

kishwaukee
children's
chorus

A series of black musical notes of varying sizes and positions, including eighth and quarter notes, are scattered around the text, primarily to the right and slightly below the word 'children's'.

2009-2010 Handbook

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Kishwaukee Children's Chorus
2009-2010 Handbook

I. Introduction

Kishwaukee Children's Chorus (KCC) is a community children's chorus comprised of musically talented children, grades 3-6, who are committed to learning and performing a wide variety of children's choral music. KCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit faith-based organization emphasizing the development of musical and performance skills as well as promoting excellence in all areas of life (musical, academic, spiritual).

II. Mission Statement

The mission of KCC is to provide the children of DeKalb county with opportunity for artistic, spiritual, and personal growth through choral music performance.

III. Philosophy of Excellence

The philosophy of excellence which guides the mission of KCC is rooted in the following Bible verse:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." – Colossians 3:23

KCC believes that children can be inspired to reach their greatest potential in life as they wholeheartedly use their gifts and talents in all they do for God's glory. KCC strives to instill excellence in all areas of life: musical, academic, and spiritual.

Musical Excellence

The musical component of KCC's mission emphasizes the teaching of many different aspects of music. This includes such skills as note-reading, rhythm development, solfege (do-re-mi), sight-singing, ensemble skills, vocal technique, diction, and musical expression. Repertoire reflects a broad spectrum of styles and sounds (both secular and sacred).

Academic Excellence

The academic component of KCC's mission emphasizes the importance of scholastic achievement in a child's life. Because education is so important for the future of each child, chorus members are encouraged to maintain a "B" (or "3") or better average in their schoolwork. Those needing assistance achieving this goal can receive free tutoring at Neighbor's House through its Homework Help Nights and Summer Refresher Courses (www.neighborshouse.org).

Spiritual Excellence

The spiritual component of KCC's mission emphasizes traditional Christian values and Biblical principles for the development of the child's character and faith. KCC believes that nurturing a child's faith in God can bring a dimension of joy, peace, and assurance in a child's life. Please note that while KCC is not affiliated with any particular church or denomination, it is committed to the traditional doctrines of Christianity as detailed in the Apostles' Creed

IV. Religious Affiliation

KCC is establishing itself as a faith-based non-profit organization serving the community through engagement with the arts as well as a faith-based (Christian) approach to life. All participants must understand that the faith-based component is a significant and vital focus of this program. While KCC is not affiliated with any particular church or denomination, it is committed to the traditional doctrines of Christianity as detailed in the Apostles' Creed.¹

V. Membership

Membership in the KCC is a very special privilege and carries with it a responsibility to the group. Because chorus goals are set based upon the current membership, it is expected that each member of the KCC will remain active and committed to the program for the entire season, which begins in late August and concludes with the final concert in May. In addition, all members are required to participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances.

VI. Tuition Fees

2009-2010 KCC Tuition:

\$100/year per singer

***Multi-child discount:** Families with more than one singer will be eligible for a \$50 discount for each additional singer (i.e. 2 singers=\$100+\$50).

There are two (2) payment options:

1. One full-tuition payment due by September 9
2. Two half-tuition payments due by September 9 and January 9

Payment deadline: September 9, 2009. Failure to pay by those deadlines will result in a \$10 late fee. Tuition fees may be paid by cash or check. Tuition fees are non-refundable.

2009 Summer Choral Day Camp Tuition:

Tuition: \$60 per singer

*The Summer Choral Camp is scheduled for July 28th-July 31st at Cornerstone Christian Academy, and all KCC members are strongly encouraged to participate.

VII. Auditions

Auditions for KCC are held in August for children entering grades three through six. All returning members are required to re-audition in August. Mid-year applicants are able to audition in December/January. The audition process includes each student singing a simple familiar song. During the audition the music director may also ask the student to sing some very simple vocal exercises. Interest, enthusiasm, and a desire to learn are strongly considered in the audition process.

VIII. Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held each Wednesday from 4:30PM – 5:45PM at the Evangelical Free Church of Sycamore-DeKalb unless indicated otherwise on the schedule. Supplemental rehearsals may be scheduled as needed. Please watch and follow the rehearsal schedule.

IX. Rehearsal Attendance Policy

Chorus members are expected to attend all rehearsals. This includes special supplemental rehearsals and dress rehearsals prior to a scheduled performance. Attendance is taken at each rehearsal. Since the success of the chorus depends upon the attendance of each member, tardiness/early dismissal will not be accepted. If a member is tardy or is dismissed early two times, that counts as one rehearsal absence. No more than three rehearsal absences are permitted in a given semester (fall/spring). Examples of excused absences are:

- Illness*
- Death in the family
- Conflict with a mandatory school performance
- Spring Break

*If the singer has a stuffy nose or scratchy voice but is fever-free, he/she should still attend rehearsal even though he/she may not be singing.

