

Menomonee Falls High School Choral Music Handbook

2014-2015 Choir Calendar

Thursday Oct. 23	Fall Choir Concert – All Choirs, 7:30 PM HS Aud. (call time: 7 PM)
Sunday Nov. 23	Jingle Bell Craft Fair. 9 AM – 3 PM, HS Cafeteria/ Gyms *optional fundraiser
Sat. Dec. 6	Caroling at Piggly Wiggly – TBA
Thursday Dec. 18	Holiday Choir Concert – All Choirs- 5:30 PM HS Aud. (call time: 7 PM)
Friday Feb. 20, 2015	Choir Cabaret – All Choirs – 6 – 8 PM
Saturday March 7	Vocal/ Choir Solo and Ensemble, All Day, HS Choir/ Band Rooms *optional event
Tuesday March 17	District Choir Festivals, 7PM HS Auditorium. North and HS Choir’s perform
April 9-14	Choir Trip to Boston/ NYC with performance at Carnegie Hall on April 13
Thursday May 28	Spring Choir Concert – 7:30 PM HS Auditorium
Saturday June 13	Senior Graduation, 4 PM (Sound Check: 3 PM)

Basic Concert Etiquette

- Please come early to find your seat – it is a great time to read program notes or visit with concert-going friends. If you are detained, please wait until the music has stopped to find the nearest available seat. Please also remain seated until the intermission or the end of the performance. If you must leave, please wait for an appropriate time between selections or groups.
- Please turn off things that ring or make noise: pagers, phones, watches, etc. Talking during a music performance in a concert hall is not appropriate. This can be difficult for young children. If a child begins to cry or fuss, he/she should be immediately taken out of the concert hall, immediately comforted and settled before returning.
- Applause is encouraged but should be held until the very end of the song or multi-movement work. Soloists should be applauded at the end of the song. Yelling out students’ names and giving shout-outs are not appropriate for a school concert.

Thank you, and enjoy the performances.

Grading Policy

Final grades in Concert Choir and Master Singers will be determined by the accumulation of points earned in the following areas:

Participation	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily rehearsals• Effort & attitude• Rehearsal technique	
Performances/ Concert Participation	30 %
*see attached calendar for required events	
Skill Development/ performance assessments	30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Voice/ skill checks• Sectionals and practice sessions• Sight singing/ written and aural theory	
Final Exam	10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 measure composition• Sight Singing	

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class each day. Excused absences must be made up to receive credit for the missed work. Unexcused absences from class cannot be made up.

1. Choir is a class for which graduation credit is offered. Students work on a daily basis to develop individual vocal and musical skills. All rehearsals are important (**this is a participation course**).
2. For each class missed a student may attend an extra sectional or practice session outside of class.

Concert/ Performance Attendance Policy

Students are required to participate in all performances and after school choir activities. Choir is a unique experience that requires teamwork and commitment in order to ensure success. Choir involves a commitment of time outside of the school day.

1. Pre-excused absences from a performance require prior written consent by the parent.
2. Emergency circumstances will be dealt with on an individual basis. The instructor should be notified as soon as possible if an emergency arises that prohibits you from attending a performance.
3. Excused absences from performances will require a make-up assignment. See the instructor for options of acceptable make-up assignments.

Performances are considered important culminating activities for a performance based class. As such, student participation will be graded as if the performance were a major exam. **An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failure for that activity, and may result in the student being withdrawn from class.**

Behavioral Expectations

Each student is expected to consistently display appropriate behavior during rehearsals, performances, and school related activities. All school rules apply in all music activities.

1. Be on time (early) to rehearsals and performances. Be in your place with folder and materials when the bell sounds.
2. Talking is not appropriate during rehearsal unless permission is given (Music is an art that requires listening and concentration).
3. Proper singing posture is expected. Your body is the instrument.
4. Always have your choir folder, music and a sharpened pencil.
5. No food or gum allowed in the choir room without permission. Water only.
6. A positive attitude and effort is vital to the success of performances and rehearsals.
7. Proper concert etiquette is expected at all performances.
8. Cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices are not allowed during rehearsal or performances. They must be silenced and out of sight.

Students will be required to purchase a choir t-shirt at the beginning of the school year.

Concert Dress requirements will be sent out several weeks before each concert.

Transportation

Bus transportation will be provided whenever the choir travels. Choir members must ride the school bus provided by the district. The only exception is if a student rides with their parents, in which case a note from the parent is required and must be given to the director before the event.

Choir Letter

A choir letter can be earned through accumulation of choir points and by satisfying certain criteria. The student must be enrolled in choir for **minimum of 3 semesters**, earn a total of a **1000 pts**, and maintain a **B average**.

*See your instructor for a choir letter point tally sheet for details

Scholarships

The Falls Choir Parent Association, a non-profit organization, sets aside funds every year for vocal music scholarships. There are many summer music camps throughout the state. Most last up to a week and can be very beneficial to those students wishing to enrich their music studies. It is also a great way to meet new friends. Graduating seniors who intend on studying vocal music, theater, or music education in college can apply for scholarships as well.

The application deadline for scholarships is May 1. See your instructor for details. Scholarship amounts depend of funds available through the Falls Choir Parent Association and the number of applicants.

Falls Choir Association

Parental involvement is very important to a choral music program. A strong program will continue and develop even further with the generous involvement of choir parents. The Falls Choir Association, a non-profit organization, is a support group for the choir students and their programs. The purpose is to provide financial support and assistance for the choir program at Menomonee Falls HS and Middle School. The FCA is active in assisting students at Solo and Ensemble, fundraising campaigns, choir trips, choir cabaret, and much more. The FCA also provides scholarships to vocal students to further their studies. **Last year the FCA gave out over \$1500 in scholarship money to our choir students.** Everyone benefits from the assistance of the Falls Choir Association.

The first Falls Choir Association Meeting will be Wednesday Sept. 10 at 7PM in the HS choir room. You will have an opportunity to meet other board members and learn about the choir program in Menomonee Falls. Regular monthly meetings for the board and committee chairs are held in the HS choir room the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Meetings begin at 7 PM with visitors always welcome. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to chair or serve on a committee, please email FCA president Cal Atkinson cal@britproductions.com or call 262-894-1008

Please sign and return the bottom of this page of the as soon as you have read through the Menomonee Falls Choral Handbook.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Brian Scheehle

Date: _____

Printed parent name

Parent Signature

Printed student name

Student signature

Menomonee Falls High School

Choral

Music

Handbook

2013-2014

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Brian Scheehle, Director