

# Whitehall Yearling High School Department of Choirs **Student Handbook** 2017-2018



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Visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/groups/WYHSChoir](http://www.facebook.com/groups/WYHSChoir)  
Visit us on Instagram @whitehallramschoirs

*“We should read music in the same way that an educated adult will read a book: in silence,  
but imagining the sound.” Zoltan Kodaly*

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Ensembles.....	2
Grading Policy.....	3-4
Concert Responsibilities.....	4
Concert Dress.....	4-5
Field Trips.....	6
Solo/Ensemble.....	6
Officers.....	7
Student/Parent Contract/Volunteer Form.....	9
Choir Calendar.....	10-11

## Introduction

Welcome to the Whitehall-Yearling High School Department of Vocal Music! I am excited begin the school year with so many talented students and a great variety of performance opportunities. Our choral department offers so much to all who choose to participate. Music is a vital part of everyone's life, and there is much evidence to support that participating in music stimulates the brain and increases a person's intelligence.

### Purposes of the Whitehall-Yearling High School Choirs:

1. To promote the highest possible standards of excellence in performance, professionalism, and pride in oneself, the choir, the school and the community.
2. To provide a constructive and beneficial activity for student participation.
3. To encourage school spirit and pride.
4. To encourage self-discipline, leadership and responsibility.

## Program Ensembles

Symphonic Chorale: (\$22.00 Choir Polo Shirt/ Uniform cleaning \$12.00/ \$12.00 jewelry fee/\$20 Tuxedo shirt fee for new Men) This select vocal group works for the highest standards of achievement in vocal sound and performance. Class experiences include sight singing, music theory and in-depth vocal training. Mandatory performances outside the school day will include concerts, community appearances, choral festivals and OMEA Large Group contests. *10, 11, 12 grade students may audition for this ensemble if they have completed one year of Concert Choir.*

Women's Concert Choir: (\$22.00 Choir Shirt/ \$12 Robe Cleaning Fee) Student's involved in Concert Choir will enjoy a year-long opportunity to perform a wide range of choral literature as an ensemble in class and in public performances. The purpose of the choir is to promote proper use of the singing voice, to develop blend and balance and to develop skills in sight singing, music theory and interpretation. Mandatory performances outside of the school day are required.

*Students in 9, 10, 11, 12 may take this class and NO AUDITION is required.*

Men's Concert Choir: (\$22.00 Choir Shirt/ \$12 Robe Cleaning Fee) Student's involved in Concert Choir will enjoy a yearlong opportunity to perform a wide range of choral literature as an ensemble in class and in public performances. The purpose of the choir is to promote proper use of the singing voice, to develop blend and balance and to develop skills in sight singing, music theory and interpretation. Mandatory performances outside of the school day are required. *Students in 9, 10, 11, 12 may take this class and NO AUDITION is required.*

Bella Voce: (\$12.00 Jewelry fee/ \$10.00 Uniform Cleaning Fee/ \$22.00 Choir Shirt) This Advanced Women's Chorus will continue the development of concepts begun in Concert Chorus. Students will work on vocal production and music reading skills. Mandatory performances outside the school day will include concerts, community appearances and OMEA Large Group contests. *Students in grades 10, 11, 12 grade students who have taken Concert Chorus may AUDITION for this ensemble.*

Music Unlimited Show Choir: (Fees vary year to year) Since this group is a supplemental to the training offered in other vocal ensembles, **enrollment in another choir is required.** Students who elect to join this group perform popular genres of music combined with choreography and staging. The show choir is a highly competitive group in the show choir competition world. Freshmen that make Music Unlimited are required to take Concert Choir in addition to Music Unlimited no exceptions! Mandatory performances outside of school are required. *9,10,11, 12 grade students may audition for this ensemble.*

## Grading Policy

Two points per day will be awarded for participation, attitude, effort, attendance, following directions, meeting expectations. These points are earned individually. (2 points) x (45 days) = 90 points

