

2019-2020

Steger Sixth Grade Choir Guide

Dear Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome to Choir! This is going to be an exciting musical journey! At Steger, Choir will meet every day, so we will be singing, rehearsing and learning about music every day. The yearlong objectives of the Steger Sixth Grade Choir are to provide music learning and performance opportunities, to help students grow into well rounded literate musicians capable of singing in different styles and languages, and to foster a creative and safe learning environment where students support each other and build relationships.

Since this is a performance based class, there are guidelines to consider. This contains the expectations set for all Choir students at Steger Sixth Grade Center. Please read through and discuss expectations with your child and contact me with any questions or concerns regarding choir expectations. Please keep this guide for your records. I look forward to meeting you all and sharing your child's musical growth with you!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Brinker brinker.rebecca@wgmail.org (314) 918-4265

Tim Havis havis.tim@wgmail.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Conferences:	<i>August 20th & 28th</i>	<i>Jump Start Conferences</i>	<i>3:00 pm – 7:00 pm - Steger</i>
	<i>November 11th & 13th</i>	<i>Fall Parent Teacher Conferences</i>	<i>3:00 pm – 7:00 pm - Steger</i>
	<i>March 11th</i>	<i>Spring Conferences</i>	<i>3:00 pm – 7:00 pm - Steger</i>
Mandatory/Graded Concerts:	<i>Thurs. November 21st</i>	<i>Fall Concert: Choir & Orchestra</i>	<i>6:00 pm - Steger Auditorium</i>
	<i>Thurs. April 30th</i>	<i>Spring Concert: Choir & Orchestra</i>	<i>6:00 pm - Steger Auditorium</i>
	Other Performances <i>Thurs. February 27th</i>	<i>BHM Program</i>	<i>6:00 pm - Steger Auditorium</i>

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students are required to wear concert attire for every performance to demonstrate that we are a team; no one member stands out in front of another. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any questions or concerns about meeting this requirement*. The expected attire for Choir members is listed below.

Gentlemen: **Solid black pants.** Please no athletic pants or blue jeans. **Solid white collared shirt.**
Neckties are optional. Black shoes and socks are preferred.

Ladies: **Solid black pants or skirt** (at or below knees) Please no athletic wear or blue jeans. **White shirt or blouse,**
please no tank-tops. Dark shoes with low heel are preferred. Keep accessories to a minimum.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

Every singer is vital for our choir to have our best possible performance. Every day we work, learn, rehearse and sing as a united group; when students miss a concert, not only do they lose their opportunity to shine, but the group's performance can suffer as well. Therefore, **all concerts are graded.**

The experience of performing in a live performance cannot be replaced or made up. **However, when emergencies or illness do arise, parents should notify (phone call or email) their choir teacher as soon as possible BEFORE the concert.** If a student wants to recover a portion of her grade, she must contact Mrs. Brinker or Mr. Havis as soon as possible to arrange an assessment which will be at the teacher's discretion (a written test, an evaluation of the missed performance, or an individual singing test). Please contact me ASAP if transportation is an issue with attending evening concerts; I am willing to work with students in these situations.

GRADING POLICY

The **learning goals** of the Steger Sixth Grade Choir are:

- *Create and perform using the elements and principles of music.*
- *Perform with the voice using appropriate posture, technique, and tone production.*
- *Create expressive music and perform with expressive techniques.*
- *Understand the context and the manner of a presentation will influence audience*

Performances - 20% - All students need to be dressed appropriately and check in at least 15 minutes PRIOR to the start of the concert in order to be ready to perform. Email reminders will be sent prior to concert.

Formative Assessment- 40% Content and Skills - Students will grow as literate musicians. They will be evaluated on both what they know (CONTENT) and how accurately they perform it (SKILLS): general rhythmic and melodic theory and performance, understanding of vocabulary, memorization of text and parts of concert pieces. Content may be assessed through daily classwork, online assignments or class discussion. Skills will be assessed through informal quizzes during class.

Summative Assessment- 20% Content and Skills - Each student will improve their musical skills and content understanding throughout the course of each term. These assessments will be a combination of each term's formative assessments and can be comprised of written or performance assessments.

Daily Participation - 20% - Students are graded on their effort as well as their abilities. Participation points are earned by following music rehearsal expectations and the "7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids" as they apply to the music room.

"7 Habits of Highly Effective [Choir] Kids"

<i>Be Proactive:</i>	<i>Prepare and Practice</i>
<i>Begin with the end in mind:</i>	<i>Rehearse how you want to perform</i>
<i>Put First things first:</i>	<i>Be Present, Ready and Willing</i>
<i>Think Win-Win:</i>	<i>Consider Others</i>
<i>Seek first to understand:</i>	<i>Listen to understand not respond</i>
<i>Synergize:</i>	<i>Perform together and follow the conductor</i>
<i>Sharpen the Saw:</i>	<i>Practice healthy vocal habits</i>
<i>Find Your Voice:</i>	<i>Speak up and Sing out!</i>