Walsh Middle School Grade 7 & 8 Chorus

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Choral Director/Music Teacher

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 Welcome to Walsh Middle School’s Grade 7 and 8 Chorus! In this class, students will be expected to arrive each day ready to learn, sing, and show the utmost musicianship and teamwork. Throughout the year, we will not only be singing, but we will learn about music theory, music history, and performance practice as a group and as soloists. Every person in this class is expected to give 100% each day and show the utmost respect and willingness to learn to not only their teacher, but to their fellow classmates.

Remember:

This is not a choir.

This is a chorus.

Not only is there an “I” in “Choir”

But there is an “US” in “Chorus”

**Grading Policy:**

**Classroom Behavoir = 30% of grade**

Students will be evaluated based on:

* Punctuality
* Preparedness for class (you will have a pencil, your chorus folder, and any homework or required materials in order to receive an A for the day!)
* Work Ethic
* Attitude
* Respect (for themselves, teacher, and classmates)
* Class Participation

**Vocaroos and Other Homework = 20% of grade**

“Vocaroo” is the name for the required recordings students will send in every two weeks, beginning in October. Students can either use the original website ([www.vocaroo.com](http://www.vocaroo.com)) or send in audio recordings from another electronic device (computer, iPhone voice memo, whatever is most convenient for you).

Requirements for Vocaroo:

* Sing for at least 1 minute
* Sing the assigned song (this will be posted on the board in the classroom)
* Email them to me by the due date (this will also be posted in the classroom)
* Do your very best work

There will be background recordings on my teacher webpage that students can use, just like karaoke. This is optional, but it can be a big help!

Students will not be graded on their quality of voice, but on their effort and fulfillment of requirements.

If you are having any trouble whatsoever (nervous singing, don’t have a recording device, etc.) COME AND SEE ME. You are always welcome to come and record in my room during lunch or after school or to ask for help with the music.

**Concert Performances = 50% of grade**

Accounts for: Veterans’ Day Performance, Winter Concert, Spring Concert

Students will be evaluated based on:

* Punctuality
* Professionalism/Musicality
* Enthusiasm/Positive Attitude
* Attire
	+ MANDATORY
	+ Boys: White Button-Down Shirt, Tie, Black Dress Pants, Black Dress Shoes
	+ Girls: White Blouse/Dress Shirt (at least ¾ sleeves), Black Dress Pants (NO yoga pants, NO leggings), Black Closed-Toe Shoes with short/no heel

**If a student is unable to attend the concert for whatever reason (family emergency, illness, etc.), they will be required to complete an extra project of equal value to the performance (most likely a student evaluation of the performance itself).**

**Lastly: there WILL be after-school rehearsals (times and dates TBD). These rehearsals are not mandatory. They are, however, highly encouraged, and refreshments will be provided for the students (feel free to contact me if you have a particular concern about your student’s health with regards to food allergies).**

I am very much looking forward to this year with all of you, and I believe that we can do amazing things together and show why Walsh has the best middle-school singers around!

I have read and understand the grading policy, the class description, and the requirements expected of my student in Grade 7 and 8 Chorus.

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_