### **Grades can also be affected as follows:**

1. No edible substance may ever be in the choir room. This includes all drinks, food and gum. The presence of said items will cause the student to serve a lunch detention.
2. Each class tardy will require a lunch detention to be served the same day, or the next day if lunch has already occurred.
3. Gum must be discarded outside of the classroom.
4. Water bottles are allowed.
5. A concert absence will drop the semester grade by two letters.
6. A competition absence will drop the semester grade by three letters.
7. All students are required to stay for the entire concert or contest. Not doing so will lose two letter grades earned at the event.
8. Any behavior deemed unprofessional or unbecoming of a choir member while at a concert or public event may incur a loss of one letter grade.
9. A concert or contest tardy may be the loss of one letter grade.
10. All students are required to ride the bus to and from competitions/outside concerts. Any exception must be cleared with Ms. Johnson ahead of time.
11. Two unexcused class absences during the week of a concert or competition will cause the student to be ineligible for participation in the contest and a drop of two letters may be applied to the grade.
12. Any request to not attend a concert or competition must be given to Ms. Johnson in writing **two weeks** ahead of the event. One letter grade can be recouped by attending a college choir performance or other WYHS Concert and written review with attached program. Must be completed before end of grading period.
13. Not attending a lunch detention will incur the loss of ten points and an additional lunch detention will be required until served.
14. A student is tardy if they are not on the risers with their folder when the bell rings.
15. Students will sign the tardy clipboard when tardy without a pass.
16. A class cut or skip may make the student ineligible for the class.
17. Riser assignment violations will earn a lunch detention.
18. Taking the wrong folder will also earn a lunch detention.
19. If your cell phone rings or alerts, please turn it off immediately. Even if that means going to your book bag to do so. No penalty will occur if you do so.
20. If you allow your phone to continue to ring without making an effort to turn it off a lunch detention will be earned. This includes leaving music on that others can hear.
21. If a student is found to be texting or using a phone inappropriately during class, the student's phone will be secured in the choir office for a parent to pick up and a lunch detention will be served.

22. Each student must have his or her book bag and personal items secured safely in the assigned zone on the floor. Each infraction will earn a lunch detention.
23. Since choirs traditionally attempt to have a uniform appearance at concerts and contests, distracting hair color may cause a performer to be ineligible for a performance.
24. Facial piercings must be removed while on stage and tattoo's covered that are visible.

## Concert Responsibilities for Choir Members

1. Know your choir arrival time; do not be late.
2. You may watch the concert from the auditorium seating quietly and respectfully.
3. No food or phones may be in the auditorium or on stage.
4. You must be absolutely silent and focused when you are in the auditorium.
5. You must be still and focused while on stage.
6. All choir members are required to stay for attendance after the concert.
7. Please, no 'shout outs'; our audience has a responsibility to respect the performers and create a classy experience for everyone involved.
8. Remember, your grade is affected by individual concert behavior and attendance.

### Concert Dress

\*Each choir member is required to purchase the Whitehall-Yearling Vocal Music polo shirt for \$22.00 Information regarding payment and sizing will be discussed in class.

#### 1. Women's Concert Choir

- a. **Black dress shoes are required for each member.** Style of your choice (no flip-flops or tennis shoes!)
- b. You may wear a dress or a skirt/blouse underneath their robes. Dress pants must be black. **NO JEANS!**
- c. **NO SHORTS** regardless of the weather!
- d. You will be assigned a specific robe by number. **You will be held responsible for any damage done to that robe.**
- e. Robes are to stay at school and to be used for Concert performances only!

