PLEASE
Keep this in a SAFE place at home as a reference all year

1st copy: free
replacement: $2.00
internet copy: www.wvec.k12.in.us/wms
Rebecca Hill, MS.Ed., choral instructor

Dear Wainwright Students and Parents,

WELCOME back to school for the 2006-2007 school year! Hope you are looking forward to a fantastic school year. So that every student and parent can be aware of the many facets of the choral program, please carefully read the following. Feel free to contact me during my preparation period between 12:16-12:58 p.m. At other times you may leave a voice message to the music office phone, and I will return your call as soon as I am available. My e-mail is: rhill@tsc.k12.in.us. I check this daily during the school week and will get back to you on this quickly.

Please note the calendar of musical events for this school year. **If there are any conflicts between your student and our scheduled performances, please notify me NOW,** during the month of AUGUST so that we can better plan for the group and assist your child in doing any make-up work that might be required.

Keeping everyone involved in our program is very important. Please indicate your willingness to help on the return portion of this form.

Thank you for your support this year! Sincerely, **Mrs. Hill**

**THIS PORTION DUE BY end of the 2nd week of class**

- **STUDENT**-
  ♦ I have read this handbook and will strive to abide by the guidelines set forth:

  (student signature)_________________________ Grade: ______

- **PARENT or GUARDIAN**-
  ♦ I have read this handbook. We understand the commitment of the performance dates.

  ♦ We will provide the entire concert dress for our child as indicated on p. 8 of the Handbook

  (parent signature)_________________________ Indicate preferred contacts:

  home phone_________ office_________ e-mail_________________________

**OPTIONS:**
1. I would like to **volunteer** to assist the choir department during this school year:__________ Indicate in what capacity: Fund Raiser, VIDEO Concerts, PHOTOGRAPH EVENTS, CHAPERONE, etc.

2. Need confidential scholarship for concert attire _________ Amount: $____________
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Research Findings about How Music Study Helps Students

♦ When music and visual arts training was given to under performing first graders for 7 months, they caught up with and surpassed their classmates who were without arts training by 22% in measures of math competency. They also showed a marked improvement in behavior and attitude. – *Nature*, May 23, 1996

♦ Students with course work or experience in music performance scored 53 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 39 points higher on the math portion of the 1999 SAT than students with no course work or experience in the arts. Scores for those with course work in music appreciation were 61 points higher on the verbal portion of the test and 42 points higher on the math portion. – *The College Board*, 1999.

♦ Music participants received more academic honors and awards than non-music students, and the percentage of music participants receiving As, As/Bs, and Bs was higher than the percentage of non-participants receiving these grades. – *NELS:88* (National Education Longitudinal Study), First Follow-up, 1990, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington, D.C.

♦ In the kindergarten classes of the school district of Kettle Moraine, Wisconsin, children who were given music instruction scored 48 percent higher on spatial-temporal skill tests than those who did not receive music training. – F.H. Rauscher and M.A. Zupan (1999), “Classroom Keyboard Instruction Improves Kindergarten Children’s Spatial-Temporal Performance: A Field Study.” Article in press, *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*

♦ A recently published study of 140 8th graders found that self-disciplined kids who could delay gratification consistently outperformed their more impulsive peers on everything from grades to achievement scores…. a bigger predictor of academic gains than IQ! In *USA WEEKEND* Aug. 4-6, 2006, in the article "Teach your kids patience, now" by A.P. Murphy suggests to involve kids in activities such as music …. which require practice and patience in order to develop self-control.

*Note: For more information on the benefits of music education, see the MENC Web site, [www.menc.org](http://www.menc.org) and the MuSICA Web site, [www.musica.uci.edu](http://www.musica.uci.edu).*

*Did you know?....

♦ The former CEO of Hewlett Packard, Carly Fiorina was active in High School choir as a student
Rules & Expectations

♦ STUDENTS WILL **RESPECT ALL PEOPLE**, INCLUDING THEMSELVES, AND **ALL PROPERTY** INCLUDING THEIR OWN, AT ALL TIMES

♦ Enter the room with respect to yourself and the class around you. You are expected to have your materials ready and by at your seat as quickly, quietly and carefully as possible. Warm-Up exercises begin immediately after the bell rings.

♦ You are expected to use and automatically offer your passport for any special request that interrupts class time.

