

Southwest MN Christian High School

Choral and Instrumental Music Manual 2009-2010

Wilbert Talen, Director

“After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music”
--Aldous Huxley

Dear Parents and Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to Southwest MN Christian High School for this academic year. It is my pleasure to be teaching music to your children. It is very exciting to see students grow in their musical abilities and to see students using their God given talents. What a joy it is to make music to the Lord together. Thank you in advance for all your support toward the music department. In order for musical ensembles to run smoothly we need the commitment of all involved. One of the ways you can contribute is by filling these dates in your calendars. Church singing dates for One Accord and Choir TBA.

Wednesday, Sep 16, 2009 Choir 7:30PM Luverne CRC
Choir sings at "John Calvin's Birthday Celebration Sept 16th 2009" at Luverne CRC .

Thursday, Oct 22, 2009 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Tuesday, Oct 27, 2009 Music 7:30PM Fall Concert SW MN Christian

Friday, Dec 4, 2009 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Friday, Dec 11, 2009 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Sunday, Dec 13, 2009 Music 2:00PM SW MN Christian
SWC's Music Department will present their Christmas Concert.

Monday, Dec 14, 2009 Music 7:30PM SW MN Christian
This is the re-scheduling date in case of inclement weather for SWC's Christmas Concert.

Tuesday, Dec 22, 2009 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Friday, Jan 8, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Saturday, Jan 16, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Tuesday, Jan 19, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Friday, Jan 29, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Friday, Feb 12, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Friday, Feb 19, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Friday, Feb 26, 2010 Pep Band 7:00PM SW MN Christian

Monday, Apr 12, 2010 3:18 -6:30PM Fulda High School

Friday, Apr 16, 2010 All Day Dordt College
SWC will be participating in the Dordt College Choir Festival.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 Music 7:30PM Spring Concert

Any changes to these dates or times can be found on the school's website at <http://swmch.org/> Also encourage students to look for other information on my website at <http://www.iw.net/~wdtalen> (this is also linked from the school's website.) Thank you in advance for filling these dates in.

All students participating in a music ensemble need to wear **unified concert attire**. This attire follows a basic white top, black bottom look. Concert attire must follow these guidelines along with the school dress code and 1 Timothy 2:9.

Men:

- Black dress pants,
- Black socks, and black shoes.
- Plain white dress shirt.
- Tie of any colour or pattern (that does not stand out too much).

Women:

- Black pants or skirt (of appropriate length).
- Black socks, if wearing pants, or nude coloured nylons, if wearing a skirt.
- Black shoes.
- Plain white top (with a modest neckline).

Uniforms take the attention off of individuals, increase professionalism, give merit, and positively influence a school's image in the community. Let's make sure the students look as good as they sound. **Students will not be allowed to perform if wearing clothing that does not fit the concert dress code.**

If you have any questions regarding the music program or your child please do not hesitate to call me at school 442-4471 or at home 631-1740 email wdtalen@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Wilbert Talen,

Music Director

School Instrument Rental Policy

Over the last number of years students who play larger instruments have been able to use the school's instruments free of charge. Instruments, like cars require routine maintenance such as chem flushing and pad replacement. In order to cover this cost students who use a school instrument will now pay a rental fee for each semester of use.

To cover cost of percussion equipment (i.e. replacement drum heads, sticks, worn out instruments) we will be charging half of the instrument rental fee to percussion players.

Since some students join and enter band at semester we will charge half of the fee each semester. This fee will be added to the student's 1st quarter and 3rd quarter student bill.

School Instrument Rental Fee

\$60 per year (\$30 per semester)

Percussionists Fee

\$30 per year (\$15 per semester)

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy please contact me either by email: wdtalen@gmail.com or home phone: 507-631-1740

Grading System

80% Weekly Points

- 1st quarter 100 points possible
- 2nd quarter 90 points possible
- 3rd quarter 100 points possible
- 4th quarter 80 points possible

Each student will receive up to 10 points per week for being to class on time and for positively participating in the rehearsal.

2 points deducted for:

- being tardy
- not following procedures (for example: not putting instrument or music away properly, not leaving the room in better condition than found)
- not having a pencil when needed
- poor attitude

Up to 10 points deducted for

- poor behavior

15% Performances (20% for Choir)

Performances are very important. See performances as your exam. One pep band “skip” is permitted without affecting grade but must be communicated in advance.

Be at all performances in your uniform at the time requested with your instrument and music and you will receive the full 15%.

7.5% deduction for missing a performance (unexcused absence) work, hunting, vacations, etc. are all unexcused absences. Sickness, funerals, and family emergencies are excused but concert video must be watched and evaluated.

up to 7.5% deduction for being tardy (includes coming unprepared: no instrument etc.).

Scale/Rudiment Tests: 5% (N/A for Choir)

Each student will play a series of scales or rudiments over the course of each semester. The lowest scoring scale or rudiment will be dropped.

Extra Credit

You can get extra credit (up to 100%) at any time for:

- 1.) Accompanying Choir or One Accord
- 2.) Singing or playing the national anthem
- 3.) Participating in Solo and Ensemble Festival
- 4.) Practicing and filling out a practice/listening sheet (available from me or online)
- 5.) Listening and filling out a practice/listening sheet (available from me or online)
- 6.) Leading a sectional outside of the regular school day (see me before you do this)
- 7.) Writing a concert review of an “other” concert i.e. High School, contemporary Christian music, etc.

Grading Scale

100-96 A	88-86 B	79-77 C	70-68 D
95-92 A-	85-83 B-	76-74 C-	67-65 D-
91-89 B+	82-80 C+	73-71 D+	64-00 F

Choral/Instrumental Contract

The music program at Southwest involves many students. Students must realize that it is a **privilege** to be involved in the music program. If you fail to see your involvement in music as being a privilege, then you will lose your privilege.

Rules in the music classroom are as follows (subject to student and teacher revision on first day of school)

- 1) Sing or Play when asked to sing or play nothing else
- 2) No talking while teacher is talking
- 3) Be quiet when teacher is working with another section
- 4) Stop when the teacher stops

The consequences for breaking these rules are as follows:

1st The student's name is said aloud and 2 points are taken off the student's weekly grade
2nd (in same class period) The student's name is said aloud and an additional 2 points are taken off student's weekly grade. Student is sent to office receives detention served by filing music (when possible) or writing a two page paper on a composer of the teacher's choice.

If a student is sent to the office a total of 3 times he or she will lose his or her privilege of participating in that music class at SWMCH that year.

The rewards for following these rules

In Choir:

Students will receive points toward their "sit stash" in their choir section. Once the section accumulates 10 points their sit stash is full and they may sit the entire class period when everyone else is required to stand.

In Band:

Students will receive points toward their scale test exemption. A total of 15 points earned results in that section's exemption in completing the scale/rudiment test of their choice.

I will encourage you to also remember why we are singing or playing.

Psalm 9:1-2

I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonders.

I will be glad and rejoice in you;

I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