#### 2. Men's Concert Choir

- a. Provided concert navy blazer, blue dress shirt, khaki pants and red tie
- b. You are responsible for **required black dress shoes** (no tennis shoes)
- c. Students are responsible for the cleaning of their garment at the end of the year \$12.00

### 3. Bella Voce & Yearling Singers

- a. Provided black concert dress OR concert tuxedo
- b. You are responsible for **required black dress shoes** (no flip flops or tennis shoes) and nude colored panty hose.
- c. Pearl earrings & necklace (purchased by student \$12.00)
- d. Men are required to purchase a tuxedo shirt for \$20.00
- e. Students are responsible for the cleaning of their garment at the end of the year \$10 cleaning fee.

### 4. Music Unlimited Show Choir

Costume list provided each year see Ms. Johnson

#### **\*\*To Bella Voce, Yearling Singers, Men's Chorus and Music Unlimited:**

1. You are responsible for the care and cleaning of your uniform(s) the whole year.
2. Uniforms may NOT be stored at school there is not space. If you forget to bring it to an event you will not be permitted to perform!
3. You will be provided with one uniform garment bag. All uniforms must be kept in a garment bag for protection. If you lose it or damage it you will be required to pay \$5.00 for another one. Music Unlimited garment bags are \$20.00 a piece.
4. You are responsible for signing up for a uniform fitting time after school on the given days and being present otherwise you will not be eligible to sing at the concerts. The uniform parents aren't available to come in because you "forget."

#### **ALL CHOIRS**

The Director and officers reserve the right to deduct points for any misuse of a choir robe/uniform. **Points will be subtracted from your final grade.** The list is as follows:

- i. Robe left out after performance-20pts
- ii. Robe not placed on its hanger correctly- 20pts.
- iii. Drinking or eating while in a choir robe/uniform-25pts.
- iv. General misuse-30pts

**\*\*A good part of the performance is the appearance. Lets always look our best!**

**\*Anyone inappropriately dressed will be asked to abstain from the performance and will not receive credit or field trip privileges.**



## **Field Trips/Performances**

1. See classroom teachers about missed work. You need to be responsible. See them *before* we leave.
2. Dress appropriately as instructed.
3. Be prompt, alert and polite at all times.
4. Stay on your assigned bus.
5. No drinking or eating on the bus. **State law**
6. Field trips are a privilege. **DO NOT ABUSE THE PRIVILEGE!** We do not have to go anywhere.
7. **The director reserves the right to refuse field trip participation to any choir member. (Concert absence, excessive school absences, discipline problems)**
8. **Please refer to the WYHS Student Handbook for field trip/overnight trip policies.**

## **Solo/Ensemble Contest**

The District XV Solo/Ensemble contest provides the opportunity for students who are studying privately or are in a created ensemble within their school to perform before a certified adjudicator for a rating.

1. A student may take a vocal or instrumental solo if they are studying privately with an instructor. If needed Ms. Johnson can arrange for an accompanist at the contest.
2. Students must sing from the OMEA required list of repertoire. See Ms. Johnson for this list.
3. If a student does not take lessons but is interested in performing with an ensemble in their choir class they may.
4. The deadline for contest entries is **Friday, November 18, 2016** no exceptions!
5. The student is required to pay their entry fees for all the events they enter in the contest.



## Officers

### Choir President:

The responsibilities of this office consist of helping to oversee the outside activities of the choir, and assisting the Director with responsibilities. The president must show strong leadership abilities and display a good attitude. Attends to members' concerns and serves as a link to the director. The President must be in charge of the mindset of the program throughout the year. They are in charge should the director be called away or is not present.

### Vice President:

The vice president will be an extension of the president and will preside in the office of the president in his/her absence. In the same way the president must portray certain qualities, the vice president must be someone who sets a good example for the choir students, is comfortable with people, and will help to take up the responsibilities of those officers who are absent at an activity.

### Secretary:

The secretary is responsible for taking care of the daily and extra rehearsal attendance and paperwork (i.e. parent permission forms). They are responsible for processing and filing new music, making sure each student has a copy of each piece of music and keeping the music library in proper order.

