

Dakota High School

CHOIRS



*Welcome to the
DHS Choir
Program!*

2019-2020

“Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.”
—Ludwig van Beethoven

“The only thing better than singing is more singing.”
—Ella Fitzgerald

Mr. Walker
586-723-2860
AWalker@cvs.k12.mi.us

www.DakotaChoirs.com

Twitter: @DakotaChoirs

Greetings, Choir Students and Parents/Guardians!

Welcome to the new school year, and a new year with the Dakota High School Choir program! I am so excited for the year to come, as it contains many thrilling opportunities for music-learning, music performance, and musical experiences. With the hard work of every student in each ensemble, we can expect success! I am honored to be teaching here this year. Since opening, Dakota High School has built a reputation for choral excellence, and this is a distinction that I am keenly intent on maintaining! With the focus of young musicians, and strong support from parents, administration, and the community, we have all the tools necessary to ensure excellence!

This **handbook** is a resource to provide students and parents with important information regarding many aspects of the choral program. It also serves as a contract, ensuring common knowledge of expectations. Please read it thoroughly, and sign the contract. Refer to the handbook for information throughout the course of the year!

Choir students: you are accepting the responsibility of membership into this academic and artistic organization. Like a family, we will learn and grow through our experiences together, based on a common goal of commitment to excellence in music.

Choir parents: I am thankful for your part in understanding the expectations of your student as a member of this program, and supporting his or her endeavors. I am also deeply thankful for the incredible amount of time and hard work that parent volunteers kindly and freely donate to maintain our operational success.

Again, I am honored to be a part of this program, and so excited to see what we will accomplish together this year! Please feel free to reach out to me at any time; email will always be the most efficient way to do that.

Sincerely,

Mr. Alexander Walker

Director of Choirs

Dakota High School Class Choirs

Treble Choir—Treble voices

Men's Choir—Men's voices

Women's Varsity Choir—Auditioned treble voices

Mixed Varsity Choir—Auditioned treble and men's voices

Extra-Curricular

DHS Show Choir—Auditioned show choir

ABOUT CHOIR AT DAKOTA

Choir is a year-long music-learning opportunity, with emphases in vocal performance, ensemble singing, and music exploration. It fulfills the Chippewa Valley District requirement for a class in Visual, Performing, or Applied Arts.

Students will:

- Explore, study, learn, refine, and perform music from a variety of times, places, and cultures.
- Learn music vocabulary, and fundamentals of music literacy/music theory.
- Develop notational reading ability.
- Learn, practice, and refine basic vocal technique.
- Explore independent musicianship.
- Build community; exercise team skills; cultivate relationships.
- Practice self-discipline, creativity, self-esteem, and enthusiasm!

Choir is a performance-based class.

- The collaborative nature of a choir requires that all members be fully present (physically and mentally) at all times. You have elected to enrich your high school experience with music and become part of the tradition of excellence of DHS Choirs; this cannot come without commitment.
- The performance-based nature of the class is reflected in daily attendance/participation grades, as well as in concert attendance requirements.
- **Course Requirements include:**
 - Participation in **one to two evening concerts per quarter**, and **one to two choral festivals per year**, *as a portion of the class grade*.
- Performances are most frequently vocal, but also may include choreography as a performance-enhancing element. Students are expected to physically participate in any choreographed music, unless separate arrangement has been made with Mr. Walker.
- Other awesome and enriching performing opportunities will arise throughout the year! These may be specific to a certain choir, or may be an optional opportunity on a volunteer basis.

CLASS MATERIALS

As a portion of their grade, each student will be expected to have the following materials ready for class each day:

- 1-inch three-ring binder (that fits in folio cabinet—10" or less across)
- Five dividers
- Pencil
- Choir folder and all necessary music

GRADING

WEEKLY GRADE: Effort and participation are a vital part of daily rehearsal and the productivity of the choir as a whole. **Students will earn 3 points daily** for attendance, best effort, active participation, and positive attitude in class (posted as 15-point weekly grades). Absences that are excused by the attendance office will result in an omission of that daily grade. Unexcused absences will result in no points being earned for that day.

