

**KMS Choir Info
2024-2025**

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Hello and welcome to the choir at KMS! Singing in choir is one of the best ways in middle school to make new friends, make memories, and most importantly, make music! It's a lifelong habit that develops many valuable life skills- skills like teamwork, accountability, communication, physical fitness, and the list goes on and on. I hope that you have a great time singing with us. To help you be more successful, I wanted to share these expectations and information with you.

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.

WHAT TO DO

When you arrive in class, you should:

- Get your materials quickly (Folder, pencil)
- Find your assigned seat
- Check the board for any written instructions
- Wait for any verbal instructions

During class, you should:

- Honor and practice our classroom norms (Posted on the front wall!)
- Actively participate and listen
- Monitor your own singing technique and respond to feedback
- Ask questions if you don't understand something

When class is finished, you should:

- Return your materials to their proper place
- Help other students with their materials if needed
- Stay away from the exit door until the dismissal bell rings

At a concert, you should:

- Meet at the requested place and time, be on time!
- Wear the expected concert attire and have all of your required materials
- Be an attentive and respectful audience member for other groups

In your lessons, you should:

- Show up on time with your materials
- Demonstrate your skills to the best of your ability
- Respond to feedback for improvement
- Monitor your own progress through journal entries

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 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.

You can track your progress on a sticker chart at the front of the room. You will also be asked to fill out a short journal about your progress each week.

MATERIALS

For class:

- Folder (provided)
- Sheet music (provided)
- Pencil
- Water

Do NOT bring:

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

For concerts:

- White, plain top, without writing or logos
- Black, plain bottoms- long pants or skirts.

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

GRADING

Each class period you will have an opportunity to demonstrate your skills and growth. You can earn points for **class every day (30%)** by:

- Demonstrating healthful singing technique
- Demonstrating musicianship related to artistic choices made by the director
- Demonstrating personal accountability

You can earn points for your **weekly lessons (20%)** by:

- Demonstrating personal accountability
- Demonstrating healthful singing technique
- Responding to feedback from the director to make improvement
- Providing thoughtful self-reflection on your own learning through journaling

You can earn points for **our concerts (50%)** by:

- Demonstrating personal accountability
- Practicing audience and performance decorum
- Demonstrating your semester-long growth to the best of your ability
- Participating in a reflective evaluation after the performance

CONCERTS

All students are expected to attend the two curricular concerts.

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!*), **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!

I am so glad that you decided to take part in our choir at KMS, and I look forward to working with you! Doing new things can be **hard** and it can be **scary**, but I am here to **help** you **learn**! Please feel free to ask any questions by talking to me at school or by sending me an email.

GO PANTHERS!

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