



Hello WMS Choir Students & Parents!

Happy Snow Day! Second Semester is off to a great start and winter has finally sent us a big snow storm! I'd like to extend a special welcome to all of the new students joining the Choir family this semester. We are thrilled to have you on our team and will do our best to get you caught up as much as possible on music literacy and vocal technique as we continue to learn how to SING! 6th Grade students have been pursuing perfection and some have even attained the coveted 100% on the music literacy pre-test. Many of the fundamentals we learn in music need to be memorized in order to read the music and perform what the composer has written. This includes many terms in Italian as well as a lot of symbols and abbreviations in addition to basic notation indicating both pitch and rhythmic value. Students who have not yet scored a 100% will continue to take this practice test as they improve their memorization of the various elements of music literacy. Once they achieve this, they will move on to a variety of speed challenges which are embedded on the [Choir website](#) from www.musictheory.net. 7th & 8th grade students are using these very music literacy skills as we practice new sight-reading examples each day and apply the same tools to new songs. Since Choir is about so much more than just understanding how to read music or sing the right pitches and rhythms, we've also really been enjoying singing some of our favorite songs along with some YouTube lyric videos and our favorite artists...sometimes we even use a karaoke video so we just hear our own voices. This activity is definitely a student favorite and I've truly enjoyed hearing some incredible singing from these outstanding young people! A couple weeks ago we also enjoyed a day of dancing...some of your kids have some serious moves!! 🕺🕴️🕶️

As I shared in my last newsletter, it seems like we're always looking ahead, and this month is no different. Scheduling for classes for next school year begins soon and **I'd LOVE to have all of this year's Choir students continue to SING!** I've recently been visiting some of the local elementary schools to talk with 5th grade students about their musical opportunities at West Middle School. When I asked the 6th grade Choir students what I should make sure to tell them, they said that most importantly they felt **safe** and **comfortable** in the **Choir room**. Secondly, they made lots of great **friendships**. Thirdly, they loved to **SING!** I'm honestly okay with that order. In fact, it lines up perfectly with our priorities. We often talk about Choir being like an extended family and a place where we can truly express ourselves and our emotions in a safe, friendly environment. Singing in a choir is one of the best ways we can do that. The harmonies and blending of so many voices is an experience that is difficult to describe. If you've ever sung in a choir, then you know how amazing it can be! If you've even just attended a concert, you've experienced the waves of sound wash over you. Sadly this past year has been void of any live choir performances. We hope to change that by the end of this school year and we're working hard to make sure we're ready to put on an amazing show if we can! The next Traverse City West Choir Organization (TCWCO) **Parent Meeting** is Saturday, February 13th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Please consider joining us via Zoom. 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'll post the meeting link / info on the [WMS Choir Facebook page](#) next week.

Sincerely,

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P.S. Make sure to check out the [Music Booster Scholarship Application](#) if you're interested in taking private voice lessons!