

2016-2017

**Wheaton Warrenville
South High School**

Classics

Handbook

Revised 5/27/16

2016-2017 WWSHS Classics Handbook

The Classics is a highly selective and competitive show choir that performs regularly throughout the community in addition to its competition schedule in the winter/spring. This extracurricular choir serves as the public ambassador for an extensive choral program at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. The group has been in existence for over 30 years, having performed both locally and nationally and won numerous awards during its tenure at the school. The Classics show choir strives to provide the highest quality of music and dance education for its members, while continuing to uphold its reputation as a fine performing ensemble.

The Classics is a mixed choral ensemble that will consist of freshman - senior girls and boys. **All show choir members are also expected to participate in the curricular music program at WWSHS to continue to develop their vocal technique and overall musicianship.** Private vocal or dance lessons are also encouraged.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the group will rehearse for two and a half hours nearly every Monday and Thursday evening. The past several years, The Classics were quite successful in their competitive efforts, and we hope for the same to be true in the upcoming season. Our competition schedule will be challenging and take us to some high-profile regional competitions throughout the Midwest. Perhaps the most notable competition appearance will be at the 9th Annual WWS Choral Invitational, held on March 10-11, 2017.

Each year, the student members of The Classics have the opportunity to work with some of the best show production experts in the country. Not only does this allow them to maximize their performing potential, it gives them great insight into the workings of the professional performing world. While the group keeps a very tight and strict schedule, its members have a lot of fun along the way, building friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

General Guidelines

The show choir season lasts throughout the school year beginning with the Retreat in August and ending in April with Cabaret.

Attitude is the key in making this experience successful for you. What you get out of your participation is a product of the attitude you bring and the effort you exert, and has an impact on those around you.

Respect from others is a reflection of what you give. Support one another in all efforts, both during and outside of performances. In a group, you are only as good as the person next to you.

Commitment occurs in EVERY rehearsal and performance. Please see the **Attendance** section of the handbook for policies pertaining to absences, tardies, etc. Again, potential absences from major rehearsals and performances (see above) should be cleared ***prior to the student's participation in the dance audition.***

Prepare for each and every rehearsal. In order to be at your best, you will need to work on individual issues with the material outside of rehearsal to ensure that all time spent with the group is as productive as it can be for all members.

Each student is responsible for these established guidelines. If you feel you cannot fully commit to the program, it is recommended that you not participate at this time.

Attendance

It is a privilege to be a member of The Classics, and there are countless students who would love to be in the choir that do not ever get the opportunity to become a member of this prestigious group. Likewise, many students and their families make considerable sacrifices to make membership in The Classics a possibility for them. As such, it is important that all members honor this commitment to full participation. That commitment begins by being present and attending rehearsals/performances as follows:

1. Students are ***required to be in attendance for all performances and practices.*** In order to ensure the best possible experience for all members of the group, students are expected to commit to our ensemble's schedule. Any deviation from this expectation is at the sole discretion of the director.

2. Excused tardiness or absences due to a school-sponsored event will be considered. **Prior communication with the directing staff is essential in these cases.**
3. Excused absence from school due to illness is also an excused absence from show choir and will not count towards your allotted absences. **Communication with the director (phone call or e-mail the day of the absence) will help to alleviate potential misunderstandings.**
4. Unexcused tardiness will not be tolerated. Three late arrivals will result in removal from the group.
5. Re-admittance into the group, following dismissal for attendance purposes, will be pending upon a conference between the director, student and parent(s)/guardian(s).

Performance Etiquette/Costumes/Appearance Standards

Each performance is important and is to be the very best experience our audience can have. Be excited and physically involved. Be artistic, expressive, and worth watching and hearing every time you are on stage. ***No performance is any more or less important than any other.*** Because of that, students should tend to their appearance (hair, makeup, and uniforms) in the same way ***every time*** they are in front of an audience so that our looks will not in any way take away from the audience's focus on our performance. (The directing staff will clearly communicate any exceptions to this policy.)

Members are responsible for ALL costume pieces purchased and assigned. Garments and accessories must be cleaned and complete for EACH performance. You will not perform if this condition is not met. All assigned jewelry and garments shall be worn appropriately for performances, and no unassigned jewelry or clothing will be permitted. Students should be clean shaven (guys: **NO** facial hair with the exception of eyebrows and eyelashes). Hair should be worn out of the face (girls: half up with full-bodied curls), and girls should wear stage-appropriate makeup.

Costs

Due to the rising costs of operating a highly competitive show choir program (the annual wear and tear of garments and the custom nature of the clothing worn by each student, custom music arrangements, nationally-renown clinicians, etc.), most of the costume, music, equipment, travel, competition and prop expenses will be paid in full by the participants. The difference seen in costs comes from the nature of the Esprit club status.

Classics Cost: \$1,400

Payment Schedule: \$350 due on 6/1, 8/24, 9/10, 10/5

Please note that all payments are non-refundable

Recognizing that this is a considerable cost to any family, we will continue to work diligently to provide fundraising opportunities for students to be able to offset the costs associated with The Classic and Esprit. ***As is established policy, no student will be excluded from the activity for reasons of financial hardship.*** If you are in need of an individualized payment plan, please contact Mr. Miller for Classics and Mike Moukheiber (630-336-8894) for Esprit.

