

Choir Handbook Van Wyck Junior High School

2024-2025

Welcome to the Choir Program at Van Wyck Junior High School! Within this handbook, you will find information about the choir program at Van Wyck.

Welcome information:

Outlined in the following handbook are some general expectations, grading information, and concert details for the Van Wyck choir families.

I am looking forward to an excellent year of singing and music making.

Please contact me with any questions.

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(845) 227-1700 Ext. 20101

Course Specifics:

In this full year course we will dive into choral music of various genres and styles, from foreign language and classical music to pop songs. We will begin to grow an understanding of how to read music and of music theory. My goal is to grow our singers into strong, capable, and independent musicians who can continue to appreciate music and use their voices throughout their lives.

Required Materials:

Leave in the classroom:

- Black choir folder or ½ inch binder with your students name on the outside.
- 2 pencils stored in the folder/binder.

Bring Everyday:

- Chromebooks
- Headphones (can be stored in folder)

Concerts:

- Winter Concert dates are Wednesday and Thursday December 4th and 5th.
- Spring Concerts will be the week of May 5th, (tentative dates are the Tuesday the 6th and Thursday the 8th)
- More information will be provided as those dates approach and each grade level will be required to perform in only one concert per season.
- Information on concert dress can be found later in this document under “Concert Attire”

Practicing:

Students should regularly practice their vocal parts using the practice tracks and music posted on google classroom. Students will be asked to record specific lines of their music as homework to ensure they are practicing and improving along with their peers. An effective way to practice may even just be listening to practice tracks and following along with their music. Regardless of how they practice, the more a student practices, the more they will enjoy rehearsals. Spreading the time out into 10-20 minute sessions 3-4 times a week will be more effective than practicing for two hours the night before a rehearsal or performance.

Grading/Participation:

Your child's grade will be made up of the following percentages:

40% - In-class participation and preparedness

40% - Projects/Assessments/Concert

20% - In class work/Practice Recordings/Homework

- A student who is prepared for class will arrive on time, with two pencils, and ready to work.
- A student who is participating fully will sing with the group when prompted and attempt to answer questions to the best of their ability.

This course relies on every student's participation on a daily basis and every student is expected to participate in every class to the best of their ability.

Concert Attire:

Concert Attire is important in creating a cohesive performance. Without appropriate attire students may not be comfortable to stand and sing or will not look cohesive with the group. For Grades 7 and 8 choir I require the same dress code.

All students should be in some combination of Black and White (ideally white on top, black on bottom but all black is fine as well). The choir should look formal and put together, so **no gym shorts, sweatpants, or jeans.**

Footwear:

- Dress shoes, loafers, nice boots, boat shoes or flats are ideal. If your student only has sneakers they are permissible, but please have them wear a neutral color (Preferrably black or white)
- Since we are a group that needs to stand for long periods of time on risers to perform, please help your child select comfortable shoes. A small heel is ok but anything larger than 1 ½ - 2 inches becomes difficult for the singer and changes the way they sing and hold themselves while standing.

Clothing:

- **All** clothing must meet the school [dress code](#) in the code of conduct (Page 15).

I know these items can be hard to find or expensive. If you truly cannot or do not have the means to acquire them, please email me with anything you need at least 2 weeks prior to the concert and I will do my best to find your child something to wear for the night.

Syllabus/Handbook Signature Page:

Parents please read and sign both parts of this page stating that you have read and understand the document. Parents: a copy of this handbook can be found on my website. Students please print your name and sign both parts of this page. Return only the bottom half to me by Friday September 13th. Keep the rest of your handbook in your folder as you will need it for folder quizzes and to reference dates.

Student Name: Print and Sign

Parent/Guardian signature

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