



Show Choir Information Packet 2021-2022

Table of Contents

How to Audition - Show Choir, Show Band	2
Audition Process Sheet - Show Choir, Show Band	3
Show Choir Handbook	4
Forms - Show Choir Handbook, Fee, and Travel Agreement	9
Important Show Choir Dates	12

How to Audition

FORMS & SIGN-UPS

- ❑ Join the Audition Google Classroom - Code: zehsp5a

- ❑ Fill Out the Online Audition Form - Found in Audition Google Classroom

- ❑ Email your Teacher Evaluation Form
 - ❑ There will be a character component to your audition; these forms will provide the directors a snapshot of your personal character/integrity/commitment over the course of the previous year (whether in the MWSC Program or not).
 - ❑ If you have previously been a member of MW Show Choir - Email this form to your most recent show choir director - Mr. Newhouse, Ms. Hinderer, Mr. Bjornsen, or Mr. Firkins
 - ❑ [Returner Evaluation](#)
 - ❑ If you are new to MWSC - Email this form to one teacher of your choosing
 - ❑ [New Auditionee Evaluation](#)

- ❑ Read, Print, and Sign the Show Choir Handbook pages.
 - ❑ [Upload signed documents to the Audition Assignment in Classroom.](#)
 - ❑ Upload by taking a photo of the form or by using a PDF software to add signature
 - ❑ You will not be considered for show choirs without these forms.

- ❑ Sign up for ONE and ONLY ONE live clinic spot
 - ❑ [Clinic Sign-ups](#)
 - ❑ Tuesday, March 23rd & 24th - 4:00pm-5:30pm @ MWHS
 - ❑ 150 students at each clinic to allow for social distancing
 - ❑ Everyone is allowed 90 minutes total of in-person clinic time
 - ❑ For those involved in the Addams Family musical
 - ❑ There will be clinics held before school on 3/23 & 3/24 from 7:00am-7:45am
 - ❑ You are expected to attend those clinics instead of an after school clinic
 - ❑ Only Musical members are allowed at these morning clinics
 - ❑ There will also be tutorial videos for individual practice posted on the show choir website
 - ❑ [MWHS Show Choir](#)
 - ❑ Tutorials will be posted March 23rd

- ❑ Sign up for Audition Time (Groups of 4). Please add names to comments when signing up.
 - ❑ [Singer/Dancer Audition Sign-up](#)
 - ❑ For those students who are remote learners this current year (20/21)
 - ❑ Fill out the Audition Form on Classroom
 - ❑ Based on your response on that Audition Form, you will be contacted by the Directors if you plan on auditioning via Zoom.

SHOW BAND

- ❑ More details to come via Google Classroom (see above)
- ❑ Email abfirkins@mpsomaha.org with any questions

- MWSC Audition Process -

	Singers/Roadies	Show Band
Audition Date	Friday, March 26	Thursday, March 25 @ 5:00 PM
Location	MW Choir room	MW Choir Room
Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be a MW Student 2. Must be registered for choir - Full Academic Year* 3. Must complete the Audition Form (online) 4. Email Evaluation Form to Director or teacher 5. Sign Handbook forms and upload to Classroom 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must be a MW Student 2. Must complete the Audition Form (online) 3. Email Evaluation Form to Director or teacher 4. Sign Handbook forms and upload to Audition Form
Details	<p><u>Audition in Groups of 4*</u></p> <p><u>Part I</u> “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” <i>Suggested Keys</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soprano - Bb • Alto - F • Tenor - G • Bass - C <p><u>Part II</u> Audition Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song/Dance - TBD • About 1 min. • One run-through on Audition track <p>*Remote Learners will have an alternate audition process TBD</p>	<p><u>Brass/Saxes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brass: major scales, 1-octave chromatic, F Hype Song • Saxes: major scales, 2-octave C-C chromatic scale, F Hype Song • Group audition song (will be posted in the google classroom) <p><u>Keyboards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major scales (C, G, D, A, F, Bb, Eb, one hand) • Group audition song (will be posted in the google classroom) <p><u>Drums, Bass, Guitar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drums only: 3 rock/pop beats w/ fills, slow/med/fast swing • Group audition song (will be posted in the google classroom)
Results	Posted April 2 millardwestshowchoirs.com	

