

BURSLEY CHOIR PACKET



2016-2017

Dear Choir Parent/Guardian:

I am pleased to have your child in choir this year. I believe that you and I are partners, working together toward a mutual goal which is to help mold healthy and well-rounded children. I love music, and believe that singing is one important way to build a strong child. I want to meet the parents of the singers. Please introduce yourself to me after a rehearsal or concert; you are important to your child, and to me.

I wish to share with you my goals and expectations. The goals of the choir are to study a variety of quality literature, learn performance skills, study choral score reading, improve vocal production and learn proper performance etiquette.

We already have an outline of a schedule for rehearsals and performances, so please read the dates listed on the attached page in this handbook, and put them on your family calendar.



I would like to communicate with you by e-mail instead of sending so many notes home. This will eliminate the "I lost it" syndrome and cut down on copying costs. I will try to send home paper copies with your child if you do not have an email address. You or your child can check with me at any time and I will try and notify the choir when important information needs to go home. If your child has a parent living at another address and would like to receive e-mails, please send that address to me also.

A FEW IMPORTANT FACTS FOR YOU:

- Our rehearsal time is very important. Please try to avoid scheduling any doctor, dentist, haircut or other appointments on choir days. When your child misses, both your child and the group suffers, and we do not progress as quickly. Weekly attendance is crucial and expected.
- Children who are frequently absent will be removed from membership, or may be denied performance privileges. It is not fair to the children who attend rehearsals regularly to allow the children who are frequently tardy or absent to perform.
- Each child may have as many as **3 excused absences (a note/email or voicemail from the parent/guardian is considered an excused absence)**. If a child receives any more than **2 unexcused rehearsal absences (no note/email or voicemail), or 1 concert unexcused absence** then he or she may be asked to give up their membership, and will lose their opportunity to attend our Michigan's Adventure trip at the end of the school year. A team is only as strong as its weakest member, and it takes the attendance of every member to make a choir team strong.
- Choir is a great opportunity for all students at Bursley school, and we all need to feel safe and respected in order to make the best music possible. Though this is an



after school, extracurricular activity, students are expected to follow all school rules. If students cannot follow our school rules during any choir event, they will receive an office referral for their actions. If a student receives two office referrals during our choir season, they will be asked to remit their choir membership.



- Our choir shirts are designed by Eagle Eye Graphics. They look so amazing on a black t-shirt with the same design as is on the cover of this packet. Our choir uniform consists of **nice blue jeans (no holes), gym shoes, a crazy or cool pair of socks, and a choir t-shirt.**
- Please return all choir permission slips as soon as possible if you haven't already done so. These slips are needed in order for your child to participate in choir.

I look forward to a great year with these wonderful kids...they are our future leaders! One of the real benefits of directing the choir is being able to work with quality parents such as you; parents who see the value of participating in a special musical group. Thank you for encouraging your child in the area of vocal music. Here's to a wonderful musical year! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 457-8488 x2608.

Musically Yours,

Maura Willie
Music teacher/Choir director
457-8488 x2620
mwillie@jpsonline.org



Bursley Choir Dates

Day	Date	Description	Time	Where?
Tuesday	October 4th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Tuesday	October 11th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Tuesday	October 18th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Wednesday	October 26th	Combined Rehearsal	3:45-5:15	**Jr. High Choir Room
Tuesday	November 1st	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Tuesday	November 8th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Tuesday	November 15th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>November 22nd</i>	<i>No rehearsal!</i>		
Tuesday	November 29th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>December 6th</i>	<i>No rehearsal!</i>		
Tuesday	December 13th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Saturday	December 17th	Sing National Anthem for the Grand Rapids Drive Game - Optional, more info. to come!	7:00 p.m.	Delta Plex Arena Wyoming, MI
Tuesday	January 10th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
Tuesday	January 17th	Choir Rehearsal	3:45-4:45	Bursley Music Room
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>January 24th</i>	<i>No rehearsal!</i>		
Wednesday	February 1st	Combined Rehearsal	3:45-5:15	**Jr. High Choir Room
Tues	Feb. 7th	Festival of Voices - 6:15pm concert Call time - TBA		JCA

****Transportation provided TO rehearsal at Jr. High, parent pick up at Jr. High**

If your child is a safety, he or she will need to find a sub for the two dates the choir does not rehearse at Bursley.

CHOIR T-SHIRT & SWEATSHIRT ORDER FORM



Choir Uniform: Choir t-shirt, NICE (no holes) blue jeans, gym shoes, clean pair of socks - can be “crazy” or just plain.

Honors Choir Uniform: Choir t-shirt, NICE (no holes) blue jeans, gym shoes, clean pair of socks - can be “crazy” or just plain, Honors Choir bracelet

Please fill out the information on the backside of this paper, circle the items you want to purchase, include cash or a check (checks made out to JPS) and turn in to your school's music teacher. Please turn your order form in by **October 18**. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Please contact Mrs. Willie if a scholarship is needed.

If you would like to order extra shirts or sweatshirts for the family, you are more than welcome to do so.

CHOIR TREATS

The choir kids are a hungry bunch at the end of the day. To keep it simple and to make sure we always have plenty of snacks, we are asking each choir kid to bring in a box of **individually wrapped** granola bars, rice krispie treats, fruit snacks, or crackers to contribute to our “snack stash”. **No tree nuts or tree nut products due to singers with allergies!** Please have your child bring their contribution to our “snack stash” by next **Tuesday’s rehearsal (October 11th)**. Thank you in advance for your help. If our “snack stash” starts to run low, I will send out an email requesting some additional help!

Facebook Page: Bursley Elementary Choir

Please request to join our Facebook group to keep up on current events for the choir! While anyone can find the page, it is a closed group, so only people who request and are approved to join can view the posts.

Email

Almost all of the choir communication comes home via email. Please make sure to add my email to your contacts list, so you will be sure to get the messages.

mwillie@jpsonline.org.

If your email changes during the school year, or you are not getting choir emails, please let me know.

Remind App

This year, I am going to be sending text/email reminders via the “Remind” app. I have attached the instructions to this letter. This program is free to use, it does not share your phone number with anyone (including me), and you are able to get weekly reminders from me about rehearsals, due dates, events, etc. Also, this app is VERY handy for kids whose parents live in different homes or kids who go to sitters after school. If both parents (and even grandparents) are signed up for the reminders, then everyone stays informed. You may get your reminders via text or email. Many parents have commented on how helpful it is to be a part of this app.

To Join by text:

Text @bursle to the number 81010 You’ll receive a welcome text from Remind. If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @bursle to (616)384-2027.

To Join from a web browser:

Visit www.remind.com/join/bursle

GRAND RAPIDS DRIVE GAME

Saturday, December 17th



What: Sing the National Anthem before a Drive basketball game, and then stay to watch the game with other choir kids and their families! Our music program gets a percentage of each ticket sale back, so we want to sell lots of tickets!

Why: To raise money for new music supplies, recordings, and supplemental materials AND to raise money for our Michigan's Adventure trip!

When: Friday, December 17th - Mark your calendars now!

More information will be provided as the date gets closer!