<p>You will earn 3 points per class if <u>ALL</u> the following are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are on time; in seat and ready when the bell rings Prepared with necessary materials Following classroom rules/expectations consistently Actively participating and demonstrating best effort 	<p>Point deductions will occur if <u>any</u> of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tardy to class (tardy deductions increase throughout week) Unprepared; missing materials at the beginning of class Violating classroom expectations (incl. phone violations, talking) Participation with inconsistent or subpar level of effort 	<p>You will earn 0 points per class if <u>any</u> of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your absence is unexcused. Your behavior is disruptive. Participation and effort are minimal or nonexistent. Repeated or intentional violation of classroom expectations after warnings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including poor attitude
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WEEKLY GRADE MARKS: If a student has earned less than 15/15 points for their weekly grade, it will be put into PowerSchool's notes with a date, and the reason for deduction:

Tardy; Effort; Attention; Materials/Prepared; Talking; Cell Phone; Attitude; Foolish Behavior.

CHOIR BINDER: Choir students are required to have a **choir binder**. Failure to have the binder daily will result in a preparation deduction ("Materials"). It will contain notes, in-class work, assignments, and sight-reading resources. It will also be a convenient resource for studying purposes. Students can develop organizational skills through a requirement to keep certain notes and assignments in the binder.

IN-CLASS WORK, HOMEWORK, and other ASSIGNMENTS

To be sure that all students remain accountable for each group's success, and to establish a shared groundwork of knowledge, students will be responsible for completing in-class work, homework, and other various assignments. Points will be awarded on completion *and/or accuracy* of in-class work and other assignments. These assignments should be kept in the student's choir binder.

QUIZZES/TESTS: Students will periodically be quizzed or tested over course material and concepts, in either **written** or **performing** formats. Examples include sight-reading quizzes, vocabulary quizzes, singing quizzes (alone or in groups), and memorization quizzes over performance repertoire. At least **one week prior** to all quizzes and tests, students will receive detailed information about the topics covered or the performance expectations. All singing quizzes will be scored objectively. Students will receive a rubric clearly denoting what they will be scored on in advance.

GRADES will be calculated from total points earned (visible on Power School).

Standard Grading Scale	
A = 93-100	C = 73-76
A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
B+ = 87-89	D+ = 67-69
B = 83-86	D = 63-66
B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
C+ = 77-79	F = < 60

REQUIRED REHEARSAL AND CONCERT GRADES

Mandatory performances and dress rehearsals (specified on calendar) are **graded!**

Why is attendance mandatory?

- Preparing and performing music for an audience is a primary focus of this class. Concerts provide a capstone experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom.
- Performances are a primary means by which the skills learned in this class are assessed.
- Choral singing is an intricate group effort; a group's well-prepared performance will be weakened by any missing voice.
- Notice is given in advance for all required concert dates and rehearsals.

To earn all points possible for rehearsals and concerts, students must be:

- In **attendance** / On **time** / In full required **uniform upon arrival** (when specified)
- On task, focused, putting forth **best effort**.

→ Grade deductions *will therefore occur* when:

- Student is late to a call time.
- Student is late to a performance.
- Student arrives un-uniformed or missing attire elements.
 - Missing concert attire elements at a *rehearsal* will result in a grade deduction.
 - Missing concert attire elements for a *performance* will result in not being allowed to perform, which will result in zero credit being awarded.
- Student is off-task or disruptive
 - If an issue involving behavior or lack of focus results in dismissal or removal from rehearsal or concert, no credit can be earned for that rehearsal or concert.

Since concerts are worth a significant number of points, a student's grade can seriously suffer if they fail to appear at a rehearsal or performance.

- Conflict with other extra-curricular activities (Driver's Ed., other clubs/sports, dance) or lack of a ride, is not an acceptable reason for missing a required rehearsal or performance. In order to be a member of this community, you must show up when everyone else is required to show up. We need to be able to count on you, so you need to make it a priority to exercise **responsibility, proactive planning, organization**, and problem-solving skills.
 - Enough time is given in advance for you to calmly facilitate communication between all groups involved, and arrange a solution for the conflict.
- Non-planned Concert absences will only be excused for: medical emergency (documented upon return to school), personal injury (documented upon return to school), or death in the family.
- Outside of the aforementioned circumstances, concert absences may only be considered for excusal via direct parent-teacher contact at *least 24 hours prior* to the absence. Conflicts then must be proved unavoidable. This is a policy backed by DHS Administration.

An excused absence results in omitting that grade and/or appointing an alternate assignment, if the teacher deems necessary. An unexcused absence results in forfeiting all points for that rehearsal/performance.

