

## WELCOME TO WEST RIDGE CHOIR!

This is an exciting time for you and your child with many choices to make! Your child may:

- Love to sing
- Be unsure about singing
- Have lots of prior experience in a choir
- Have no prior experience in a choir
- Be a proficient music reader
- Not know how to read music at all

We welcome all children at all ability levels. The children who participate in Choir at West Ridge represent a wide range of talent and experience. There are children who have had professional training as well as children who say "I can't sing at all." We meet them at their individual level and help them grow and learn.

The West Ridge Choir Program has been recognized as one of the very best in the nation! We have been selected four times as a **State Honor Choir** by the Texas Music Educators Association.. We've been selected as a **National Honor Choir** by the American Choral Directors Association., and invited to perform in Salt Lake City in recognition of that honor. We were honored with an invitation to sing with the **International Children's Choir** in New York City, with a performance in Carnegie Hall. Our choirs consistently win the prestigious "**Sweepstakes**" award, the state's highest honor, from the University Interscholastic League (UIL) for superior concert performances and sight reading skills. Our choirs regularly place more students in All- Region Choir than any other school in our region. We have sung at **Carnegie Hall** three times and frequently perform at the **Texas State Capitol**. Our reputation has been built by hard work, dedication and a commitment to excellence.

Being in the Choir at West Ridge is fun! The environment is friendly, and conducive to comfortable participation by all. The students enjoy learning together in class where the bulk of their work and practice is accomplished. They perform throughout the year in a variety of locations and sing all kinds of music from many different cultures.

## WEST RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS



### A Tradition of Excellence

...Coming Together...

...Sharing Together...

...Working Together...

...Succeeding Together...

## OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR IN CHOIR

All of our West Ridge Choirs perform in 4 major concerts per year. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Fall Demonstration Concert, Sixth Grade Choir
- Fall Concert , Seventh and Eighth Grade Choirs
- Winter Concert at the Capitol Rotunda
- Winter Concert at Westlake PAC
- All-Region Choir Competition
- Performance at Texas Stars Ice Hockey Game
- Sixth Grade Choir Mid-Winter Showcase
- UIL Concert and Sight Reading Competition
- Sixth Grade Choir Spring Concert and Day Trip
- Alamo Showcase of Music Competition and Six Flags Trip in San Antonio
- Spring Pops Concert at Westlake PAC

Additionally, West Ridge Choirs perform regularly at school assemblies and pep rallies. They also perform at various civic events and have been invited to perform in exciting places like New York City, Rome, Italy and Beijing, China!

In class, choir students pursue a rigorous course of study including music reading skills and development of vocal technique. All choir students are given the opportunity to take private voice lessons at school during their choir period.



## POINTS TO CONSIDER

### Notes to Parents

Your child will instantly feel part of his or her new school by being a member of the West Ridge Choir. A recent ChorusAmerica Impact Study found that:

- 42.6 million Americans currently sing in a choir making it the most popular form of participation in the performing arts for children and adults
- Singing is strongly correlated with qualities that are associated with success including self-discipline, teamwork, creative thinking and organization
- Children who sing in a choir show greater self-confidence, self-discipline, and memory skills than children who do not
- Children who sing show an enhanced ability to process information by their regular exposure to music. The deep breathing required for singing increases mental alertness and relieves stress.
- Children who participate in superior music programs, such as the West Ridge Choir Program, score an average of 22% higher in English and 20% higher in Math on standardized tests

### Notes to Students

Are you wondering if joining the choir is for you? Here are some things to think about:

- In Choir, you get to be loud! You are actually encouraged to make noise!
- Begin your own path to stardom! Barack Obama sang in his school's choir when he was a student. Beyonce, Carrie Underwood and Justin Timberlake started their singing careers as members of their school choirs.
- Lots of interesting people sing in choirs. We are the largest performing organization at West Ridge, so you are sure to make new friends! You will have fun! We welcome EVERYBODY!
- Singing is a great stress reliever! Endorphins, important brain chemicals, are released when we sing. These chemicals relieve anxiety and stress, and make us feel good! Additionally, people who sing regularly have lower levels of stress than their non-singing counterparts.



## WEST RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIRS

Andrea Snouffer, Choir Director  
John Patterson, Assistant Choir Director  
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## THINGS PEOPLE SAY ABOUT SINGING

"I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see a choir cooperating like that."

-Paul McCartney, Former Beatle

"The greatest thing about being in a choir is to stop being me for a little while and become us. It's the immersion of self into the community."

-Brian Eno

"If I can't fly, let me sing."

-Stephen Sondheim from "Sweeney Todd"

"The only thing better than singing is more singing."

-Ella Fitzgerald, Jazz Artist

"Choir is the best 51 minutes of the school day."

-H.T., current West Ridge Choir Student

So, you've decided you'd like to join Choir! What should you do now?

1. Circle CHOIR on your choice sheet.
2. Attend the Choir Meet and Greet on Thursday, February 21. (Not mandatory, but highly encouraged) It's an open house in the choir hall at WRMS between 4:30 and 6:00 pm. Come meet the teachers and tour our incredible facilities.
3. Get Ready for a GREAT experience!!!

Contact any of the directors to the left with any questions, we'd be happy to visit with you!

