



West Salem High School
Choir Department

Course Information

Course	Men in Black (Chorus 1)	Room: A100
Course No.	UC2023	Phone: 503 399-5533 X-507615
Instructor:	Kimberly McConnell	
E-mail:	McConnell_Kimberly@salkeiz.k12.or.us	

Choir Website: **Westsalemchoir.org**

Calendar is located on the website, please check it often. Please join our West Salem Choir Facebook Page. You should receive a weekly choir newsletter via email. If you are not getting this, please email: Jen Trout at wshschoir@gmail.com and she will take care of you 😊

Welcome to the West Salem Choir Department. I am excited for a new year together. Please read this, and return the attached sheet with your signature and your parent's signature indicating you have both read and understand the policies and procedures of the class.

Singing is FUN, EXPRESSIVE, EMOTIONAL, HARD WORK, ATHLETIC, REQUIRES PRECISION, TEAM WORK, singing is TREMENDOUS!!! I love to sing, and share my passion with others. Please review the course information. Every rule and expectation is there to help each student experience his/her utmost potential in choir at West Salem High School. Thank you for taking the time to read this document, and signing and returning the attached form.

Learning Outcomes

In this class students will learn: choral literature, proper vocal technique, diction appropriate to choral practice, solfege, sight reading, ear training, strong work ethic, and social skills promoting team work.

Readings

Sheet music and choir folder are provided by the Choir Department. Students must return all music and folders at the end of the year, or be charged a \$50. replacement fee.

Outside Rehearsals

There will be a few "re-choired" outside rehearsals. Students will have plenty of advance notice.

Grading Procedures

Rehearsal Technique:	52%
Performance Technique:	21%
Rhythm/Solfege Homework:	11%
Concert Review:	11%
Final:	5%

Students receive daily rehearsal technique points. There are 10 pts available on All-Meet Days (Mondays 43 min classes), and 20 pts available on A/B days (90 min classes). These points are based on how hard students work in class.

Each Monday students are given a theory worksheet. It is a short one-sided worksheet. They are due the last day of class each week. Students are encouraged to work on the theory sheet in class, perhaps while they are waiting for the instructor to work with another section. Most students are able to complete these during the week, and rarely have to take it home.

Students are required to attend one “live” (not Youtube) Choral Concert per semester and write a review. Students *may not* be a participant in the concert they review. Students must **attach the program** of the concert, and a **Concert Review Form** to the review. The Concert Review Form is on the website, or a student may obtain one from Ms. Mac at school. Students should follow the instructions on the Concert Review Form. The review must be at least two pages, double-spaced typed. An upper level choir concert is preferred (high school, college, professional). A middle school concert is acceptable, but not preferred. Elementary programs **do not qualify**. Musicals **do not** qualify. Professional commercial concerts **do not** qualify (Carrie Underwood, Justin Bieber, etc). If unsure, check with Ms. Mac in advance.

Please avoid scheduling medical, dental, and other appointments during choir period. Much of choir work is done in class and is difficult to make up. Absences effecting loss of credit will follow the West Salem High School current policies.

Expectations

Students are expected to have a positive and productive attitude each day. Students are expected to exhibit an exemplary work ethic. Students are expected to be on time. On time means in your place, with your music and pencil, ready to learn when the bell rings. Students will respect all students, faculty, parent volunteers, community members, and anyone else that may be involved with the West Choir Department. Students will sight read, learn music, perform occasional part tests, and be prepared for class each day. Students will be attentive to instructor, and save socializing for outside of class time. Students are expected to participate in every scheduled performance and rehearsal. Students must make advanced arrangements to miss after school performances and rehearsals. Students and parents are asked to participate in all fundraising events and activities. Students are required to wear the proper attire for the performing group in which they participate. Most importantly, students will experience the joy of singing!

MIB Concert Attire:

Men in Black will wear Black shirt, Black dress pants (no jeans), Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes), and black tie. Men in Black members should provide their own black shirt, pants, and shoes. The Choir Department will provide black ties. The choir closet has some black shirts, pants and shoes of various sizes. If you would like to check something out from the closet, please do so at least 2 weeks before the concert.

Supplies

Each student needs a pencil to be kept in their choir folder in the choir room, and a water bottle. No food or drinks other than water are allowed in the choir room, except in instructor approved situations.

TAG Considerations

TAG students will be given enrichment in the classroom through pacing and high expectations. For enrichment, there are many resources available to the talented student, TAG or not, including private lessons. Private lessons are highly recommended for all students, and especially to TAG students.

FEES: \$40. Fair Use fee is required for each Choir student. This fee includes a choir T-Shirt. The fee is for to help finance things our School District is unable to help us with, i.e. Buses, Concert Expenses (accompanist, sound tech, food for students and more). *Please make checks payable to “West Salem Choir Boosters.”* Checks made out to anything other than that will not be accepted by the bank for deposit. Thank you for your help with this.

Parent Meeting Thursday Sept. 12, 6:30 – 7:30

In the West Choir Room. Please make it a priority to attend. We will discuss the upcoming year, the Choir Department philosophy and events, fundraising, talk about ways parents can get involved, and give trip information. At the close of the meeting parents with questions will be able to stay and get answers.



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*****Please detach and return by Monday, September 9.*****

*Please include \$40. Fair use fee if you have not yet paid it. You may send check or cash to school or pay on-line via the choir website. Make checks out to **West Salem Choir Boosters.***

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____, have read the course syllabus and agree to help my child meet all the expectations of class. I have read the choir event calendar and will keep it posted at home.

FAIR USE FEE: \$40. *Financial Aid Forms are available in the Choir Room.*

VERY IMPORTANT PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Parent Phone _____

Parent Email _____

Student Email _____

Student Phone _____

I give permission for my child to travel by bus or parent driven car to performance destinations throughout the year.

Signed,

Parent/Guardian Printed Name *Date*

Parent/Guardian Signature *Date*