*Worcester Central School*

*Vocal Music Department*

*Guidelines for Chorus 2015-2016*

 *This handbook is meant to be a guide for students and parents involved with the WCS Chorus program to understand what is expected in being a member of the WCS Choirs. Please read it carefully, sign the contract and return the contract sheet to Ms. Hamwey. Please keep the handbook for your reference throughout the school year and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Hamwey at 397-8785 ext. 136. Students will need to return the contract sheet by the end of the week of October 2, 2015. The returned contract will be the first graded assignment of the quarter.*

Chorus Guidelines

 Purpose:

 To provide a quality chorus for students

 To provide students the opportunity to learn the skill of singing and working within a group

 To provide a variety of experiences in performing excellent quality choral music

 Expectations:

 Students are on time and ready to sing

 Students will sing and listen at all times, even when the director is working with a different voice part

 Each student will work hard to learn and master his or her own voice part

 Students will cooperate for the good of the group

 Students will demonstrate polite, courteous, and respectful manners at all times to everyone (Both the director and fellow chorus members)

 Students will come to rehearsals with a positive, open minded attitude

 Misconceptions:

 Chorus is play or free time, fun time and no work

 We are here to sing songs that we know

 When a different voice part is working, I am not

 I am here for the credit/to get out of study hall

 Responsibilities:

 Attending and participating in rehearsals with the proper attitude

 Write down concert and event dates listed on the chorus

 room bulletin board

 Attending dress rehearsals and concerts (mandatory for grade)

 To know your voice part and learn your part at the time of study

 Cooperate during rehearsals for the good of the group

 Electronic devices must be put away for rehearsal

 Chorus members do not chew gum in the music rooms

Rehearsal Expectations

Students are expected to be on time for rehearsals. All chromebooks , books, phones and bags will be left in a designated area and folders retrieved at that time. The rehearsal order will be posted on the board for all members to take notice and assigned spots will be used in this class. Students will take care of their folders and music. There is no gum allowed in the music room. Any disruptive behavior that interrupts a rehearsal will cause that student to be asked to leave. Three removals from rehearsal will cause the student to no longer be a member of the choir.

Concerts and Performances

Students are required to attend all concerts, assemblies, performances and field trips throughout the school year. These events are clearly and timely listed on the chorus room bulletin board and can be found in the school newsletter and the district calendar on the school website. Public performances are a necessary part of the chorus program and are designed for the education of the student. The concert is the culmination of the work done in rehearsals, and is mandatory. Sickness and death in the family are the only legitimate excuses for absence. The director must be notified in the event there is an excusable absence prior to the concert/ event. Parents are asked to schedule trips and vacations around the concerts. Please refer to the contract for more information regarding concert attendance.

 Concert Calendar

These events have been placed on the school calendar and are required for all members of chorus to attend. Please place them on your calendar. Concerts will be in the auditorium.

December 17 THURS Jr. and Sr. High Holiday Concert 7:30 pm

May 19 THURS Jr. and Elementary Spring Concert  **7:00** pm

May 25 WED Sr. High Spring Concert 7:30 pm

Concert Dress

It is important that the chorus project a feeling of unity and pride in order to perform to their highest ability. Concert dress for chorus will only be what is considered the students best, dressy clothes. Specifically, dressy means the following:

Gentlemen- dark pants (NO JEANS), button down shirt and/or tie,

 shoes or dark sneakers (no white)

 Ladies- dress pants and blouse, dress, or skirt and blouse

 (no t-shirts or mini- skirts)

 shoes (no sneakers)

Anyone having problems with this dress code must contact Ms. Hamwey at least 2 weeks prior to the concert.

Extra-Curricular Music Activities

The Otsego County Music Educators Association sponsors and organizes the All-County Music Festival each year. The festival takes place during the month of March and gives choir students the opportunity to sing with the best music students in the county. Acceptance into these festivals is by audition which is held on Saturday, November 1st. A sign up for interested students will be posted on the bulletin board in the Chorus room. Participation in rehearsals, auditions and or festival will be counted as extra credit for chorus for that quarter.

Grading Policies

Chorus member’s grades will be based on a combination of the following assessments:

 1. Rehearsal procedures- participation at rehearsals, attitude, cooperation with other choir members and the director, attendance at concerts and rehearsals, punctuality, care of folder and pencil

 2. Vocal ability-technique, intonation, diction (evaluated individually at 2nd and 4th quarters)

 3. Reading ability-pitch, intervals, rhythm (evaluated individually at 2nd and 4th quarters)

 4. Written assignments- current events, music analysis, etc.

 5. Extra credit- participation in extra- curricular music activities (such as All County)

During 2nd and 4th quarters I will be holding private vocal evaluations as part of the student’s grades. The students will be notified well in advance when these evaluations will take place and what piece we will be singing. Reading ability will also be practiced prior to evaluation. Cooperation and participation are major areas of importance and will be graded accordingly.

Worcester Central School

Chorus Contract

 2014-2015

This contract is designed to help you the student meet your responsibilities and obligations to your chorus this school year. In signing this contract, you and your parents are making a commitment for you to be part of this group. Our chorus need you and expects you to be an excellent member during this school year.

 The expectations and requirements for your membership in chorus are found in this handbook. By signing below, you are saying that you have read and understood the whole handbook.

 In addition, you are saying that you understand the following policies, and that you agree to their enforcement.

1. The school handbook music policy states ;All students who are enrolled in Band and Chorus for credit must participate in all activities of such groups including, but not limited to, rehearsals, concerts, parades.

2. Absence from scheduled performances or activities without a written excuse or phone call to the director AHEAD OF TIME will result in the student failing the marking period.

3. Reduced credit in chorus will result from a student missing a scheduled concert or activity and having a previously failed quarter for the same reason, in-excused absence.

4. A student asked to leave the rehearsal of chorus 3 times will be removed from the group (3 strikes and you are out).

Please return this signed contract to Ms. Hamwey by Fri. oct. 2, 2015

I have read and agree to all the information in this handbook.

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 Student Signature/ Date Parent Signature/ Date