CHOIR FINES

Students will be issued several school-owned items, including a folder, multiple pieces of music, and items of clothing. *Fines must be issued for lost or damaged...*

- Folder
- Music
- Uniform

All items must be returned in excellent/good condition *before final examinations* in order to avoid a fine. Fines will equal the monetary value of a new, *replacement* item.

CHOIR RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

REMEMBER THE 4 R'S

- RESPECT EACH OTHER
- RESPECT YOURSELF
- RESPECT THE TEACHER
- RESPECT THE MUSIC

DAKOTA CHOIR STUDENTS WILL...

- **Be on time and prepared** for class with **all necessary materials**.
- **Participate** with 100% effort, and **remain attentive** to the director.
- **Use self-control** to stay disciplined, mature, and focused.
- **Follow our classroom cell phone policy**—which will be enforced!
 - Phone prohibited any time you are supposed to be singing, any time you are supposed to be learning, and any time you are supposed to be listening.
 - Phone is acceptable before class starts, after class ends, or during free time.
- **Remain in the classroom until dismissed** or instructed otherwise.
- **Demonstrate respect for all equipment** and classroom materials.
 - Includes: Pianos; sound system; school-issued music, etc.
 - Do not touch anything that does not belong to you.
- **Maintain appropriate conduct, including language.**
- **Not consume food or drink** during class time, aside from water. **NO GUM.**

DAILY PROCEDURES/EXPECTATIONS

- Students will be SEATED, with ALL class materials, within one minute after the bell rings.
- ALL STUDENTS must READ THE WHITEBOARD EVERY DAY.
- Clean up after yourself / Double check that you did not leave any mess for someone else to clean.
- Keep it positive, be a team player, and spread kindness 😊

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

1. Verbal Warning/Weekly grade deduction.
2. Removal from class/rehearsal; parental contact
3. Office Referral

DHS VOCAL MUSIC CALENDAR

2019-2020

The most accurate, most recent version of this calendar will always be found on

www.DakotaChoirs.com

Bold print signifies mandatory (graded) attendance.

September 11	DHS Meet the Teacher Night
September 11/12/13	Show Choir auditions after school
September 17	Choir Parent Meeting / NYC Info Meeting
September 23	Musical workshop after school
October 2/3/4	Musical auditions after school
October 8	Musical Parent Meeting, 7PM
October 23	Collage Concert Dress Rehearsal after school
October 24/25	Collage Concert, 7PM
October 30	District Idol and Idol Jr. Auditions, Dakota Choir Room, 3PM
November 6	District Idol Show in Dakota Auditorium, 7PM
November 7	District Idol Jr. Show in Dakota Auditorium, 7PM
November 16	MSVMA Music Theatre Solo & Ensemble, Grosse Pointe South HS
November 19	Chamber Choir Festival at Oakland University (Mixed+Women's; tentative)
December 3	Show Choir sings at Macomb Twp. Christmas Tree lighting
December 4/6	Holiday Choir Concert Curtain Act Auditions after school
December 4	Band Holiday Concert, 7PM
December 12/16	Holiday Concert Dress Rehearsals after school
December 17	Holiday Concert, 7PM
December 19	Show Choir and Mixed Varsity travel to schools
January 10/11	MSVMA District Solo & Ensemble, Chippewa Valley H.S.
February 6/7/8	<i>Les Misérables</i> , 7PM
February 13/14/15	<i>Les Misérables</i> , 7PM
February 26	Band Festival Concert, 7PM
March 9	Festival Concert Dress Rehearsal after school
March 10	Festival Concert with Seneca Middle School Choirs, 7PM
March 16/17	MSVMA District Choral Festival (hosted at Dakota during school)
April 17/18	MSVMA State Solo & Ensemble, location TBA
April 27/28/29	MSVMA State Choral Festival, location TBA
May 8/11	Spring Choir Concert Curtain Act Auditions after school
May 13	Band Spring Concert, 7PM
May 19/20	Spring Concert Dress Rehearsals after school
May 21	Spring Choir Concert, 7PM
June 4	Choir Banquet
June 7	Graduation

CHOIR ATTIRE INFORMATION

“The uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country.”

—Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941)

“What you wear is how you present yourself to the world, especially today, when human contacts are so quick. Fashion is instant language.”

