

# Willie I. Kocurek Elementary School

*2019-2020*

## *Koala Choir Handbook*



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MrVans.MusicRoom](http://www.facebook.com/MrVans.MusicRoom) Twitter: [www.twitter.com/MrVansClass](http://www.twitter.com/MrVansClass)

# Koala Choir Handbook

Congratulations on being selected to participate in the Kocurek Koala Choir!! The following information is provided to help us all work together to produce excellence in our program. Please take time to read it carefully with your family.

## Rehearsals

Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays after school 3:00-4:00p.m. Rehearsals dates are based on their section assignment. Students will generally meet for two weeks with their section and then come together for one week with the entire choir. Students should report directly to the Music Room after dismissal. Choir students should not leave the building during dismissal unless they are members of our School Safety Patrol. All students will sit in designated area outside the music room. Students are expected to be picked up no later than 4:10pm. **Students who are picked up after 4:10pm may be removed from choir.**

## Attendance / Tardy Policy

We depend on everyone to attend ALL rehearsals. Please avoid scheduling appointments (doctor, dentist, etc.) on Thursdays, if possible. Of course, this is not always possible and I understand that appointments will sometimes interfere with our rehearsals. If you know you will be absent or need to leave early, **please drop Mr. VandeWalle a note ahead of time.** If you are ill and miss school, you are excused from choir and should stay home and get well! Students that miss rehearsals need to bring a note for Mr. VandeWalle stating the nature of the absence (this is in addition to the note given to the office.) You can also email me this information at [mrwan@mrvansclass.com](mailto:mrwan@mrvansclass.com). **Excessive absences and/or tardies may result in removal from choir. The decision to remove a student from choir will be at the sole discretion of Mr. VandeWalle.**

## Practice Expectations

We all understand that progress and achievement are the results of effort. Students need to learn this as well, and it is, in fact, one of the most important principles to learn and will help them throughout life. Helping choir students to practice on a regular basis at home will not only help them become better musicians, but better citizens as well.

Students need continued encouragement to practice, because practicing takes discipline and effort. Help your child establish a regular time and place for practicing that works in your family's schedule. Point out to your child the progress they have made and how they have improved.

Practicing takes effort, and encouraging students to practice regularly takes effort. However, practice is essential for learning, and it helps develop students' work habits that they can take with them throughout life.

**All choir students are expected to turn in a practice card at each rehearsal.** Extra practice cards are always available in the music room and on our website, [www.mrvansclass.com](http://www.mrvansclass.com).

**Failure to follow the behavioral or practice expectations can result in removal from the choir program. The decision to remove a student from choir will be at the sole discretion of Mr. VandeWalle.**

## Grades

Choir members are expected to maintain their grades in all classes. Students involved with the choir are expected to maintain all A's and B's in all their academic class as well as maintaining all 3's and 4's in all personal growth grades. Students who fall below these set expectations could be pulled from the choir program to attend tutoring. If a student is asked to attend tutoring they must attend these sessions before returning to choir rehearsals. **Unacceptable grades may lead to removal from choir. The decision to remove a student from choir will be at the sole discretion of Mr. VandeWalle.**

## Behavior Expectations

Choir members are expected to demonstrate good citizenship at all times; during the school day, during rehearsals and during performances.

### Rehearsal Expectations

1. Be respectful of others.
2. No **talking** during rehearsal.
3. Come to rehearsal **prepared** and **with your materials**.
4. Do your best.

### Consequences

1. Warning
2. Removal from risers until approval to return from Mr. VandeWalle.
3. Removal from rehearsal (note sent home).
4. Removal from rehearsal (phone call home).
5. Removal from choir.

Even though the choir is an extra-curricular group and rehearses after school hours it is a very visible group and, as a whole, is a representative of Kocurek Elementary School. With that comes more responsibility for all members. Choir members are expected to be positive peer role models by following all school expectations and guidelines at all times. I receive regular updates from all homeroom teachers and administrators when it comes to choir members.

## Responsibility

Choir members are expected to turn in all necessary forms/permission slips, etc. on time. There is a designated box in the music room for all choir related papers and information. **Please DO NOT turn in choir forms to homeroom teachers!** This includes notes for absences. Students who are absent from choir practice are expected to find out what they missed. **Choir "business" should be taken care of outside of your daily music time, preferably before or after school.**

Choir members are also expected to come to each rehearsal prepared (practicing at home is a must) and **with their choir materials and music**. **Failure to bring materials to rehearsals could lead to removal from the group.** **The decision to remove a student from choir will be at the sole discretion of Mr. VandeWalle.** Students who lose their original music will be responsible for downloading new music and printing it out themselves.

## Choir Shirts / Uniform

Our choir uniform consists of a choir t-shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes. Each member of the choir needs to own their own Kocurek Choir T-shirt. These t-shirts will be our "uniform" that we will wear for every performance throughout the school year including possible trips to sing carols at Southpark Meadows etc. Shirts must be ordered online with our distributor. While the company the supplies our shirts has a variety of choir items you can buy (hoodies for example) students are only required to purchase an official choir shirt. Information on shirt orders will be sent home on in a separate letter.