♦ **PARTICIPATE with Respect & Stay ON TASK.**

♦ You will be excused from the room by the instructor. Wait quietly after the bell rings so that the class may be excused in an orderly and safe fashion.

**POSSIBLE REWARDS:**
Fun song, Music Game, No homework, parties after a concert, some free time to talk at the end of a class, Extra Credit points, a day to sit wherever you want, awards

*Cues are given to the class in general in the form of a rating of 1-10 on how we are doing as a class. These cues will be a good time to evaluate your own participation before you have any individualized attention to your behavior.*

Distracting, disruptive behavior or failure to comply with rules will result in

**Student Generated Consequences:**
Home work, Book assignment in hallway, no parties, no movie,

**Teacher inspired Consequences:**
1. Last to be dismissed when the bell rings.
2. Phone call to parents
3. Lunch detention
4. Sent out of room, disciplinary report filed
5. After school detention
6. **Severe clause** of the plan – student is referred immediately to the office and parents are notified.

Excellent self-discipline and order is expected at ALL times. In choir we are learning in a large group setting. Self-discipline and unselfish consideration for the group is the way choir members can reach their potential as individuals and as a group.
FOLDERS:

7th & 8th grade Students are provided with a folder in which to keep choral music, blank paper, and a pencil. If the folder becomes damaged the student will be responsible for the replacement of it.

Music Literacy

Each day we will be working on tonal & rhythmic instruction as described in Sound Connections by Dr. Don Ester – Ball State University. (1-2 minutes daily).

Sight Reading 1-2 minutes per day.

Music Theory

Several assignments will be given using the Music Theory curriculum. We will be using a curriculum "Essentials in Music Theory" by Alfred Publishing Company, already available here at the school.

Written Tests

Written quizzes and tests may be given occasionally. All major tests will be announced in advance. Unannounced quizzes may also be given, and totaled into this grade average.

As traditional at Wainwright M.S. for many years before last year, your grade will be determined by:

Classroom Participation, Choral Skills, Exams and Music Theory-Weekly grade 80%

Concert Attendance 20%

100%

Classroom Participation

Grades based on classroom participation reflect a student’s contribution to the class and his/her ability to listen and follow instructions. A good choir is like a good team. Each individual’s efforts must be constructive. Disruptive behavior by one individual weakens the choir.

♦ Is the student paying attention?
♦ Is the student “singing” at prescribed times? (visually perceived by teacher)
♦ Is the student able to be polite while waiting for another section to rehearse?
♦ Is the student able to participate without disrupting the classroom?

Every student is expected to come to class prepared each day. The student must bring all necessary materials (i.e. music folder, pencil & paper in the folder). Each student is expected to come to class prepared. Failure to bring these things will result in a student who is unprepared and cannot properly participate in class activities. The student’s passport will be signed each day this occurs.
Teacher/Student Communication

I am very interested in what is important to you, but I can not give you the attention you deserve in the middle of class time. If you have anything of personal concern about yourself, or suggestions for music to sing etc., (anything that does not pertain directly with what we are dealing with at the moment during rehearsal) talk to me at any of the following times:

- Before class (Something QUICK)
- After class (Something QUICK)
- Homeroom (get a pass from me ahead of time)
- Before school (let me know this ahead though)
- After school
- End of lunch (after you’ve eaten, before bell rings)

Choral Skills & Knowledge - the Language and culture of MUSIC

KNOWLEDGE: Music History, Choral, singing, and Broadway literature and appreciation

SKILLS-
1. Choral Techniques will be taught in class (e.g., posture, proper breath control, head tone techniques, word pronunciation – singing with an open mouth, Each student is expected to put forth an effort to learn the techniques.
2. Ear Training
3. Sight Reading
4. Music Writing – Music Theory

How about sore throats & drinks? As part of the daily discipline of being part of a musical organization, students should take a drink at the fountain and go to the bathroom BEFORE class. However, there are times when while combating a cold etc., a student may need an additional drink. Use of this privilege should NOT be chronic. A misuse of this privilege is a disruption to the rehearsal, therefore drinks may be denied or passports signed for persistent interruptions.

Actually, it is more difficult to sing with a sinus infection than with a sore throat. Sinuses clog up the passages that allow for resonance of the voice. Unless the infection is actually IN the vocal chords, singers can still sing. If a student tells me one morning that they have a sore throat and can’t sing as well as usual, I usually say something like: “I understand that you won’t be up to your usual performance today. Just do the best you can.” Participation by listening and following along with the music is still expected.