For an anticipated absence, the Choir Manager must be notified by telephone, e-mail, or by a written note prior to the absence in order to be excused. Please remember that only three absences are allowed per semester. Advance notice for planned absences is appreciated. If a singer is unable to demonstrate commitment to KCC through good punctuality and rehearsal attendance, removal from the program will be considered.

Each singer should arrive ten minutes prior to rehearsal time to check-in with the Choir Manager, receive new materials, use the restroom if needed, and be seated. If the singer is not seated and ready to begin at 4:30PM, they will be counted as tardy.

KCC understands that every student and family will have other activities which will compete for their participation (sports conflicts, etc.). It is expected that you will make KCC a priority if your child expects to participate in the performances. Before committing to other activities, please check your KCC long-range calendar carefully.

X. Rehearsal Guidelines

Each singer should plan to arrive ten minutes before the rehearsal begins. This will give the singer time to check-in with the Choir Manager/Rehearsal Assistant, receive new materials, use the restroom if needed, and be seated. Rehearsals begin promptly at 4:30PM. Any singer not seated by 4:30PM will be considered tardy. Singers may not roam around the building but must go to the rehearsal room.

All singers are expected to behave appropriately during rehearsals. The success of the rehearsals depends upon mutual cooperation and teamwork. Disruptions to the rehearsal process will not be tolerated. If there is disruptive behavior requiring disciplinary action, a written note will be sent home to the parents to return and sign. If the disruptive behavior is particularly severe, the singer may be removed from the rehearsal and the parents may be called. If a singer is removed from three rehearsals in a semester removal from the program will result.

Parents and interested members of the community are always welcome to observe rehearsals. However, please do not bring your children into the rehearsal room when observing a rehearsal.

When picking up your child after rehearsal, please note that for safety reasons children are not allowed to wait outside the building. Please make sure to pick up your children promptly at the end of rehearsal.

XI. Spring Break Guidelines

KCC observes a break during the week prior to Easter Sunday (March 29-April 4, 2010). Because spring break schedules vary among school districts, it is necessary that you notify the Choir Manager regarding any missed rehearsals due to your spring break. Any absence taken will count as one excused absence.

XII. Academic Standards

It is encouraged that all KCC singers will maintain a "B" (or "3") average or better in their schoolwork. Those needing assistance achieving this goal can receive free tutoring at Neighbor's House through its Homework Help Nights and Summer Refresher Courses (www.neighborshouse.org).

XIII. Performances

It is mandatory that all singers commit to participation in all performances. KCC holds two major performances each year (winter and spring concerts) along with other miscellaneous performances which may be scheduled.

All singers who begin the rehearsal season must commit to all seasonal performances. It is unacceptable to rehearse for four months and then decide not to perform. If a singer is absent from a dress rehearsal without prior approval from the Director, that child will not be allowed to participate in that performance.

XIV. KCC Summer Choral Day Camp

The 2009 KCC Summer Choral Day Camp is scheduled for July 28th-July 31st (9:00AM – 12:30PM) at Cornerstone Christian Academy in Sycamore. The camp fee is \$60 for each singer and attendance is strongly recommended for all chorus members. Your child will enjoy learning new choral music, receive musicianship training (recorder, rhythm, solfege, music history), and will develop close friendships with other singers. There will be a concert at 12:30PM on Friday, July 31st for the parents as well as an informational meeting regarding auditions, the upcoming choral season, and other questions you may have.

XV. Uniforms

Uniforms may be purchased online beginning October 2009 through Lands' End (www.landsend.com/school). **Please note that while some clothing items may be purchased from other vendors, the boys' vest and girls' shirt MUST be purchased through Lands' End due to the KCC embroidery sewn into the clothing.**

Go to www.landsend.com/school, click **LOOK UP YOUR PREFERRED SCHOOL NUMBER OR DRESS CODE**, enter the preferred school number **9001-3030-3** (no hyphens). A .pdf document of the available uniform items will show up.

Concert dress for boys:

Red sweater with KCC embroidery (**ITEM #22301-55Y9 MUST be purchased through Lands' End**)

White oxford dress shirt
 Black pants (no corduroy or jeans)
 Black tie
 Black socks
 Black shoes

Concert dress for girls:

Girls' white shirt with KCC embroidery (**ITEM #21953-75Y9 MUST be purchased through Lands' End**)

Black skirt (knee length)
 Black tights
 Black shoes

XVI. Weather Cancellations

In the event of inclement weather, it may be necessary to cancel/reschedule a rehearsal or performance. Please check your e-mail and the website for information regarding any cancellations. A calling tree is also established at the beginning of each semester to help communicate any last-minute changes.

