

**RICHARD IRA JONES  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CHOIR**

Choral Handbook  
Miss Karen Blair  
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2019-2020

August 16, 2019

Dear Choral Students and Parents:

**Welcome!** My name is Karen Blair, and I teach choir at Ira Jones Middle School. I'm also the drama director at Ira Jones. I am delighted you and your student are a part of the choir team.

Parents please read through this handbook with your child and keep it as a reference throughout the school year. This document will be conveniently located on the choir website [www.psd202.org](http://www.psd202.org) and is easy to access throughout the school year. Please pay special attention to the Choir Calendar. Each student is responsible for reviewing this handbook with his/her family and returning the Student/Parent Commitment Form with the necessary signatures.

Parents, I look forward to meeting and working with you this school year. Please stop by and introduce yourself, and feel free to contact me with questions as they arise. You are an important part of your child's success, and I hope to build a strong partnership. Students, as we begin this year, I am excited about the many opportunities we have in store. I look forward to a musical year!

Sincerely,

Miss Karen Blair  
kblair@psd202.org

### **Choir Mission Statement**

The choral program focuses on the development of musical skills through performance. The mission of the organization is to provide quality music instruction while attaining the highest level of artistic excellence in choral music. The choirs strive to create lifelong musicians. Through music activities, the choir helps to foster the personal and social growth of its members and promote their sense of self-esteem, accomplishment, and pride.

### **Music Education Goals**

Based on the Common Core National Arts Standards, students will:

1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work
2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work
3. Refine and complete artistic work
4. Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for presentation
5. Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation
6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work
7. Perceive and analyze artistic work
8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work
9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work
10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art
11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

Choir is a strong group of individuals who work together to accomplish musical goals: **choir is a team**. During choir students discover the joy of singing and the wonder of music. They find appreciation in the music in their everyday lives, and they experience the beauty and expression of making music with their voice. Music encourages creativity, independent thinking, and expression.

## Attendance

Rehearsal and performance attendance is essential to our success. Included in this handbook is a calendar for the 2018-2019 school year. Please refer to this schedule when planning work schedules, vacations, and other commitments.

### ***Performance Attendance:***

- ◆ **All performances are essential. Attendance will be excused in cases of emergency or illness.** Communication is the key; think ahead and make arrangements early.
- ◆ **Any student who misses a choir concert must complete an alternate assignment to replace the lost points from the concert. It is the student's sole responsibility to complete any make up work.** Students who have an excused absence should ask Miss Blair for the assignment prior to the concert date. Students must complete the alternate assignment within one week of the missed performance date. It is the student's responsibility to communicate about the absence and turn in the assignment within the given time frame. Late assignments will be accepted, but after one week the highest percentage a student may earn for the makeup work is an 80%.
- ◆ In case of an **emergency** – a written note, phone call, or e-mail may be provided after the concert, and it is **required** before an alternate assignment will be issued.
- ◆ In **non-emergency** cases, a written note from the parent is required **ONE WEEK (seven calendar days) before the date of the concert – but the sooner the better**. Your child's presence at performances is critical to the success of the ensemble. We need at least one week to make adjustments for a missing student.
- ◆ **If absent from the school day, the student must complete an alternate assignment** to receive credit for the missed performance.

### **In order to receive full credit for concerts, each student must:**

1. Attend scheduled performances
2. Attend the scheduled warm-up
3. Use proper concert etiquette while watching others perform.

## Classroom Procedures

Participating in ensembles requires dedication and effort. Success is determined by a student's participation and attitude. Because choir is a team effort, it is essential each student participates actively. Students represent their school and district during trips and contests. Public performances are special opportunities and must be handled with the utmost professionalism.

### **Classroom Expectations:**

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be resourceful

### **Miss Blair's BIG Four Expectations:**

1. Raise your hand if you would like to talk.
2. Bring a pencil and a music binder every day.
3. Be on time and ready to go. Class begins at the bell. "Early is on time, on time is late."
4. Throw gum away as you walk into the room. Only water bottles are allowed.

### **Consequences for inappropriate behavior are:**

1. Warning
2. Phone call home and possible seat change
3. Detention
4. Office Referral

## Grading Procedures

Every nine weeks students receive a grade in choir, which is based on their musical growth and development. This grade reflects the individual student's work in class and is not based on competition or comparison. Grade Components:

Daily Performance and Work (Rehearsal Points in Access Center)	30%
Quizzes, Tests (Tests in Access Center)	30%
Performances (Concert Performance in Teacher Access Center)	40%

## Daily Performance

Each day a student has the opportunity to earn **five daily performance points**. These points align with the expectations for each choral rehearsal and will be assigned using the following rubric:

5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Full participation, excellent body position and appropriate singing technique as well as all students materials.	Minor lapses in participation, good posture and singing technique most of the time or lacks one of the required materials.	Frequently distracted, inconsistent body position and singing technique or lacks two of the required materials.	Infrequent participation, off task, infrequent posture and singing technique Or has only on no the required materials.	Negligible involvement, incorrect posture and singing technique or has no materials.	No involvement, inappropriate posture and singing technique after warning from director

It is expected that students will come to class ready to learn and prepared with a **hard cover 3 ring binder, music, highlighter, and a pencil**. If a student misses a day of school they will be excused from that day's participation points. **If a student is at school but is unable to participate, daily performance points will be earned as they follow along in his/her music AND complete an observation form during the rehearsal. *A conversation between Miss Blair and the student must occur prior to the start of the class period.*** It is the student's responsibility to initiate the discussion with Miss Blair. If a student is sick and/or unable to sing for multiple rehearsals a parent letter may be required.

