

# KMS Choir Welcome Letter

## 2025-2026

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Hello and welcome (or welcome back) to the choir at KMS! While you might not yet realize it, music is woven into nearly every part of our lives, from movie/TV show soundtracks to songs at sports games. My goal for you is to inspire you to be **life-long music lovers**! I hope that the experiences we have here in choir together will prepare you to enjoy attending concerts, sing lullabies to your kids someday, and jam out on road trips with friends. Singing is an activity humans have been doing for as long as humans have been around, so I want to help you remove the stress around it and just enjoy singing as the universal human experience that it is!

To help you be more successful, I wanted to share these expectations and information with you. If you ever have any questions feel free to contact me or refer to this handbook!

### TIME/PLACE

All of our classes will meet in Room 700 at Knoxville Middle School (vocal room) on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** every week. Please check your school schedule for what period your class meets!

Concerts will take place at the KPAC at 6:30 PM **unless otherwise noted**. Check the attached calendar for more information about concert dates and times.

### Dropping and Adding Choir:

It is KMS policy that if your student is wanting to drop choir, they are allowed to do that only during the first two weeks of the first and second semesters of the school year. **No schedule changes will be made after the first two weeks of each semester.**

However, at any time choir may be added to the schedule, so if you or your student know of someone who would like to join, they are always welcome! If you have any questions, please contact me immediately.

## Expectations

### Expectations for Class

- When you arrive, get your folder quickly and sit down in your seat. Once you sit, take a look at the board for the agenda and any additional instructions
- We all have good and bad days, and I don't expect every day to be a good one. That being said, I would like to see you give whatever your 100% is that day every day. I will do the same!
- We, as a choir, are a **TEAM!** As teammates, we need to offer respect and understanding to one another. Some of your teammates might not be your best friends, and that is okay. However, we need to work together!
- **Be kind to one another and yourself.** Negative talk about others or yourself will not be tolerated.
- Be careful with your materials and use them as instructed.
- Stay on task during class and don't detract from your learning or others.
- I wish this went without saying, but keep your hands to yourself.
- Be willing to be silly, vulnerable, and try new things.
- Listen to understand, not respond - think about what is being said and take feedback.
- Monitor your own learning and take on a mindset that you can always improve.
- When class is finished, return your materials and wait in your seat until the dismissal bell rings.
- Choir takes place during Panther time. If a teacher requests you for reteaching during this time, the teacher needs to contact me directly via email. A student telling me directly that they need to leave the room is not sufficient.

**If the student chooses to not follow the expectations, it will result in the following consequences:**

- 1<sup>st</sup>**- Verbal warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Verbal warning again
- 3<sup>rd</sup>**- Contact parents
- 4<sup>th</sup>**- Sent to Office

### Expectations for Concerts:

- Arrive on time.
- Wear the concert attire described below.
- Do your best while on stage!
- Be a respectful and supportive audience member to other students.

### Expectations for Lessons:

- Show up on time with your materials.
- Give whatever we are working on your best!
- Be kind and respectful to other students in your lesson group. Singing in front of others can be scary, but it doesn't have to be if we are all supportive.
- Apply feedback and seek to get better each time you come in.
- If you ever have to miss a lesson due to something happening in the class I am pulling you out from, you must contact me a day before your lesson.

### What can you expect from me?

- Each day is a new one and a new opportunity to have a good day in my classroom. If yesterday was a bad day and we had to have a tough conversation, I don't hold that against you today.
- I will come in each day with a plan and clear expectations for the day written where you can see them.
- I care about you all primarily as human beings! I will make this a safe place to fail, grow, experiment, and learn.
- You can expect me to be passionate, positive, and goofy.

### **LESSONS**

All choir students are required to have a vocal lesson each week. Some may need to have their lesson individually, while others may have theirs in a small group, depending on their individual needs. Your time will be assigned to you, and posted on my office window- these times may change depending on any number of things. If you have any concerns, please feel free to talk to me!

It's **important** to attend your lesson weekly, as this gives me a chance to hear your voice individually and help you address any challenges or concerns you may have. Additionally, if you are preparing for something singing-related outside of class (Honor choirs, Opus, auditions, etc.), this is the only time we will have to work together on this in a small group.

### **MATERIALS**

#### ***Bring:***

- Folder (provided)
- Sheet music (provided)
- Pencil
- Water
- A good attitude

#### ***Do NOT bring:***

- Gum
- Snacks/food
- Drinks that are not water
- Cell phone
- Other distractions

#### ***For concerts:***

- White, plain top, without writing or logos
- Black, plain bottoms- long pants or skirts
- Black shoes that are comfortable to stand in
- You can wear jewelry, make-up, and do your hair how you please, or do none of those things.

