

Creekside Intermediate School
Dexter Community Schools

Choir Handbook

2018-2019

Student Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

Grade Level: _____



Table of Contents

Welcome Back Letter-----	3
Student Code of Conduct-----	4
Choir Email Updates-----	4
Schedule and Attendance-----	6
Classroom Expectations-----	6
Materials-----	5
Participation-----	5
Grading-----	5
Dropping/Adding Music Classes-----	7
Concert Attire-----	7
2018-2019 Performance Schedule-----	8
Choir Handbook Form-----	9



Welcome Back Parents and Students!

I would like to welcome both our new and returning students to what will be another great school year. Dexter Choirs have a proud history and continue to grow in numbers and excellence each year. We are pleased that you have chosen to become part of its future!

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize you with the procedures of the Creekside Intermediate School Choirs. **Please read through this handbook carefully.** If you have any questions pertaining to the handbook, feel free to contact the choir director.

Please keep this handbook as a reference to answer questions that may arise throughout the school year. Important information, such as the choir performance dates, are included in the back of the handbook. It is helpful to mark the dates of the performances on your calendar to ensure a successful concert experience.

After you have read through this handbook, please take care of the following tasks:

1. Visit the **choir website** to sign up for choir email updates (for instructions see “Choir Email Updates” in this handbook.)
2. Add the **2018-2019 Choir Performance Schedule** to your home calendar.
3. Complete, detach and return the Choir Handbook Form.

Thank you for taking the time to complete these important tasks. We look forward to a successful and exciting year of music making with your child!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Berghorst
Creekside Choir Director
berghorste@dexterschools.org



CHOIR EMAIL UPDATES

Dexter Choirs use an email newsletter service provided by SchoolPost.com. The directors and Choir Boosters will be using this service to communicate with parents. If you have not done so already, please sign up for this service.

SIXTH GRADE: If you signed up last year for “Choir-Class of 2024”, then your email address has been retained. You may follow the process below if you would like to manage your email subscriptions.

Sign-up Instructions

1. Go to www.dexterschools.org Click on “schools”, then, choose “Creekside”.
2. Scroll down, until you see a box on the right-hand side that is for signing up for emails. Please fill in your first and last name and email address. You’ll see a button that says, “my groups”. You can click on this to view the various groups you have signed up for.
3. You’ll need to check the box next to the class you want to receive email from. (Mailing list groups you are already signed up for are already check-marked.)
 - For the 2018-2019 school year:
Sixth Grade Choir is “Choir-Class of 2024”
Fifth Grade Choir is “Choir-Class of 2025”
 - You may also sign up for “Choir Boosters - Parent Interest”
 - When done, click on “submit”.
 - A confirmation email will be sent to your email address. You will begin receiving email newsletters once you confirm subscription through this email.

CREEKSIDE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Personal responsibility and discipline is very important to everyone’s success within a choir. Behavior outlined in the “Creekside Student Code of Conduct” printed in the front of the student planner is closely adhered throughout the entire school building, including choir class.

Classroom time together as a group is very valuable. Therefore, behavior that disrupts the class and is distracting to other students will not be tolerated. This includes: tardiness, talking during rehearsal, eating food or chewing gum,

disregarding someone else's personal space (not keeping hands/feet to oneself), and all other forms of unruly behavior. A portion of the student's grade is dependent on how effectively they perform in the above mentioned area.

GRADING

Choir is based primarily on group participation; their grade is mainly determined by rehearsal participation and concert attendance. There will also be various small assignments, and projects. Other elements include being prepared for class, and their overall contribution to a successful choir class.

Concerts are the biggest component of a student's overall grade; therefore, attendance is very important. If a student cannot make a concert for any reason, please notify Mrs. Berghorst. ALL Students who do not attend a concert have an opportunity to complete a makeup assignment to make up for the missing points. Failure to complete the makeup assignment will result in a zero for that performance grade.

PARTICIPATION

To make progress as an individual vocalist and also as a group choir, it is necessary to fully participate in each class. It is the student's responsibility to know when their class meets and to be there on time. Advance notice is given when class meets on a different schedule before a performance. Students must attend choir as scheduled. If for whatever reason a student is unable to sing, they are still to attend class and continue to be a (silent) active participant. If a student needs to miss class due to various reasons involving other classes, their homeroom teacher must contact Mrs. Berghorst.