XVII. Parent Responsibilities

The support and dedication of the parents is vital to the success of the KCC. We appreciate your support in the following areas:

- 1) Make sure your child/children are at all rehearsals and performances on time
- 2) Check folder for any KCC communication to parents
- 3) Make sure to sign any homework assigned to your child
- 4) Inform director of any absences ahead of time if possible
- 5) Make tuition payments on time
- 6) Check e-mail and any handouts for important communications
- 7) Assist in serving as a parent volunteer

XVIII. Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Parents' involvement in the life of the chorus is extremely important for the success of the chorus activities. We encourage each parent to consider how they can volunteer their time and talents to serve the needs of the chorus. A few opportunities are listed below. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of the year. You may also contact the Choir Manager directly with you interests. It is our hope that many parents would desire to support the chorus. Thank you for your consideration.

Events: Concerts (i.e. setup/tear down, taking tickets, refreshment table, etc.), chorus parties, transportation

Management: Calling/organizing needed volunteers

Communications: Taking attendance, distributing handouts/letters, overseeing e-mails

Fund Raising: Annual events, calling/organizing volunteers

Rehearsals: Assist at rehearsals as needed (i.e. check-in, children's needs, etc.)

Refreshments: Refreshments provided at concerts

Footnotes:

¹ KCC is not affiliated with any particular church denomination but does hold to the traditional doctrines of Christianity as outlined in the Apostles' Creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ,
 His only Son, our Lord:
 Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting.
 Amen.

KISHWAUKEE CHILDREN'S CHORUS Registration and Contact Information 2009-2010

Singer's Full Name _____

Singer's School _____ Grade _____

Parent's Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Work _____

E-mail Address _____

Individuals Authorized to Pick Up Your Child After Rehearsals

***Please note that ONLY those individuals listed will be able to pick up your child.**

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

The Kishwaukee Children's Chorus requests permission for singer's photographs and/or video shots to appear in promotional materials. The KCC website will not list names of singers.

____ Yes, I grant permission for my musician's photograph and/or video shots to appear in promotional materials.

____ No, I prefer that my musician's photograph and/or video shots not be used in promotional materials.

Parent Signature

Date

KISHWAUKEE CHILDREN'S CHORUS
Singer and Parent Agreement
2009-2010

1. We, the parents and the singer, have read and accept the policies and information in the KCC Handbook.
2. Maintaining a high level of excellence requires commitment and participation by all singers and parents. I, the singer, will complete my weekly assignments, learn my music, and be prepared for all rehearsals and concerts. We, the parents, will make every effort to have our child attend ALL rehearsals. We understand the Rehearsal Attendance Policy as described in the handbook.
3. As parents, we understand the fees and expenses that are involved with KCC. We will make every effort to make payments in a timely manner. We also understand the non-refundable tuition policy as described in the handbook.
5. I, the singer, will be responsible for wearing the proper concert attire. I understand that I am only to wear KCC clothing items for choir performances. We, the parents, understand that if choir uniform items are lost or damaged, we will be responsible for the cost of replacing the item.
6. We, the parents, know that volunteers are what help keep KCC functioning. We will do our best to volunteer to help with an event or with fundraising at least one time this year.
7. I, the singer, will represent KCC with my best behavior and good manners at all KCC events. We, the parents, will do our best to support and maintain the integrity and high standards set by KCC.
8. We, the parents and the singer, understand and support the faith-based (Christian) component of KCC's mission. We understand that weekly devotions, Scripture memory, sacred music, and prayer are integral to the KCC program.

We, the singer and the parents, have read the above Agreement. Our signatures demonstrate our understanding and acceptance of the Agreement.

Singer's Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Kishwaukee Children's Chorus Pre-Arranged Absence Form

Singer's Name: _____

Date of Absence: ____/____/____

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent's Signature

____/____/____
Date



Kishwaukee Children's Chorus Pre-Arranged Absence Form

Singer's Name: _____

Date of Absence: ____/____/____

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent's Signature

____/____/____
Date

Kishwaukee Children's Chorus Pre-Arranged Absence Form

Singer's Name: _____

Date of Absence: ___/___/___

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent's Signature

___/___/___
Date



Kishwaukee Children's Chorus Pre-Arranged Absence Form

Singer's Name: _____

Date of Absence: ___/___/___

Reason for Absence: _____

Parent's Signature

___/___/___
Date