\*If you are unable to secure this concert attire due to financial hardship or another reason, please contact me privately **at least two weeks in advance of the concert** and I will make arrangements to get you concert attire, no questions asked.

Remember that we are all dressing the same, so as to place the music on a higher level than ourselves and showcase it. Our performance isn't about how we look, so that's why our clothing is meant to be simple and undistracting, while allowing us to feel like individuals who can be confident in our skin.

## GRADING

Choir grading centers around one question:

**Are you improving as a singer and musician?**

Grading in here works a little differently:

- Students will not receive a letter grade.
- There are two parts as to what goes into student feedback and determination of KMS eligibility:
  1. Practice
  2. Assessment
- Essentially, grading is focused on **communicating feedback and progress to students and families**. However, missing assignments can cause ineligibility or detention.

Throughout the semester, you'll develop not only the music we perform, but also:

- Healthy vocal technique
- Music literacy skills
- Ensemble and rehearsal habits
- Artistic engagement and reflection

### Grading Scale

Grading is based on mastery of concepts, using the expectations or learning targets given.

3 - Meets **all** expectations/learning targets all (90-100% Mastery)

2 - **Mostly** meets expectation/learning target (75-90% Mastery)

1 - **Emerging skills**, but isn't **yet** meeting the expectation/learning target

0 - Missing work or no attempt

### Lessons:

Every 3–5 weeks in your lesson, we'll do a rubric-based **assessment** (a voice-check) on the skills we've been working on in lessons and in class. If you miss a lesson, the grade will be marked as missing because I won't be able to see your learning. To do well on this assessment, attend all of your lessons!

### In class (**Practice**):

Rehearsal Skills: Rehearsal skills are graded **weekly** and measure the habits that help you grow as a musician—using healthy singing technique, staying engaged, focusing on the task at hand, and responding to feedback. These skills directly affect how much you learn and how much you enjoy choir. Consistently practicing strong rehearsal skills will earn you full credit and set you up for success in our performances.

Rehearsal Reflections: Once a month, you'll write about your learning, challenges, and goals. These are graded for completeness and thoughtfulness. None of us are perfect, so reflection is key to us improving as singers, teammates, and humans.

Other practice activities may occur as needed and will always be clearly explained.

### Concerts (**Assessment**):

Concerts are your chance to show the skills you've built all semester. Your grade reflects both your performance and your professionalism as an audience member, which are important parts of being a musician. After each concert, we'll complete a short reflection that will act as an additional grade.

### **CONCERTS**

All students are expected to attend the two curricular concerts. We need all of us to make our musical magic happen! You are a part of the team, and we need all our players!

Exceptions to this are made on a case-by-case basis. Some excusable situations for having to miss a concert include **illnesses** (*do not come if you are home sick*), **planned vacation** (*try to avoid scheduling vacation on concert dates!*), and **family emergencies**. An adult must contact me via email to inform me of your absence as soon as possible.

Excused absences from the concert can be made up with an alternative assignment after the concert. Unexcused absences from the concert will **not** have the opportunity to be made up. **Please** consult the attached calendar for all dates, required and optional, to stay in the know about choir at KMS!

# **KMS CHOIR CALENDAR & INFO**

## **(Detach this page and put it up on your fridge!)**

I am so excited to get to know you all and glad that you decided to take part in our choir at KMS! Doing new things can be **hard** and it can be **scary**, but I am here to **help** you **learn**! Remember, singing is a universal human experience and music is a part of our lives, so LET'S MAKE IT FUN!

Please feel free to ask any questions by talking to me at school or by sending me an email. Families, thank you for supporting your student's musical growth!

**GO PANTHERS!**

Anna Fuelberth

KMS 6-8 Vocal Music

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**Required** performances are in **BOLD**, all others are optional!

September 26th- Auditions close for OPUS

October 7th- Grades 8-9 Singfest @ Central College

October 27th- High School Choir Concert @ KPAC, 7 PM

November 20th- OPUS festival @ ISU, Ames

**November 24th- Grades 6-8 Choir concert @ KPAC, 6:30 PM**

December 8th- High School Choir and Band Concert @ KPAC, 7 PM

February 20th- High School Choir Concert @ KPAC, 7 PM

March 12th- Grades 7-8 ICDA Honor choir @ Pella Middle School

**April 8th- Grades 7-8 SCC Honor Choir @ Cardinal\***  
**(required for 8th grade)**more details will come

April 9th- Grades 5-6 ICDA Honor choir @ Indianola Middle School

May 12th- High School Choir Concert @ KPAC, 7 PM

**May 14th- Grades 6-8 Choir concert @ KPAC, 6:30 PM**