

Warren High School

Downey, CA

“Making Excellence A Tradition”



Choir Handbook 2006-2007

Warren High School Choral Department
8141 DePalma St.
Downey, CA 90241

Dear Choral Parents,

On Behalf of the Warren High School Choral Department, I would like to welcome you to the family. Your son or daughter is embarking on a musical adventure that will bring them a satisfying, educational, exciting and memorable experience that will live a lifetime. The benefits of musical training will carry over into academic work and on to careers and hobbies later in life. Learning to sing gives a person skill, confidence and an appreciation for beauty.

The Warren Choral Department is quickly establishing a reputation for excellence at local, regional, and national levels. Our young men and women have earned deserved accolades and awards based on their commitment to excellence and love of music. Membership in this organization carries many privileges: with these privileges comes responsibilities and rewards.

This handbook is intended to outline rules, policies, expectations, and opportunities for choir students.

I commit to teach, inspire and instill in your children values that will produce successful and productive members of society.

I am excited about this year. The choirs are growing as word spreads throughout the school about the learning and fun the students have in the choral department. With their youthful enthusiasm and dedicated support, we will have a great year of making music together.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Petersen
Choral Director, Warren High school

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Placement in the Warren choirs will be based on sight-reading ability, tonal memory, tone quality, attitude, and academic eligibility.

The choir program is set up as follows:

Mixed Choir: First time choir members with any level of musical experience are welcome. Offers instruction in basic music theory and vocal technique and is open to any student with no previous vocal training. The development of correct posture and breathing technique will be stressed. Concert participation is required.

Women's Choir: For women wishing to further develop singing and performance skills. A limited amount of time is spent on study of music theory and vocal technique. The majority of time is spent on concert literature. This group will perform at public functions, concerts, and festivals. Concert participation is required. Participation in this choir may be determined by an audition to assess the student's vocal technique, sight-reading skills and attitude.

Men's Choir: A performing group of tenor and bass voices that represent the school at public functions and concerts. No previous singing experience needed. A limited amount of time is spent on study of basic vocal technique. The majority of time is spent on concert literature. Concert participation is required.

Vocal Ensemble: A select group of advanced singers that represent the school at public functions and concerts. Concert participation is required. Performs advanced music. Participation in this choir may be determined by an audition to assess the student's vocal technique, sight-reading skills and attitude. Previous high school level choir experience is required.

Concert Choir: This group is made up of Women's choir, Men's choir and Vocal Ensemble all combined. Music will be rehearsed during their respective classes. Students must be enrolled in either Women's Choir, Men's Choir, or Vocal Ensemble in order to perform with Concert Choir.

Note: Students must re-audition each year.

Previous years concert attendance, choir grades, sectional/rehearsal attendance, and extra-curricular choir activities will be considered when placing students in an advanced choir.

GPA is essential and is considered when placing students in advanced level choirs.

CONDUCT

Warren High School choir students have a high profile on campus and in the community. It is imperative that the conduct and appearance of all choir students be above reproach. Choir members have the opportunity to participate in exciting field trips and activities. As representatives of Warren High School, DUSD, and the city of Downey our young people must reflect an image of positive leadership, responsibility and character.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

1. Be on time.
2. Be courteous and respectful to fellow students, choir director, guests, chaperones, and parents.
3. Follow instructions the first time.
4. No gum during rehearsal.
5. Keep hands, feet and object to yourself.
6. Use of the restroom is for emergencies only.

CONSEQUENCES:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Removal from rehearsal. Phone call home.
3. Referral.
4. Parent conference.
5. Removal from class.

TARDIES:

Choir members are considered tardy if they are not in the room when the bell rings. This does not include the hallway or the restroom. Excessive unexcused tardies will negatively effect the students grade.

THEFT:

Taking things from other choir members, or from the choir room will NOT be tolerated. Punishment will be handled according to the WHS discipline code as well as removal from the choir program.

VANDELISM:

Students are not to write on folders, furniture, walls, music stands or other equipment in the choir room. Punishment will be handled according to the WHS discipline code as well as removal from the choir program.

THE GOLDEN RULE OF CHOIR:

1. To get respect you must treat others with it.
2. Treat the choir room like a palace and it will become one.
3. Don't do or say anything you would be embarrassed to let your Grandma know about.

GRADING SYSTEM

30% Participation (classroom and rehearsal activities)

Being prepared to start rehearsals when the director is ready. Using rehearsal time appropriately. Not talking or goofing around on the risers. Attendance.

40% Performances (punctuality, uniform, concert etiquette)

All of the choir classes are performance driven classes. All concerts are co-curricular and are mandatory. Students who participate appropriately in concerts receive a grade of 100. Points will be deducted for tardiness, inappropriate uniform, leaving early, or poor concert etiquette.

30% Attitude and Effort

Singing with a happy attitude. Volunteering for extra jobs. Setting up chairs, cleaning the room, etc.

Extra credit:

Extra credit may be available. For missed performances some students may be able to learn the music and join another choir and perform with them. Also a two page written report on a composer of the director's choice is an option for bringing up a low participation grade.

Conflicts with choir activities:

When a student is involved in more than one activity that requires after school time, the best thing to do is notify all affected parties (choir director, parents, coaches, employers etc.) when there is a conflict so that there is time to determine how to handle the conflict.

Absences:

Any excused absence consists of personal illness or unforeseen family emergency. All absences must be approved prior to performances. An unexcused absence will result in an automatic zero for that concert.