*** Accepted Career Academy students ONLY:** 1 full year of choir = eligible for WIG, UTG, SCATS
 ½ year of choir = eligible for UTG and SCATS
 No choir = eligible for SCATS Only



Show Choir Handbook 2021-2022

The Staff:

- Show Choir Directors.....Zack Bjornsen & Katelyn Hinderer & Jordan Newhouse
- Show Band Director.....Drew Firkins

Contact Information:

- zpbjornsen@mpsomaha.org
- jtnewhouse@mpsomaha.org
- kmhinderer@mpsomaha.org
- abfirkins@mpsomaha.org
- Choir Office Phone: 402-715-6022

Millard West Show Choirs

West in the Groove [WIG]	Uptown Girls [UTG]	Swing Cats [SCATS]
Advanced Mixed Director: Mr. B	Advanced Women Director: Ms. Hinderer	Junior Varsity Mixed Director: J-New

Millard West Show Band

- The show band provides the foundation of each show, it is not possible without them!
- Instrumentation varies year by year, but generally includes a full rhythm section (piano, keys, drums, guitar, bass), and a wind section (brass & saxes).
- Does NOT conflict with Millard West Marching Band
- Rehearsals: 1-2 per week, schedule to be determined
- Attendance is **MANDATORY** at all performances (local and over-night)

Millard West Roadies

- Roadies work behind the scenes and help make the shows come to life.
- Duties: various stage needs (mics, number line, set pieces), costume changes, etc.
- If you are interested in being a roadie only, you are **still** required to go through the audition.
 - Roadies are required to be enrolled in choir for full academic year, unless involved in the Career Academy program

- IMPORTANT SHOW CHOIR EVENTS & EXPECTATIONS -

All Member/Parent Informational Meeting - Thursday, April 15th, 7p (MW Auditorium)

Attendance at this meeting is required by all show choir members (Singers, Band & Roadies) along with at least one parent/guardian.

MWSC Bonding Event - Saturday, August 7th, (Times TBD)

Every year the show choirs (Singers, Band members, & Roadies) come to the school to meet each other and look forward to the year. The date for bonding is on Saturday, August 7th. Attendance will be **MANDATORY** as this event sets the tone between all members and establishes connections beyond the shows and music.

Rehearsal Schedule

A complete rehearsal schedule will be announced during the April 15th meeting. We are finalizing next year's Fine Arts Calendar with the whole department and administration. You will be able to participate in Marching Band, the Musical, and Show Choir. The schedule will adjust based on those seasons; a detailed plan will be put in place before the meeting on April 15th.

Choreography Workshops

These rehearsals are **MANDATORY** for singers/dancers. We bring in choreographers from around the country, and it is very difficult to learn the choreography without the direct help from the choreographer. These dates are currently being scheduled and will be communicated as soon as they are finalized.

Costume Expectations

Our costumes are one-of-a-kind and very delicate. Please take your costume out of the garment bag to air out, and follow all cleaning instructions provided in the fall. If you lose or ruin a piece of your costume you will not be able to perform until your costume piece is replaced at your expense. At the conclusion of the year, you will be asked to turn in your garment bag and there is a possibility that you will be asked to turn in a portion of your costume. Your show choir fees only cover a portion of the costuming. The show choir program typically pays for parts or all of the costume change.

Appearance Expectations

Appearance is vitally important to our success and must be uniform. This includes competitions as well as non-judged performances. Stage appearance is non-negotiable and directors have the final determination on any appearance issues in question.