## Choir Folders and Music:

Students will be issued music throughout the year. This music should be kept in his/her binder and be brought to class each and every day. **ONLY pencils may be used to write in music.** Music will be collected and graded periodically. Students will be assessed on correct musical markings throughout their musical scores. The first 3 students who come up and tell me "I love to read the choir handbook" will be given candy. Music is not an appropriate place to doodle, draw, or write messages to other students!

## Concert Attire

At every concert or contest the following attire is required:

An ALL BLACK Modest outfit. This could be an all black dress, or a black shirt and black pants or black shirt and black skirt and black flat dress shoes, these shoes can't have any other color on them.

## IJMS Choral Calendar 2019-2020

**REQUIRED CONCERTS: Attendance required for all in bold and larger font**

Date	Event	Call & Performance Time	Location	Grade
<b>October 2, 2019</b>	<b>Fall Choir Concert</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade 6:30 call is 5:45 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 7:45 call is 7:15</b>	<b>IJMS – gym</b>	<b>Required</b>
<b>October 22, 2019</b>	<b>Red House Choral Festival</b>	<b>Rehearsal 5 &amp; Concert 7:00</b>	<b>Plainfield North</b>	<b>Required 7and 8 only</b>
<b>February 12, 2020</b>	<b>AFTER SCHOOL CLINIC – Counts as a concert grade</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade 3:10 - 3:40 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 3:40 - 4:10 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 4:10 - 4:40</b>	<b>IJMS – Cafetorium</b>	<b>6, 7, 8</b>
<b>February 22, 2020</b>	<b>Plainfield Festival/Contest</b>	<b>TBA- probably afternoon</b>	<b>Plainfield East High School Auditorium</b>	<b>Required 7-8 or Voices</b>
<b>May 6, 2020</b>	<b>Final Concert</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> grade 6:30 call at 5:45 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 7:45 call at 7:15</b>	<b>Ira Jones Main gym</b>	<b>6, 7, 8</b>

Special events for students interested who want extra opportunities are in normal font below

(not required for all students to participate)

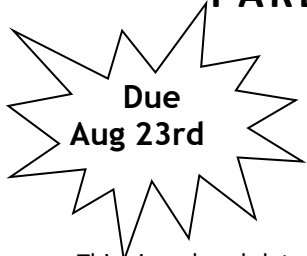
Dates and times may change, but students will be given sufficient notice. Additional performance opportunities may occur throughout the year, and they will be announced as the opportunity arises.

**IJMS** is Richard Ira Jones Middle School Main Gym

**PNHS** is Plainfield North High School

September 28, 2019	ILMEA Junior Choir Festival Auditions	Must be available all day	Traughber Jr.High School – Oswego	Optional 7-8
November 9, 2019	ILMEA Junior Choir Festival	ALL DAY like 6:30 AM to 4 PM	Huntley High School	Select 6-8
October 17, 2019	Band/Choir Field Trip to Newsies	During the school day	Aurora, IL	All who wish to go
October 25-26, 2019	IL ACDA FALL CONFERENCE CHOIRS	Rehearsal After School at Wheaton	Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL	Select Students
January 25, 2020	Elementary All State Choir	TBA	Peoria, IL	Only selected 6
March 4- 7, 2020	ACDA Regional Division Conference Honors Choir	TBA	Kansas City, MO	<b>Selected students</b>
May 2020	Promotion	Need to arrive earlier so we can do a sound check.	PNHS- GYM	<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade only</b>

**RICHARD IRA JONES Middle School Choral Department**  
**PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CONFIRMATION FORM**  
**2019-2020**



***To be signed by parent and student!***  
**PLEASE READ, SIGN, AND RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY**

This signed and dated form will be kept on file. The intent of this form is to verify that choir parents and students understand and agree with what is involved with membership in the Richard Ira Jones Middle School Choral Program.

- "I have read the **Richard Ira Jones Middle School Choral Handbook** with my child and we understand our responsibilities in developing a successful choir program and in earning a positive grade in this class."
- "I have taken the time to **write choir concert dates on our calendar**. I understand the attendance procedures. I understand students with excused absences are expected to complete a makeup assignment for the lost points."
- "I understand that will be expected to **perform in uniform.**"
- "I am aware that pictures and videos may be taken of my child throughout the year. Choir concerts may be videotaped for reflection and assessment. These videos will be used only for educational purposes." Students pictures may be used to be posted on the Ira Jones school or choral website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
A Day or B day Period

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date