



Hello WMS Choir Students & Parents!

Happy New Year! While we're starting a new calendar year, we're also nearing the end of the first semester. The WMS Choirs are continuing to focus on success in the classroom and online as we develop character for life while doing what we love to do...SING! All Choir students who were in school this week received a Choir Code T-Shirt which is what we will use as a uniform for some special occasions between now and the end of the school year. Our focus for the next few weeks will be on music literacy and the concept of pitch in particular. We will be learning solfege syllables and hand signs as well as letter names including how to identify both of these on the staff. We will have fun with some call and response and play everyone's favorite solfege game - Forbidden Pattern! We will explore the basic chords and the progressions that are the foundation for all music I-V-vi-IV (especially pop/rock music and even traditional classical songs). We will also begin learning more about some of the expressive elements of music including tempos, dynamics, and articulations. One song in particular captures all of these topics incredibly well - Galop by Ken Berg. We might also explore a lyric-writing activity since the song is originally written entirely in solfege! I look forward to sharing this song and several others with family and friends at the end of the year! Speaking of the end of the year, it might seem strange to be thinking of that right now when it's the first week of 2021, but that is exactly where we're looking - June of 2021 - the end of this school year and hopefully, the 5th annual Choir Code Celebration - REIMAGINED! With hopes of warmer weather and fewer restrictions by June, we are beginning to make plans for a big celebration that will feature the WMS Choir students in a variety of ways. If necessary, everything will be recorded and shared online. If possible, we would like to try to have an outdoor event based on whatever will be allowed in June. We'll just have to wait and see how things progress. While we're waiting, we'll be working hard! Thank you to all of the parents who are supporting your kids and their desire to SING! :-)

The Traverse City West Choir Organization (TCWCO) **Parent Meeting** is tomorrow (Saturday) from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Please consider joining us via [Zoom](#)! Here is the join info: **Meeting ID: 737 1807 7647**
Passcode: 9Jsppb It would be wonderful to have representation from WMS! The agenda covers everything from fundraising to volunteer needs, upcoming events, and future goals for the program. I've also posted the meeting link / info on the [WMS Choir Facebook page](#).

Sincerely,

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