# Choir Dues

Choir Dues are set at \$12.50 per semester. This money covers all music, folders, materials, and supplies needed throughout the year. This amount can be paid each semester (October and February) or in one lump sum of \$25 (October). The dues amount has been changed since we will be asking all parents to order their choir shirts online.

## Schedule

We will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays unless noted otherwise on the schedule. As we get closer to a concert date we will need to have some additional after school rehearsals to put everything together on the stage. These rehearsals will be noted on the full choir schedule located on the next page. If I am out and have a substitute on a choir day I will report to the office and the homeroom teachers about the status of choir rehearsals. Once I contact these people they will inform the students of the status of choir rehearsal. I will also send a message through the ClassDojo service to all parents. ClassDojo is mentioned below and I will also send home sign up instructions after a student has been granted admission to the choir program.

## Stay Informed!

I have created a variety of ways to help keep everyone up to date on what is happening at Kocurek in the music room and with choir updates. If you are a Twitter or Facebook user please consider joining or following our pages and accounts. We will use ClassDojo this year-which allows me to send quick reminders straight to your phone or email without the need to exchange phone numbers or pay for text messaging. Information about this program will be sent home once a student has been selected for admission to the choir program. This app is vital for communication and keeping families up to date. We will also use this app to track behavior and practice cards throughout the year. **All families are expected to sign up for the ClassDojo service after being selected to join the choir program.** This will ensure that we have open communication about rehearsals, concerts, behavior and other events.

**Office Phone:** 512-841-5313

**Office Email:** [brian.vandewalle@austinisd.org](mailto:brian.vandewalle@austinisd.org)

**Choir Email:** [mrvan@mrvansclass.com](mailto:mrvan@mrvansclass.com)

**Website:** [www.mrvansclass.com](http://www.mrvansclass.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/mrvans.musicroom](http://www.facebook.com/mrvans.musicroom)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/mrvansclass](http://www.twitter.com/mrvansclass)

# Koala Choir

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FALL 2019

Thursday, September 26 – FIRST MEETING / FULL CHOIR

Tuesday, October 1 – Altos Only

Thursday, October 3 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, October 8 – Altos Only

Thursday, October 10 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, October 15 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, October 17 – FULL CHOIR

Tuesday, October 22 – Altos Only

Thursday, October 24 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, October 29 – Altos Only

Thursday, October 31 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, November 5 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, November 7 – FULL CHOIR

Tuesday, November 12 – Altos Only

Thursday, November 14 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, November 19 – Altos Only

Thursday, November 21 – Sopranos Only

November 26 & 28 – NO REHEARSAL (THANKSGIVING)

Tuesday, December 3 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, November 5 – FULL CHOIR

Monday, December 9 – FULL CHOIR in Cafeteria

Tuesday, December 10 – FULL CHOIR in Cafeteria

Wednesday, December 11 – FULL CHOIR in Cafeteria

**Thursday, December 12 - WINTER CONCERT**

# Koala Choir

## REHEARSAL SCHEDULE SPRING 2020

Thursday, January 30 – FIRST MEETING / FULL CHOIR

Tuesday, February 4 – Altos Only

Thursday, February 6 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, February 11 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, February 13 – NO REHEARSAL (STATE CONFERENCE)

Tuesday, February 18 – Altos Only

Thursday, February 20 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, February 25 – Altos Only

Thursday, February 27 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, March 3 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, March 5 – FULL CHOIR

Tuesday, March 10 – Altos Only

Thursday, March 12 – Sopranos Only

March 17 & 19 – NO REHEARSAL (SPRING BREAK)

Tuesday, March 24 – Altos Only

Thursday, March 26 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, March 31 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, April 2 – FULL CHOIR

Tuesday, April 7 – Altos Only

Thursday, April 9 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, April 14 – Altos Only

Thursday, April 16 – Sopranos Only

Tuesday, April 21 – FULL CHOIR

Thursday, April 23 – FULL CHOIR

Monday, April 27 – FULL CHOIR in Cafeteria

Tuesday, April 28 – FULL CHOIR in Cafeteria

Wednesday, April 29 – FULL CHOIR in Cafeteria

**Thursday, April 30 - SPRING CONCERT**

# Kocurek Choir

## Membership Information

*Return this page to Mr. VandeWalle before the next choir rehearsal*

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY.

### Student Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent/Guardian Information

I will only contact parents and guardians if I must. I do a lot of correspondence through email and can use email to send out forms, calendars and important information that affects the choir. I will only use your email for important choir correspondence and will keep this information private.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I understand the expectations stated in the Koala Choir Handbook and as a member of the Kocurek Koala Choir I will do my best to follow them.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**I/We have read the Kocurek Koala Choir Handbook and agree to support the policies stated for the Kocurek Koala Choir program.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date