- Women - Natural hair color; hair out of face and styled as determined by the directors.
- Men - Natural hair color; hair off the collar, ears, and eyebrows; clean shaven.
- No piercings or tattoos visible during performances/pictures. Only uniformed costume jewelry will be allowed during performances.
- Competition Day Clothing - please dress appropriately. Leadership will speak with anyone not complying with the MW Dress Code.

Show Choir Code of Conduct

In order to be in Show Choir, students are expected to follow the guidelines listed below.

● **RELIABLE**

- Show Choir needs to be a PRIORITY
 - **Show choir is an EXTRAcurricular activity and therefore demands EXTRA sacrifice and commitment**
 - **Academics are a priority! However, if you need extra help or need to retake a test, you need to plan around your rehearsal schedule.**
- Attendance Policy:
 - August-December
 - **5 unexcused absences = DISMISSAL FROM GROUP**
 - Choreography Dates (separate from regular absences)
 - **2 absences = DISMISSAL FROM GROUP**
 - January-End of Season
 - **3 unexcused absences = meet with Directors & Leadership**
 - Performances
 - **REQUIRED. Please consider Spring Break trips before auditioning.**
- Abstain from Drug/Alcohol use and any other illegal activity. This includes vaping.
- Help with any necessary set-up, tear-down, loading, unloading, clean-up, etc.
- In accordance with NSAA Policy, a student who has NOT successfully completed 20 credit hours in Terms 1 & 2 will be dismissed from show choir.
- A student who is failing more than 1 class during Terms 3 & 4 will be deemed ineligible. Failing students will NOT travel or perform with the group, but are still expected to attend ALL rehearsals while they work toward academic eligibility.

● **RESPECTFUL**

- Show respect to all directors, teammates, volunteers, facilities, other schools.
- Put others before yourself; this is not about you. This is about the Show Choir Family.
- Keep show choir drama-free.
 - **Drama is a choice.**
 - **How you respond to an issue can solve it or make it worse.**

Financial Obligations

- **\$65 Activity Fee to Millard West High School**
 - All Show Choir Members (Singers, Band, & Roadies) are required to pay a **\$65** Activity Fee to Millard West High School in order to participate in extracurricular school activities. Please pay this fee to Millard West during Fall Registration. This is a separate fee from the following fees.
- **\$650 Show Choir Fee**
 - Millard West will be charging a **\$650** show choir fee this year. This money will be used for costumes, music rights and arrangements, choreographers, props, transportation, clinicians, and competition registration. Covered with this expense: Girls – shoes, tights, dress, spanx, jewelry, make-up, leotard, etc. Boys – shoes, suit, shirt, tie, etc. The payment schedule is:
 - April 15- \$250.....MW Main Office - Attention: Mr. Bjornsen
 - June 30 - \$200.....MW Main Office - Attention: Mr. Bjornsen
 - August 7 - \$200.....Show Choir Bonding
 - If your fee is not paid in full by August 7th and you do not have a payment plan agreed upon with the MW Office, you will not be able to participate until the fee has been paid. Each rehearsal will be considered an UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. (Note: 5 of these absences will result in your dismissal from the group).
- **\$150 Band Members & Roadies**
 - There is a **\$150** show choir fee. This fee will help cover costs for transportation, music rights and arrangements, clinicians and competition registration.
 - Roadies are required to wear all black. A roadie costume can be provided upon request.
 - Band members will be asked to wear performance black for shows.
 - This fee applies to show choir members that are Band or Roadies Only
- **\$275 WIG & UTG TRAVEL**
 - Since WIG and UTG will be travelling to Minnesota, we will be collecting a **\$275** Travel Fee.
 - This fee covers charter bus transportation, hotel stays, and extra activities.
- **Refund Policy**
 - If a student quits show choir, a percentage of the fees will be refunded.
 - Prior to Bonding - 75% refund
 - Prior to Fall Break - 50%
 - Fall Break and later - 0%
 - Show choir has many up-front costs that must be paid before the school year begins; costuming starts in late spring and arrangements are finalized in the summer. Your financial commitment to the program begins with the posting of groups. We assume your involvement and plan costuming immediately.
- **Other notes**

- If Show choir is a financial hardship, please contact the accounting office at MWHS. There are options to help, and your situation would be kept confidential.