Eligibility:

Choir students need to keep their grades up in all of their classes! Choir students receiving less than a 70% in any of their classes may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. I will be considering this on a case-by-case basis and will consult with teachers, administrators and parents in making a decision on whether or not to exclude a student.

Choir concerts fall under the category of co-curricular (part of the course requirement). The following choir activities are considered extracurricular and eligibility becomes an issue: any trips, festivals or competitions.

OUTFITS

Vocal Ensemble:

Ladies: Go to **Monyn's Diseños de Moda** and get measured and pay a deposit by **September 15.**

Maria Beltran is who you need to see and pay.

The address is: 10029 Tecum Rd.
 Downey, CA 90240
 562/927-8416

Go north on Old River School Road just past Florence, on the left.

You will also need to purchase pearls and ear rings from Mr. Petersen for \$10.00

Guys: Go to **Downey Rent A Tux** and get measured and pay a deposit by **September 15.**

Women's Choir:

Go to **Monyn's Diseños de Moda** and get measured and pay a deposit by **September 29.**

Maria Beltran is who you need to see and pay.

The address is: 10029 Tecum Rd.
 Downey, CA 90240
 562/927-8416

Go north on Old River School Road just past Florence, on the left.

You will also need to purchase pearls and ear rings from Mr. Petersen for \$10.00

Men's Choir

Black Dress slacks, black socks, dress shoes, white dress shirt, tie.

Mixed Choir

Girls: White Blouse (modest) and a black skirt or a black dress.

Guys: Black Dress slacks, black socks, dress shoes, white dress shirt, tie.

NO TENNIS SHOES, OR SNEAKERS.

- All of the choirs will be purchasing polo shirts for casual performances. They are \$26.00 and need to be ordered as soon as possible from Mr. Petersen.
- Pictures will be taken in October. All outfits need to be purchased by picture day.

CAN YOU HELP?

- _____ Bring a grill to the back to school party on September 13.
- _____ Cook hamburgers and hotdogs for the back to school party on September 13.
- _____ Help chaperone at the back to school party on September 13. (From 5 –8 PM)
- _____ Make a programs for the Holiday and Spring concerts.
- _____ Decorate for our end of the year banquet in June.
- _____ Help organize a car wash fund raiser.
- _____ Come and help wash cars.
- _____ Chaperone to a festival in the spring. (ride a bus)

Name _____ Phone _____

Student's name _____

Please list anything you are good at that you wouldn't mind helping with. Example:

Do you paint? Do you do construction? Do you weld? Do you have a truck? Do you lay carpet?
Do you sew? Do you decorate? Do you cook or bake? Can you make web sites? Are you a
graphic designer?

Financial Agreement

Each Choir will have different expenses throughout the year. Performance outfits, polo shirts, T-shirts, festivals, trips. Depending on which choir your students is in the prices will vary from group to group.

Every choir student has a choir account. When we do fundraiser or if the student's bring in money to pay for things their account is credited. Money from this account may be used for all choir expenses, trips, shirts, etc. This money will also carry over from year to year.

Please indicate how you will be paying for this years choir expenses.

___ One Payment for both semesters to be received by October 15.

___ Two payments – one for each semester to be received by October 15 and February 15.

___ We will be participating in the fund-raising
We understand that if the entire fee is not paid by these fundraisers, We will pay the entire balance for either semester by no later than the first six weeks of each semester. We will participate in the following fundraisers.

___ Uncle Jer's Cookies (fall)

___ Car Wash (Spring)

___ Snack Shack (there will be a very limited number of positions available every 9 weeks based on availability)

If you have ideas for fundraising please let me know.

Choir Polo Shirt Order Form **\$26.00**

Choir Shirt Size Ordered

Student Shirt ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXXL

Parents show your support and get your own shirt!

Extra Shirt ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXXL

Add \$1.50 for XXL – price includes sales tax.

Warren High School
Choir Student Medical Release Form

Student Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: () _____

Birthdate: ___/___/___ Sex: Male ___ Female ___ Email: _____

Father's Name _____ Work Phone () _____

Mother's Name _____ Work Phone () _____

Guardian's Name _____ Phone() _____

Person to be notified IF PARENTS/GUARDIAN cannot be reached:

Name _____ Phone () _____

EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Choice of Physician: _____ Phone () _____

Does your child have a special health problem or is he/she currently taking medications?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, what specific health problem and/or what medication should we be aware of?

List all known allergies:

Insurance Carrier: _____ Group ID Number _____

Phone () _____

In the unlikely event that my child becomes ill or is injured and I or the authorized physician named above cannot be immediately contacted at the time of an emergency, and if in the judgment of the teacher is that urgent observation or treatment is necessary, I authorize and direct the staff to send my child (properly accompanied) to the hospital, or physician most easily accessible. I release the teacher, the school district, their employees and agents from any claim of liability in connection therewith.

Date signed: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Please sign and turn in as soon as possible.

Student's Name (print) _____

I have read and agree to abide by the policies of the Warren High School Choral Department.

Parent / Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

DATABASE INFORMATION

(please print in dark ink)

Student's E-mail address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Grade _____ Voice Part _____

Street Address _____

Previous involvement in music ensembles at WHS:

Name of group _____ years _____

Name of group _____ years _____

Name of group _____ years _____

Parent/Guardian's full name (s) _____

Parent/Guardian's E-Mail Address _____