Competitions

Competition days usually consist of an **all-day** (and sometimes even an all-weekend) commitment. We will travel together by bus and arrive early enough for set up and preparation. This will include the awards presentation and possibly a performance in the evening finals. Before and after our performance, we will support the other show choirs in attendance. Please plan your day accordingly. Some general guidelines for competitions:

1. We attend competitions to watch other groups in addition to performing ourselves. **Therefore, the homeroom will be locked when not in use preparing for our show.**
2. The Classics represent WWSHS and the community at all times, not just during the performance. Please be organized, well-mannered, well-groomed, and polite for the duration of the contest.
3. After we have completed our preliminary performance, the student members will go directly to the homeroom and reset all garments for the next performance. Do not leave any articles of clothing misplaced or off of a hanger outside of your garment bag. Any loss of garments could result in removal from future performances and/or expensive replacement costs.
4. **Support other groups and their efforts.** Remember: no student wants to be in the world's *worst* show choir. Please be respectful of all others in attendance. Do not speak negatively about choirs, students, schools, parents, judges, etc. Rather, choose to celebrate the accomplishments of others. (This applies to both students AND adults representing WWSHS!)

Travel Guidelines

As we prepare for our travels, keep in mind the purpose of each trip. Making music of the highest caliber is our first priority. The Classics represent our school, communities and state as musical ambassadors. As such, we carry great responsibility, both individually and collectively. We are called upon to demonstrate for the duration of our travels the very best in personal behavior, integrity, group/team attitude, and, of course, musicality, which is, in turn, representative of the highest standards. By behaving responsibly and mindfully, and by planning ahead, we will all have a GREAT experience. Some specific guidelines:

1. Be **early** to the bus so that we may depart on time. We will not move until all are accounted for. *To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late.* A cardinal rule of touring is that you NEVER keep the group waiting.
2. Our bus time is best used to rest the voice, visit with your neighbor, read, watch a video, and relax. Please avoid shouting and generally trying to be heard over the ambient din of the bus.
3. Please remember that the bus is our home on the road for the tour, and that each member will be responsible to take care of his/her belongings, space and any trash. We are guests on the bus and must treat the vehicle and our space accordingly.
4. Attire for traveling is to be neat and clean. Assume dress is uniform while we are together representing the group in public. This will include blue jeans, black shirt, gym shoes and white Classics jacket. The director will be clear as to when there might be exceptions to this.
5. You must be quiet in public spaces such as hotels, meeting rooms, convention centers, etc. Please respect the space of other travelers, and of anyone else sharing a room, bus, plane, restaurant, etc.
6. **THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE RULE FOR ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE.** No tobacco, alcohol, or drugs! *Any person who violates this rule will be sent home at their expense, and be prosecuted to the fullest extent of school conduct code and the law.* While there will be chaperones present throughout a trip, it is expected that parents send their children on tour only after discussing responsible choices and behaviors. Parents accept full liability for injuries, accidents and events brought about by the behaviors and actions of their child.
7. The director makes all room assignments in advance. No changes will be made unless initiated by the director. If visiting hours are permitted by the director, the door must be propped open enough that the chaperones may **easily** see inside. *This includes same-gendered visitors.* Each evening, curfew will be established by the director as dictated by the hotel and our evening activities. For your safety and for the integrity of the choir, curfew means to be in your room for the night. After curfew, questions such as "May I go to the vending machines?" or, "May I go to ___'s room?", etc. will be answered simply, "No." Any disturbance in hotels or public areas which in any way compromises our roles as musical ambassadors for WWS will not be tolerated.
8. All expenses incurred on the trip (meals, etc.) not covered by the school or choir program are the responsibility of the participants.
9. In general, *be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there, doing what you are supposed to do, in the way you are supposed to do it.*

Summer Camps

Summer camp information (Showchoir Camps of America, Rising Stars, University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin, etc.) is available from the director, and all choir members

are expected to take advantage of these opportunities. Although these camps are not included in your fees for the year, it is highly recommended to take advantage of any opportunities available to you that will help to improve your performing skills.

Leadership Positions

The Classics are so successful due mostly to the ownership that the student members and their parents take in leading the group. Whenever possible, students will be given responsibility for aspects of the experience within their control (i.e. Dance Captains, Social Chairs, etc.) While this is certainly not an exhaustive listing of that which needs to be done, it gives a good indication of some of the ways that students can be involved in the choir's leadership. Some of these roles are voted upon; others will be appointed by the director.

In addition to the aforementioned student leadership positions, there will be many opportunities for parents to become involved with The Classics to help coordinate other volunteer activities, head committees, and provide valuable assistance throughout the course of the year. Most of the parent positions are filled on a volunteer basis, and opportunities will be available in many of the following categories as well as several others not mentioned here:

Invitational	Retreat	Wardrobe
Fundraising	Spirit/Fan Support	Props and Set
Chaperoning	Banquet	

Remember: our success is contingent upon your participation in the operation of the group. Please feel free to volunteer for the committees as much as is possible. Thank you in advance for your help!

All policies and their administration are at the discretion of the director with no exceptions. If you have any questions or concerns about the above guidelines, please contact Mr. Miller (wwsclassics@gmail.com) before auditioning for the choir.