If a student is too ill to sing but not too ill to be in school, I must have a signed note from the parent for that particular day. For that day only, the note will excuse the student from singing, but not participating. Students can still participate in breathing and posture exercises, read along, practice silently, listen and learn. Content knowledge instruction is often embedded within the rehearsal structure, and the student is still responsible for attempting to learn instruction for the day.
Concert Attendance – HEY PEOPLE …. We've got a GIG!

Because choir is a MUSIC performance class, attendance at concerts, contests, and extra rehearsals is required. 20% of your Grade….

Contingencies:
1. Extreme illness, hospitalization, or death in the immediate family – or unavoidable absence verified BEFORE September of the school year: student has the OPTION of making up the points by writing a paper on a pertinent choir or music topic. Students should use their own words in writing the paper, with bibliography.

   2-3 pages for a 6th Grader
   3-4 pages for a 7th Grader
   4-5 pages for an 8th Grader – otherwise the letter grade will be lowered 1 letter

2. Missing a concert because of a parent induced decision – 1 letter grade lower. (Signing up for extra-curricular activities-including sports, family outings, doctor appointments, shopping, etc., AFTER committing to a year of choir, are NOT excused absences.)

3. No show - lowering of the choir grade 2 letter grades for the current 9 weeks. The paper should be on a topic pertinent to the current concert, about a composer, music style, or other topic agreed upon between the teacher and the student. Unexcused absences will loose performance points for that grading period.

   PLEASE check your calendar with the choir calendar NOW, and contact me in advance. I will work with you and your child with any unavoidable emergencies.

Concert Dress

GIRLS: Long (floor length), unadorned BLACK slacks
   White, loose fitting but NOT enormous, buttoned down, collared shirt or blouse
   Black opaque socks or hose
   Black shoes, preferably closed toed

BOYS: Long black trousers
   White, loose fitting but NOT enormous, buttoned down, collared shirt
   Black socks
   Black shoes
Religious Themes in Music
From time to time I will incorporate music from a variety of religious backgrounds which encompass a diversity of ethnic cultures.

Under the “Religion in TSC Schools Administrative Guidelines”, May, 2000 article III states “The Superintendent recognizes that one of TSC’s educational goals is to advance the students’ knowledge and appreciation of the role that our religious heritage has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.” Under Article IV Rules

A. Observance of Religious Holidays The practice of TSC shall be as follows:

3. Music, art, literature and drama having religious themes or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs if presented in a prudent and objective manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.

B. Religion in the Curriculum

1. TSC support the inclusion of religious literature, music, drama and the arts in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively.

2. “The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies should never foster any particular religion tenets or demean any religious beliefs.”

Under Religious Expression in Public Schools, Teaching about religion: “Public schools may not provide religious instruction, but they may teach about religion…. Similarly, it is permissible to consider religious influences on art, music, literature, and social studies. Although public schools may teach about religious holidays, including their religious aspects, and may celebrate the secular aspects of holidays, school may not observe holidays as religious events or promote such observance by students.”

Holiday Music Selection
Winter concert music WILL include BOTH secular and sacred Christmas numbers since this holiday is an integral part of our culture. Holiday music WILL also include other important holidays such as Hanukkah, new years celebrations from around the world, and Kwanzaa. The 6th Grade choir will usually feature at least one exotic holiday from a unique culture.

Parent Involvement -
Parents are encouraged and invited to support the choir program. Parents can support the choir by encouraging their child’s musical growth. Encourage your child to perform for you or the family. Talk about good rehearsal etiquette. Attend your child’s concerts and music events. Take your child to concerts within the Lafayette, Indianapolis, and Chicago community.

Lafayette is host to an excellent symphony orchestra and several very fine university choirs at Purdue University. Both organizations perform numerous concerts throughout the school year.

Harrison and McCutcheon High Schools have very active music departments. Accompanying your children to a concert or musical production will encourage them
to stay active in the choral program throughout their middle school, high school years, and through out life.

Choirs are always in need of chaperones to accompany the choir to contests and to volunteer in the choir classroom. Parent volunteers can always be used to file and sort music, accompany, even to help with rehearsals from time to time. If you are interested, please contact the choral department. With everyone working together we can have a successful program.