—Miuccia Prada (1949-)

Choir attire is an important part of a choir program!

- Like other teams, a uniform appearance for all members demonstrates a group identity, and encourages a singular focus and purpose.
- The singers practice *professional conduct* and *professional appearance* when they appear in formal attire and represent our program, school, and district at local and state festivals and competitions throughout the year.
- **Each member is charged a \$20.00 cleaning/repair fee** for the use of school-owned uniform items. This is because at the end of the year, all uniforms are collected and the choir department is responsible for the dry cleaning of all garments. Any necessary repairs should be reported immediately during the year for proper attention. Students may be responsible for additional cleanings during the year, as necessary.

All school-owned uniforms are assigned after being fitted to the best size available for each student.

If alterations are needed, parent volunteers will coordinate and assist.

No fabric may be cut off to shorten uniforms

Choir Polos (Required)

The Dakota **Choir Polo** is the one **required** wardrobe purchase. This top will be worn multiple times throughout the year to display a uniform appearance in various locations at DHS and elsewhere. It also will serve as a form of concert attire.

Please complete and return a Choir Polo Order Form.

Other Choir Apparel (forthcoming; not mandatory)

A variety of Choir Apparel will be offered separately during the year, including the yearly OFFICIAL DHS CHOIRS t-shirt. Stay tuned. ☺

Female Uniforms

FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE	
<u>STUDENT PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural skin-toned color nylons • 2" CAMEL Character Shoes 	<u>SCHOOL PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Gown with a colored sash
CHOREOGRAPHY	
<u>STUDENT PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black tank or camisole • black pants • black shoes & socks 	<u>SCHOOL PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sequin mini dot tank top
CASUAL	
<u>STUDENT PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium to dark jeans (no holes) • dark, solid colored shoes • Choir POLO 	<i>order form to purchase the choir polo is found at the end of the handbook</i>

- Character Shoes can be purchased at any dancewear source, but Lucy & Ethel's 15262 Canal Rd, Clinton Township, MI 48038 gives a 10% Dakota Choirs discount (mention Dakota Choirs).
- *For students serious about choir and theater, it is recommended getting a higher quality shoe, like the Capezio 2 1/2" caramel Manhattan Character.*

Male Uniforms

FORMAL CONCERT ATTIRE	
<u>STUDENT PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White long-sleeved dress shirt w/ standard collar • Black dress shoes & socks 	<u>SCHOOL PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black tuxedo pants • Tuxedo vest & tie • Tuxedo coat (Mixed Varsity only)
CHOREOGRAPHY	
<u>STUDENT PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • black t-shirt • black pants • black shoes & socks 	<u>SCHOOL PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colored long-sleeved dress shirt
CASUAL	
<u>STUDENT PROVIDES:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medium to dark jeans (no holes) • dark, solid colored shoes • Choir POLO 	<i>order form to purchase the choir polo is found at the end of the handbook</i>

Performance Hair—ALL CHOIRS

Along with the choir uniform, the styling of hair assists in presenting each ensemble as a unified, professional group. Being a member of choir is belonging to a team-unit, blending in both voice and appearance. Students with uncombed, messy or outrageous hair take away from this endeavor. The other consideration of performance hair is that it must be pulled/styled away from the face (especially ladies), or cut and groomed neatly (especially gentlemen), because stage lights create many shadows, and the audience must be able to see the face and its expressions. Music's essence is expression, and the portal to expression is the face, especially the eyes. Students are expected to have their hair groomed for performances in the following manner:

- **Ladies** – hair must be styled off the face. Bangs should be above the eyebrows. If hair is long, it should be pulled back in a manner that the face is clearly visible. Hairspray and appropriate accessories need to be used so the hair remains off the face for the entire concert. A continual “fixing” or “pushing back” of the hair during a concert is extremely distracting. Any accessories **MUST** be hair colored and not noticeable from an audience's view (i.e. no “bling”, shiny metal or bright colors)
- **Gentlemen** – trimmed or styled away from face. Bangs should be above the eyebrows. If hair is longer, hair product (gel, spray, mousse, wax, etc.) must be used to keep hair styled back away from the face for the duration of a performance.