### Treasurer:

The Treasurer collects monies for activities, fundraisers, and fees. They assist with what is needed in the other offices.

### Reporter-Historian:

The reporter/historian is responsible for taking pictures at all events, communicating with the school newspaper and the yearbook about choir events, communicating with the website manager, and compiling a scrapbook at the end of the year.

### Student Accompanists:

The student accompanist is responsible for accompanying the choir when requested, and should be ready at all times to assist in playing voice parts when needed.

**\*\*Officers are nominated and voted on by members of the choir. The Director reserves the right to make and/or deny any nominations as well as deny or revoke any officers appointed.\*Please be sure to review this handbook carefully! Thank you and we hope you have a wonderful year!**

# Student/Parent Handbook Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_(print name) \_\_\_\_ (period), have received the Whitehall-Yearling High School Choir Department *Handbook, Contract, and Calendar*, and I understand the responsibilities therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature Date

Parent's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Choir Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please place a check (✓) by anything in which you would be willing to volunteer.***

- \_\_\_\_ 1. "Student Information Sheets" data input-(at least 1 hour)
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Distribute Tuxedos & Gowns during school- Week of August 28, 2017
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Assist with Robe distribution additional uniform fittings during school - week of September 4, 2017
- \_\_\_\_ 4. Head up Robe/Uniform distribution and wardrobe throughout school year and at Concerts
- \_\_\_\_ 5. Chaperone field trips/contests/events upon availability
- \_\_\_\_ 6. Chair and assist with fundraising sales & events
- \_\_\_\_ 7. With some advance notice, I am willing to do whatever needs to be done!

This signed form is due **NO LATER than Friday, August 18, 2017** to Ms. Johnson.



## Choir Concert/Event Dates 2016-2017

(All Events/Dates are subject to change and additional events may come up throughout the year! Fundraisers will go towards student choir fees, Disney Trip 2018 and Choir General Fund)

Friday, August 18–Monday, August 28 Crowne Pizza/Cheesecake Fundraiser

Tuesday, August 29 Mattress Fundraiser Parent Meeting 7:00PM Choir Room

Tuesday, September 19 Crowne Fundraiser Product Delivery/Pick-Up 3:00PM Choir Room

Saturday, September 23 Choir Mattress Sale Fundraiser ALL DAY WYHS Cafeteria

Monday, October 2 “Disney Trip” Payment 2 \$175.00 DUE!!

Monday, October 9 MANDATORY Mass Choir Rehearsal 3:15-4:15pm EVERYONE!!

Tuesday, October 10 WYHS Fall Choir Concert 7:00pm WYHS THEATRE

Monday, October 16 “Enjoy the City” Coupon Book Fundraiser Begins

Saturday, October 28 “Be A Star” Youth Show Choir Camp Fundraiser ALL DAY

Monday, October 30 “Enjoy the City” Coupon Book Fundraiser ends

Saturday, November 4 WYHS Fall Show Choir Festival ALL DAY

Monday, December 6 MANDATORY Mass Choir Rehearsal 3:15-4:15pm EVERYONE!!

Tuesday, December 7 WYHS Holiday Choir Concert 7:00pm THEATRE

Saturday, December 9 Bella Voce to Ohio Theatre for Nutcracker performances times TBA

Friday, January 5 “Disney Trip” Payment 3 DUE \$175.00

Saturday, January 20 Marysville Show Choir Competition @MHS (Music Unlimited)

Saturday, January 27 OMEA District XV Solo/Ensemble Contest @Reynoldsburg HS

Saturday, February 3 Marion Harding Singational @MHHS (Music Unlimited)

Saturday, February 17 Double H Show Choir Competition @Harrison HS (Cincinnati)

Friday OR Saturday March 9 OR 10 OMEA Large Group Choir Contest Time Place TBA

Tuesday, March 13 WYHS Music In Our Schools Month Concert 7:00pm THEATRE

