

Willie I. Kocurek Elementary School

2018-2019

Koala Jr. Choir Handbook



9800 Curlew Drive • Austin Texas 78748 • Main (512) 414-2547 • Music Office (512) 841-5313
Email: mrvan@mrvansclass.com Website: <http://www.mrvansclass.com>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MrVans.MusicRoom Twitter: 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 Mondays after school 3:00-4:00p.m. 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. If Mr. VandeWalle is not in his room during dismissal, all students will sit in designated area and read quietly until he returns. 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 mrvan@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 required 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.

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. The cost of the T-shirt is included in the choir dues (\$50.00 or \$25.00 per semester). Students who lose their shirt will be responsible for getting a new one. I will no longer keep extra shirts on hand for students to borrow. Replacement shirts are \$10.00.

Choir Dues

Choir Dues are set at \$50.00 (\$25/semester). This money is used to purchase the things we will need throughout the school year such as choir shirts, new music, folders, CDs and supplies. It will also be used for two pizzas parties (after each concert) and any field trips we may take. Dues should be paid before students attend the first rehearsal. ***Students who have not paid their dues will be restricted from choir participation until dues are taken care of.*** Choir dues are not refundable if a student moves or is removed from choir due to grades or behavioral issues.

Schedule

We will meet every Monday 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 Remind App service to all parents. Remind 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 use Remind (www.remind.com) 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. **All families are expected to sign up for the Remind App service after being selected to join the choir program.** This will ensure that we have open communication about rehearsals, concerts, and other events.

Office Phone: 512-841-5313

Office Email: brian.vandewalle@austinisd.org

Choir Email: mrvan@mrvansclass.com

Website: www.mrvansclass.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mrvans.musicroom

Twitter: www.twitter.com/mrvansclass

Koala Choir Fall Schedule

Monday, August 27 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, September 10 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, September 17 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, September 24 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, October 1 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, October 15 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, October 22 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, October 29 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, November 5 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, November 12 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, November 26 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, December 3 from 3:00-4:00

Monday, December 10 from 3:00-4:30 EXTENDED JOINT REHEARSAL

Tuesday, December 11 from 3:00-4:30 EXTENDED JOINT REHEARSAL

Wednesday, December 12 from 3:00-4:30 EXTENDED JOINT REHEARSAL

Thursday December 13 at 6:30PM CHOIR WINTER CONCERT

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE AT EVERY REHEARSAL.

How Can I Contact Mr. Vandewalle?

Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

I have several ways that you can reach me.

Office Phone: 512-841-5313

Office Email: brian.vandewalle@austinisd.org

Choir Email: mrvan@mrvansclass.com

Website: www.mrvansclass.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mrvans.musicroom

Remind App: Sign up required