Other Performance Requirements—ALL CHOIRS

- In the instance of a student being allowed to choose their own performance outfit, that outfit must follow school dress code regulations.
- No unapproved jewelry. This includes watches, necklaces, bracelets, rings, any visible piercings and any other items that detract from the choir's uniform aesthetic. Guiding question: “*Will this item draw potentially distracting attention to me in particular onstage?*” Subtle and silver will usually be permissible. Mr. Walker reserves the right of final determination.
- Make-up should be worn to look “natural” under stage lights.
- Undergarments must NOT be visible through uniform. (i.e., gentlemen need a plain, white t-shirt if one is to be worn under the white dress shirt; women's bra straps need to be flesh-colored or transparent if shown)
- When students are in uniform, they remain in COMPLETE UNIFORM from the time they arrive at a function until after they depart. At no time should they be seen without shirts tucked in, shoes on, ties & sashes attached, etc.
- Students WILL NOT be allowed to perform, and their grade will therefore be impacted, if their appearance is not in accordance with Handbook regulations.

FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

Throughout the year, there are several opportunities for choir students to be adjudicated (judged, graded, rated, evaluated, commended!) on their singing ability. These events are sponsored by the Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) and the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA). For members of the DHS choir program, some of these activities are voluntary (Honors Choirs, Solo and Ensemble Festivals) and others are **required** (District and State Choral Festivals).

The students prepare within class to be judged in the following areas: posture, breathing, tone, intonation, vowel purity, diction, precision of entrances and releases, facial expression, and sight-reading. Dates for Solo & Ensemble Festivals, as well as this year's Choral Festivals, are on the calendar page of this packet. Locations are frequently not solidified until a couple months beforehand.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

Support your child's interest in private voice lessons! One-on-one instruction in vocal technique is *highly encouraged* and incredibly beneficial in the areas of sound quality, breath management, development of range, vocal strength, confidence, and sight-reading. Any students interested in MSVMA Honors Choir, ACDA Honor Choir, **MSVMA Solo & Ensemble**, or other selective/scored singing events need to be studying voice privately. While voice lessons do not guarantee obtaining solos, honors, or choir promotions, **there is a strong correlation between those students studying privately and students earning these opportunities**. If interested in lessons, please see Mr. Walker for recommendations or possibilities. There are even teachers that come to DHS to teach during the school day.

CHOIR BANQUET

We celebrate the success and accomplishments of our singers at our annual Choir Banquet. It is a themed, dress-up evening of dinner, awards, peer-election results, dancing and karaoke! Students and their family members are invited to attend. Tickets are sold during class in May.

SUMMER MUSIC CAMPS

Each year many of our choir students attend summer camps and workshops. Some great summer camps and workshops are: Macomb's Show Choir Workshop, Show Choir Camps of America, Western Michigan University's Music Seminar, Michigan State's Jazz Camp, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, University of Michigan's M-Pulse, Interlochen Music Camp, and DOT's Opera Workshop.

CHOIR FUNDRAISERS

PARENT involvement is essential for fundraising success! 😊

Choir fundraisers occur throughout the year to help provide additional resources, possibilities, and opportunities for our students (some examples: live instrumentalists for concerts, new equipment, new sheet music to perform, guest artists, professional choreographers, vocal clinicians, department-owned choir apparel, choir banquet supplies/expenses, community-building events, travel opportunities, and more!)

Fundraisers are designed to benefit the entire program *and/or* be applied to an individual's choir account. Students may have individual account funds applied to any choir cost and the balance carries over each year until the student leaves the program, so it is always beneficial for students and parents to be actively fundraising!

QUESTIONS

With any questions regarding fundraising, please email:

Lori Lenkevich, fundraising coordinator

Lenkevich2@aol.com

Michelle Wygocki, DHS Performing Arts Assistant

MWygocki@cvs.k12.mi.us

**2019-2010 Fundraisers will be announced as they approach.
They may include the following fundraisers from our past!**

- **KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:** Registering your Kroger Plus card allows you to earn contribution rewards applied to the choir's general fund. Friends and relatives can register their card for the Dakota High School Choirs, making it an easy way to raise funds! This program also in no way takes from your own Kroger Rewards points! For information, go to the Choir Website and click on "Fundraisers."
- **DAKOTA BOOSTERS:** By volunteering for Booster events (e.g., working concessions at a sporting event), families can raise money applied to their student's individual account.
- **SPONSORSHIP:** This fundraiser lets us obtain donations from sponsors to support your student's participation in choir activities. The Choir Program receives a portion of the sponsorship, but the majority of the sponsorship money does directly into students' choir accounts!
- **BAKE SALES:** These will be coordinated at many of the Choir Concerts. Baked goods are donated by choir families, and profits go to the choir's general fund. You will receive email in the weeks leading up to a choir concert with specific information about that concert's bake sale.
- **COOKIE DOUGH:** Our traditional sale of Cookie Dough runs in the fall. ALL profits are applied to individual accounts.
- **CHIPPEWA VALLEY DISTRICT IDOL:** Our 9th annual DISTRICT IDOL and DISTRICT IDOL JR. (in partnership with Seneca Middle School Choirs) run in October/November. It assists in raising money for the choir's general fund.
- **WIEGAND'S HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER:** This sale provides holiday wreathes, porch pots and poinsettias. It runs in November & December. ALL profits are applied to individual accounts.
- **ACHATZ PIES:** These locally-owned, delicious pies are sold in March, so delivery comes just in time for the Easter season. ALL profits are applied to individual accounts.
- **MIXED BAGS:** This fun, recycled product is available in the spring with delivery happening just before Mother's Day. ALL profits are applied to individual accounts.

LINES OF COMMUNICATION

How to remain in the loop:

- **Email**
 - It is critical for all parents to be on the email distribution list, and regularly check for DHS Choir emails.
 - This is the best communication method for me to send detailed information to all choir families. Important information (e.g., concert/ticket sale reminders, calendar/schedule changes, calls for volunteers, new upcoming activities or opportunities) will be sent out via email, by our parent liaison.
- **Remind**
 - Remind (formerly Remind 101) is an application that allows me to send text messages to the Dakota Choirs community, and keeps your phone number private. Sign-up on the Remind App, or by sending the text message **@dakotachoirz** to the number **81010**. You will be prompted to reply with your name, or you will receive a confirmation message.
 - These messages will be for school-year business-type reminders. (e.g., “Don’t forget Cookie Dough fundraiser forms are due tomorrow!”)
 - While members of the group have the option to send the administrator private messages, I do not receive notifications for these and will not check them—communication with me is still best via email.
- **Website**
 - Take a look at the Dakota Choirs website! It will be an additional source for updates, forms and information, the calendar, homework for students, and more! www.DakotaChoirs.com
- **Facebook**
 - You may want to join the DHS Choirs 2019-2020 Facebook Group!
 - Search on Facebook for “DHS Choirs 2019-2020.” It is a “Closed Group,” so you will have to request to join.
 - This is an informal, community-based group, where parents and students can share their choir pictures or videos, post group reminders, ask or answer questions.
 - Please also go “like” the Facebook page for Dakota High School Choirs!
 - www.facebook.com/DakotaChoirs
- **Twitter**
 - Follow @DakotaChoirs on Twitter!

How to contact Mr. Walker:

- **AWalker@cvs.k12.mi.us**
 - Email is the best contact method; I can check email frequently and will respond at the earliest opportunity. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response, but do feel free to send a polite follow-up email after that if you have not heard back from me. If at any time you cannot recall my email address, you can send an email through the Dakota website.
- **(586) 723-2860**
 - I will not be able to answer outside phone calls during school hours, when I am teaching. If you need to speak on the phone, please email me and I would be happy to schedule a phone call. When I am in the building, I will check my messages periodically, but not as often as email.

Welcome to DAKOTA CHOIRS 2019-2020!!!



DAKOTACHOIRS

MATERIALS: 1", 3-ring binder *that fits in cabinet* by Friday 9/6.
Binder cannot be more than 10" wide
Five dividers
Pencil every day, no excuses.
Go get some choir sponsors!

