The performance is in Bellevue during the Washington Music Educators Association Conference. The audition deadline is mid-October so download the materials and get practicing!

Twin Falls Music Boosters!

The 2011 Music Booster Kick-off event will be held in the band room on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00pm. This is your chance to get involved, help to grow and improve the program and have a huge impact on your students! TFMS Music Booster Association is a non-profit organization of individual members that believe music education is important to the development and education of our children. Check out the TFMS Music Boosters website:

www.tfmsmusicboosters.org

Sharepoint Website

<http://sharepoint.snoqualmie.k12.wa.us/tfms/wenmanm/default.aspx>

Add it to your favorites! This website will be used for homework assignments, referred to in class, and updated regularly. On it you can find all of the above information and more including the calendar, web resources and links, recordings and announcements.



WELCOME TO
TFMS CHOIR!!!

Name _____

Grade _____

Choir Handbook Quiz

**Answer the questions and return to Mr. Wenman by Wednesday September 7.
(This is an actual homework assignment worth points)**

1. Describe in detail the choir uniform you are required to wear for concerts.

2. What is the date of the first choir concert this fall?

3. Write down two examples of how to care for your voice.

4. What percentage of your grade is Participation & Preparation? How about Assignments/Practice Journals?

Participation:

Assignments:

5. What is the minimum amount of time every student is required to practice every week?

6. Name two required materials that you need to have in class every day.

7. How often should you bring a pencil to class?

8. What kind of music do you love to listen to? Name two specific artists/bands/or groups.

9. What happens if a student shows up to a performance in the wrong uniform?

Student and Parent Agreement

I have read and understand all of the above information and the attached documents and agree to the expectations, guidelines, and structures laid out for Twin Falls Middle School Choir.

Parent Name (please print)

Student Name (please print)

Grade

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date

Date

Parents Contact information: (this is so I can easily access your best email and phone if needed this year)

E-mail

Phone

Please do not give my contact information to the TFMS Music Boosters so that they may contact me regarding opportunities to get involved with my student's music education.