MATERIALS

Students will be provided with a music folder, and a pencil at the beginning of the school year by Mrs. Berghorst. There will also be a space for students to store their materials when not in class. **It is their responsibility to keep track of all materials.** If a student needs a replacement item, they need to come prepared to class with their own or they are welcome to purchase a new one from me: folders for \$0.50, pencils for \$0.25. With our small budget, it is our

hope that we can use the yearly budget for music and other tools to help enhance vocal music learning.

SCHEDULE AND ATTENDANCE

Choir meets during FLEX time, which includes all music classes, exploratory classes, and academic support classes. On days when students are not in choir class, they attend other FLEX classes. Please note that FLEX classes are not considered the same as music classes. FLEX classes are on a quarter schedule and music classes are on a semester schedule.

Fifth grade choir classes meet twice a week, and sixth grade choir classes meet 2-3 times a week. When approaching a performance, the schedule will be adjusted to allow the entire choir to meet together on consecutive days. Adjusted music schedules are announced in class well in advance.

If a student is in both choir and play an instrument, they will attend their choir class on its scheduled days and their instrumental class on the other days. Students are assigned to a choir section based on which instrument they play. When nearing a performance for choir or band/orchestra, the directors will adjust the schedule accordingly and notify the students involved.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Be prepared. For every class, you will need your music folder, and a pencil. The teacher will keep track of your preparedness for grade credit.
- Be on time. Be in your seat and prepared for class. Quietly, work on bell work packet and wait for teacher to begin instruction. Wait to ask questions until your teacher gives you the opportunity to do so, not while the teacher and other students are getting ready for class.
- Be aware. When the director stands by the piano and begins playing, all talking must stop. To make the most of our time, full attention must be given to the teacher, even if he/she is working with other students. Use a pencil to mark your vocal scores.
- Be respectful. Respect the classroom space, choral literature, teacher and others. Do not walk up to the piano and begin playing it unless you are

invited to. Everyone is expected to care for sheet music, chairs, music stands and other materials in the classroom. Keep your area clean - we want our furniture and equipment to remain in good condition for years to come. Gum chewing, eating, and drinking (except for water) is not allowed during class, rehearsal or performance.

DROPPING/ADDING MUSIC CLASSES

According to the Dexter Music Department policy, students who wish to drop a music class may only do so at the end of the semester. The end of the first semester falls at the end of January each year. This allows students to give the class a fair chance and perform with their choirmates at the final performance of the semester before making a decision.

Proper protocol for dropping choir includes notification to Mrs. Berghorst from the student, as well as notification (phone call, note, or an email) from a parent of their explanation for dropping. Please speak with Mrs. Berghorst, *not the student's homeroom teacher*, regarding this matter. The request to drop choir must be received no later than Friday, January 26, 2019.

CONCERT ATTIRE

A concert is a formal affair and time to showcase the hard work students have done in class. For this school year, 5th & 6th grade choir will have three performances each.

Ladies: Solid black top, black long skirt or dress pants, black dress shoes

Gentlemen: Solid black top, black jeans or black slacks, black dress shoes

CREEKSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CHOIRS

Performance Schedule

2018-2019

Please put these dates on your home calendar or tear off this page to hang on your fridge

6th Grade All Music Concert

- Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7PM - Free Admission
- Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts
- 6th Grade Choir, Band and Orchestra join together for their first concert of the school year. (Students are called at 6:30PM)

5th Grade Winter Music Assembly

This performance will take place in December during the school day. Date and time will be announced at a later date

- Location: Creekside Gymnasium, this assembly takes place during afternoon on a school day

5th-12th Grade All Choir Concert

- Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7PM - Free Admission
- Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts
- 5th-12th Grade Choirs perform in a spectacular concert- featuring over 300 choir students! (Students are called at 6PM)

Creekside Choir Spring Concert

- Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7PM - Free Admission
- Dexter High School Center for the Performing Arts
- 5th and 6th Grade choir students perform a variety of music.



CREEKSIDE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
Choir Handbook Form
2018-2019

Please fill out the information below after reviewing the entirety of the handbook. Then, detach this form and return to Mrs. Berghorst on or before, Friday, October 19, 2018

Please initial the following statements:

_____ I have read and understand the drop/add policy of the Creekside Music Department (page 7).

_____ I have read and understand the information about concerts, including attire and expectations (page 7).

_____ I have added the performance dates to my home calendar (page 8).

 Student Name (PRINT first and last)

Grade: (circle) 5th 6th

 Homeroom Teacher

“We verify that we have read and understood the policies within the Creekside Intermediate School 2018-2019 Choir Handbook.”

 Parent Signature

 Date

 Parent email and/or phone number