First Assignment — Parent Email Mr. Walker

- **Due: Friday, September 6th.**
 - Each day late will result in a 10% deduction, beginning Monday.
- For 10/10 points on the *first assignment* for the year, EACH FAMILY needs to send me an email in order to be added to the 2019-2020 Choir Email Distribution list.
- This is the most efficient method for me to communicate information to the whole choir program. Choir emails will come from either the Parent Email Liaison (Sian Lyons) or myself.
- No lengthy email required, only:
 - **Student Name / Grade / Choir(s)**
 - **Parent Name(s)**

♪ Choir Parent Checklist on back ♪

Choir Parent Checklist

- Send Mr. Walker an email at AWalker@cvs.k12.mi.us
 - Assignment described on previous page.
- Review entire choir handbook with your student.
Choir Handbook is online at www.DakotaChoirs.com, and students will receive a physical copy.
Return **Choir Handbook Contract / Parent Information** form
by **Friday, September 13th**
- Return **Choir Polo Order Form** and **Uniform Cleaning/Repair Fee** by **Friday, September 13th**
- Sign up for **Choir Remind** text messages. These are important.
 - Everyone needs to do this again for the new school year.
 - Send: @dhschoirz to 81010
- Follow @DakotaChoirs on **Twitter**; LIKE the Dakota Choirs **Facebook**
- Attend **Choir Parent meeting** on Tuesday, September 17th, 7PM
- Review information for **Choir Sponsorship Fundraiser!** Consider whom you know that could sponsor our program and enhance the possibilities of your student's experience in choir. More information about this fundraiser will be delivered to your student in class shortly. Information is already posted on DakotaChoirs.com under "Fundraising"

2019-2020 (Some) DHS Performing Arts Dates

This list is a brief summary of important dates provided for convenience.

For full Vocal Music calendar, visit www.DakotaChoirs.com

September 11	DHS Meet the Teacher Night
September 12/13	Show Choir auditions after school
September 17	Choir Parent meeting, 7PM
September 20	Homecoming—Choir and Musical march in Homecoming Parade!
September 23	Musical Workshop/Info in Choir Room after school
October 2/3/4	Musical auditions
October 8	Musical Parent meeting, 7PM
October 23	Collage Concert Dress Rehearsal, after school
October 24, 25	Collage Concerts, 7PM (same concert both nights)
December 12/16	Holiday Concert Stage Rehearsals, 3-6PM
December 17	Holiday Concert, 7PM
March 9	Festival Concert Stage Rehearsal, 3-6PM
March 10	Festival Concert featuring Seneca Middle School Choirs, 7PM
May 19/20	Spring Concert Stage Rehearsals, 3-6PM
May 21	Spring Concert, 7PM

Student Name (Print): _____

CHOIR HANDBOOK CONTRACT

We have read the 2019-2020 Dakota Choir Handbook thoroughly, and will fully comply with all expectations.

Student: Print name

Student: Signature

Parent/Guardian: Print name

Parent/Guardian: Signature

DUE DATE—FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 2019



Parent Information

Parent/Guardian Information

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Please complete as much of the following as you'd like. For phone numbers, circle to show Home/Cell/Work.

Phone: _____ H/C/W Phone: _____ H/C/W

Parents...We need YOUR help!!!

The INCREDIBLE level of support from choir parents, families, and the community is the sole reason that the DHS Choir Program is able to operate as it does! Whether the task is big or small, *all* parent involvement is deeply appreciated, and serves to enhance the students' experience in choir.

Can a DHS Choirs volunteer coordinator contact you? Please CHECK if YES, or leave blank if no _____

If yes, what is the best method (email/call/text) for contact, and when?

In the space below (or on the back), please feel free to describe how you think you could best help Dakota Choirs. If you've volunteered at all in the past, please describe! "I will do anything" is a great answer! If you could provide a general idea of the days/times you could be available, that also would be helpful.

STUDENT NAME (Print): _____ HOUR: _____

(1) Choir Polo Order

ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A CHOIR POLO.

Your student does NOT need to order a new polo if they already have one.

REQUIRED UNIFORM POLO
Navy Blue polo with embroidered Dakota Choir Emblem

Circle Size:	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
<i>(These run BIG)</i>						
Circle Total:	\$30	\$35	← Add \$5 for first name embroidered on sleeve			

_____ (Print Name)

(2) Uniform Cleaning/Repair Fee

Every choir member is issued uniform items for this fee.

Please include the following for uniform cleaning & any repairs: **\$20.00**

- *This fee DOES NOT include the show choir uniform.*
- *Students may not receive a uniform until the fee is submitted.*

Student Name: _____ Hour: _____

Total (\$20 Uniform Fee + Choir Polo cost, if buying) = _____

Form of PAYMENT (check one):

- PaySchools
- CHECK (# _____) *made out to DAKOTA CHOIRS*
- STUDENT CHOIR ACCOUNT

**DUE IN SEALED ENVELOPE ON:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th, 2019**