

# Sunflower Elementary 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir

Parent Information  
2022-2023 School Year

I am very pleased that your student has indicated an interest in singing as a member of the Sunflower Elementary 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade choir this year. This will be the Choir's thirteenth year, and the group has a history of producing excellent performances with highly motivated students. I am pleased to be able to offer Choir as an opportunity again this year to both 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Following is some very important information regarding being part of this group:

## Program Objectives:

- Encourage students to work together toward a common goal
- Encourage choral and solo singing
- Prepare and perform concerts
- Promote an appreciation for music.

## Performances:

- Winter Concert: Thursday, December 15th, 2022
- Spring Concert: Thursday, May 4th, 2023
- Both performances will take place at Southwest Middle School in the auditorium in the evening. (Times TBA)

## Classroom Rules:

- School rules are still in effect and should be followed during choir.
- We are here to sing! This is not an activity for bored students or an extra time to talk to friends. Participation is a key expectation of being a member of this group.
- Students are given two chances to be reminded to stay on task during rehearsal. If they need to be reminded to stay on task a third time, they will be dismissed from rehearsal for the remainder of the period. If this becomes a consistent issue, the student may be dismissed from the group at Mr. Gipson's discretion.

## Attendance:

- Rehearsals follow this schedule every week:
- Wednesdays: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students from 7:50-8:35 a.m.
- Thursdays: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students from 7:50-8:35 a.m.
- Attendance is very important! If your student is not at rehearsal, then they will not know the music. Please make every effort for your student to attend all rehearsals. I do not require a note when a student is absent, however if attendance/tardiness becomes a problem, your student may be placed on probation, with an ultimate result of dismissal from the group if the problem is consistent. **This attendance policy will be strictly enforced-participation in the group may be revoked as a privilege if tardiness/absence becomes a major issue.**
- Students will be allowed no more than two unexcused absences during each concert preparation period (September-December, January-May) If a student is excused from school for the day, they are excused from choir rehearsal.
- **If you are well enough to come to school, you are well enough to come to choir rehearsal!**
- These rules are not intended to punish the students, but to encourage them to learn responsibility and to allow us to have the best possible performances.

**Excused vs. Unexcused Absences** – If a student is excused from school on a given day, for illness, travel, or other reason, that student is excused from Sunflower Choir as well. However, if a student misses Choir, but is present for the rest of the school day, his or her absence from Choir is considered unexcused. An exception to this would be a medical

appointment. However, if at all possible, please try to schedule such appointments at another time. Absences of any kind can negatively affect both the group and the student's individual progress.

Following are some unacceptable excuses:

1. My parents were gone.
2. I couldn't find a ride.
3. I didn't know we had rehearsal.
4. I didn't hear the announcement.
5. I forgot it was "Wednesday/Thursday/Friday."
6. I thought you said we didn't have to come.
7. My alarm didn't go off.
8. My throat was sore. (No fever? Come anyway. Use your brain instead of your voice!)

If your student will miss Sunflower Choir, a quick email or phone message is extremely helpful! However, please understand that simply emailing me about your student's absence **does not automatically make it excused**. Choir members are expected to be at EVERY rehearsal. If you have a situation that would cause your student to miss many rehearsals, participation in this group may not be a good fit for your student at this time.

Drop-Off:

- Choir rehearsals begin promptly at 7:50 a.m. every Wednesday (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Thursday (5<sup>th</sup> Grade),
- Students are to enter the building through the outside entrance to the music room, located where Sunflower Elementary connects with Southwest Middle School.
- Mr. Gipson will open the door for students beginning at 7:40 a.m.. Each student will have their temperature taken and given sanitizer before being allowed entry.
- Only choir members will be allowed into the building at this time. **Siblings and friends need to wait until 8:30 and enter through the main entrance to the building.**
- **I will lock the door at 7:55 a.m.** If a student is late and cannot enter the music room, they may NOT enter the building through the Boys & Girls Club Entrance or through the front door, and their absence will be considered unexcused. Exceptions will be made for days with extremely rainy/cold weather.

What if rehearsal is cancelled?

On occasion, I will need to cancel rehearsal for various reasons. If I know I will be gone from school, I will announce this well in advance. In an emergency situation (ex: I need to stay home to take care of my sick child) I will send out both an e-mail and a text to parent's accounts/phones. You will be asked to provide your e-mail address and cell phone information so that this will be possible. I use an App called "Remind" that will enable me to quickly send a text to all Choir parents simultaneously. You will receive an e-mail asking you to sign up for this free service in which your information will not be visible. I feel that this will be the quickest way to let parents know about rehearsal cancellations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

**Membership Disclaimer:**

**Because of spacing considerations, I will be limiting the number of students who may participate in the Choir to 60 members, which includes 30 members from both grade levels. (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Membership spots will be filled in the order that permission slips are received, and, if necessary, a wait-list will be generated if all 60 spots fill up.**