**ISSMA CONTEST**

The Indiana State Schools Music Association offers yearly a wonderful opportunity for musical performing groups to sing to a panel of expert judges. This is only ONE DAY and the ONLY SATURDAY in the entire school year. PLEASE try to make it a priority. Bus Transportation for students & chaperones will be available.

**************OPTIONAL EVENTS**************

**SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST**

The Indiana State School Music Association (I.S.S.M.A.) sponsors a contest during a Saturday in January or February where individual students or small ensembles (trios, quartets, etc.) have an opportunity to prepare a selection at their own achievement level and perform for an adjudicator who is a specialist. Musical selections should be chosen with the assistance of the choral director or a private instructor. Students will receive a written evaluation and a rating for their performance. It is recommended that students who are involved in an ensemble only enter one event. It is difficult to get everyone together for practices for one ensemble, two or more is very difficult. Students should not enter as soloists or ensemble members if they are unwilling to come in before or after school to practice. This is an optional event, but once the commitment is made, students need to follow through and prepare outside of class time. An entrance fee must be paid by each participant for each event entered. If you use an accompanist who is not the teacher, you should expect to pay the accompanist $25.00 per event.

**CIRCLE THE STATE WITH SONG**

Circle the State with Song is an event sponsored by the Indiana Music Educators Association (I.M.E.A). This is a select honors choir determined by audition. If chosen, participants will agree to pay a non-refundable fee since there is a space reserved for these select students, and all materials, clinicians, and events will be provided regardless of attendance. Students selected for this choir should have an excellent behavior and performance record in choir. Bus Transportation one way.
MUSIC CHOICE/Student Choice:
For the choral season, some concerts or contest music must be chosen based upon a rigorous professional criteria and are therefore chosen by the choral director; however, student suggestions in music for Holiday and Spring Concerts are considered with the following stipulations:

♦ Available funds
♦ Music scores available to be used in a choral setting
♦ Time to order the music and have it prepared for a performance date
♦ Time available in the concert schedule
♦ No music may promote the use of tobacco, drugs, liquor, or in any way depict vulgar, obscene, violent, or offensive ideas, language or movements. I do from time to time allow some current teenage popular songs, ‘date’ songs or ‘love’songs which many in this age group enjoy. It is important that the students work together on this so that we may continue to enjoy student music choice.

FIELD TRIPS
The enrichment of enjoying live music performance is priceless. It is the music department's goal to incorporate a musically educational and entertaining field trip for each grade level into the curriculum. All groups seemed pleased in the past. The continuation of this opportunity depends upon each group’s ability to function in a self-disciplined way. The safety and well being of everyone is a primary concern and will effect the decision to plan or not plan a field trip for each group in the future. Parent volunteers are essential to the success of a trip as well.

AWARDS
Each year, awards will be presented to outstanding choir members at the spring awards concert. Examples are: Outstanding Leader, Section Leader, Director's Award and Outstanding Vocalist.
WAINWRIGHT CHOIR
CALENDAR 2006-2007

Individual Choir Events

October 10 (Tue.)  - 7th Grade - Veterans’ Home, W. Lafayette, 10:30 a.m.

October 12 (Thur.)  - 6th Grade concert, 6:00 p.m. – Wainwright School Cafeteria

October 23 (Mon.)- 8th Grade Choral Performance
(7:00 p.m. – McCutcheon High School)

* * * * *ALL Choirs Events* * * * *

December 11 (Mon.)- ALL Choirs Winter/Holiday Concert
(7:00 p.m. – McCutcheon H.S. Auditorium)

March 13 (Tues.) – Fine Arts Night – 6:00 p.m., Wainwright

March 17 (Sat.) ISSMA Contest – ALL choirs
Destination & Time - To Be Announced

May 17, 2007 (Th.) – Awards Concert
(7:00 p.m. – Wainwright Gym)

Non-required Enrichment Opportunities:
• Solo & Ensemble Contest (Sat., Feb. 3, 2007)
  Harrison H.S.

• Circle the State with Song Honors Choir
  (Sat., Feb. 10, 2007)
Wainwright Choir
OPTIONAL TUXEDO SHIRT
ORDER FORM
(If you choose not to purchase a tuxedo shirt, you are still responsible to find a clean white shirt for the choir student to wear for the entire school year.)

Indicate size desired: __________________
Cost: $12.00
Checks payable to Wainwright M.S.

Due on Friday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} week of school

GIRLS/LADIES \hspace{1cm} BOYS/MEN