Handbook Agreement

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

I/We the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the above named, have read the Show Choir Handbook. We understand all the requirements, expectations, and consequences for improper actions. We understand the directors, with the assistance of school administration, have the authority to remove a student from the program. We know that the directors' decisions regarding student placement within groups are final.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

As a member of the MWHS Show Choir, I have fully read the Show Choir Handbook and understand what is expected of me in order to participate. I will work hard at every rehearsal and communicate with my director and my parents. I understand the consequences of poor behavior and/or inappropriate actions and will take responsibility for those actions. I will always keep in mind that I am representing my school, my community, my state, and most importantly, myself.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fees Agreement

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

I/We the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the above named, agree to pay the Show Choir Fee, which is **\$650 (or \$150 for Band/Roadie Only Members)**. This amount will be paid in full by **Saturday, August 7th**. If this fee cannot be paid in full by the previously mentioned date, we agree to contact the Show Choir Directors to initiate a payment plan. In the case of quitting the program, 75% will be refunded before Bonding and 50% before Fall Break. After Fall Break, we will not receive a refund as custom costumes, custom arrangements, and custom choreography have already been paid for.

I/We the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the above named, understand that failure to pay fees in full by the agreed upon deadline or failure to comply with an agreed upon payment plan will result in suspension from all show choir activities, including rehearsals, performances, bondings, etc until no longer delinquent. Failure to rectify these issues in a timely manner may result in removal from the program.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Totino-Grace Travel Expense Agreement

{UTG & WIG ONLY}

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name (Please Print): _____

I/We the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the above named, agree to pay the Totino-Grace Travel Expense, which is **\$275**. This amount will be paid in full by **Saturday, August 7th**. If expenses cannot be paid in full by the previously mentioned date, we agree to contact the Show Choir Directors to initiate a payment plan.

Check one of the following

Yes, we agree to pay \$275 and plan to attend Totino-Grace Show Choir "Spectacular"

No, we cannot pay \$275 and understand that my positions will be reblocked for this event

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

- IMPORTANT SHOW CHOIR DATES -

DATE	EVENT	TIME & LOCATION
February 24	Audition Information posted	Website and Classroom (zehsp5a)
March 23	Audition Clinic	4:00-5:30pm Location TBD @ MW
March 24	Audition Clinic	4:00-5:30pm Location TBD @ MW
March 23 & 24	Audition Clinic for students in MW Musical	7:00-7:45am Location TBD @ MW
March 25	Show Band Auditions	MW Choir Room
March 26	Singer/Dancer Auditions	MW Choir Room
April 2	Announcement of Groups	millardwestshowchoirs.com
April 12-16	Students can request feedback for auditions	E-mail to the Directors
April 15	All Member/Parent Informational Meeting	MW Auditorium @ 6PM & 7:30PM
August 7	Bonding Day	Times TBD - Millard West - Choir Room
January 3	Clean Up Day - All Groups	Times TBD - Millard West
January 14	Premiere	6:00 & 8:00p - Millard West Auditorium
January 21	Music Lives - Set-up	After School - Millard West
January 22	Music Lives	All Day - Millard West
January 29	Westside "Competition of Excellence"	All Day - Time TBD - Omaha
February 19	Omaha South "Classic"	All Day - Time TBD - Omaha
March 3-6	Totino-Grace "Spectacular" (WIG & UTG)	All Day - Time TBD - Twin Cities, MN
March 12	Millard North "Galaxy of the Stars"	All Day - Time TBD - Omaha
March 18-19	Mitchell "Friend de Classic"	All Day - Time TBD - South Dakota
March 28	Final Concert - "That Show Choir Show"	6:00 & 8:00p - Millard West Auditorium