

Music Program Handbook

Becky Rohde, Choir and Ukulele
Rachael Wood, Handbells and Handchimes

The Purpose of the Music Program at Concordia

The purpose of the music program is to train students in God's gift of music, which serves as a universal language of *worship* and a means of *creativity* and *self-expression*. Students will have opportunities to strengthen spiritual growth, increase self-confidence, and learn the essential skills of being part of a team.

Membership Expectation: A Year-Long Commitment

Enrollment in all music groups is for the entire school year, beginning in the middle of August and concluding in late May. **Each member is expected to remain active and committed for the entire year.** This serves to:

- help children understand commitment
- allow time for students to develop their skills
- teach group members to rely on one another

Please contact Mrs. Rohde or Mrs Wood if an unusual situation occurs that prohibits a handchime or choir member from honoring this one-year commitment.

Rehearsals

All choirs, bells/chimes, and ukulele groups meet twice a week for 45 min.

Performance Attire

A well-dressed and well-groomed ensemble exudes class and discipline. **ABSOLUTELY NO** athletic shoes or jeans are to be worn in performance by any member.

Grade 5-8 Church Dress:

- Dress Code for our church performances is Monday-Thursday school dress code OR BETTER.

Grade 5-8 Concert Dress:

- **Girls**—White OR Black blouse, black pants or skirt (below the knee), black dress shoes (closed-toed) with a back. **No flip-flops or tennis shoes!**
- **Boys**—White OR black polo or button-up shirt, black pants, black socks, black dress shoes. **No flip-flops or tennis shoes!**

GRADING

Please note that music courses count toward a student's GPA.

Your quarter grade is determined from an average of:

1. Assignments and in-class performance quizzes: singing, playing, or rhythm counting 20%
2. Daily Citizenship 40% (daily behavior, work ethic, and participation)
3. Performance Grade 40%

1. Assignments and Quizzes - There may be worksheets, singing/playing tests in groups, and solfege or rhythmege assignments throughout the year. If given as *homework*, these are due the next class period, unless otherwise specified. Homework in music classes is included in the 5-8th grade homework policies.

2. Daily Citizenship Grading Guidelines

Each day of rehearsal is worth 10 points. Your citizenship grade is based on attitude, active participation, preparation, timeliness, and respect to the teacher and the group. See your teacher for a specific points sheet for a picture of our expectations.

A (9-10) B (7-8) C (6-7) D (4-5) F (0-3)

3. Performances - church services *and* concerts

Performances are 40% of the quarter grade for all ensembles.

To earn an "A":

1. Be in your place BEFORE the assigned time.
2. Wear appropriate concert attire.
3. While performing, focus is 100% on the music at all times. Appropriate behavior on stage is expected for all members of all choirs. Inappropriate behavior will consequently lower your grade.
6. As an audience member, the students' attention is directed to the ensemble or soloist performing.

Talking is not acceptable during ANY performance.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all scheduled church services and concerts is mandatory. The entire group has worked very hard in rehearsals to prepare a wonderful concert to glorify God and showcase the talents given by Him. We have a limited number of performances per year, and we're asking that these take priority over other games or practices. *Work, babysitting, non-school club activities, or not having a ride are UNEXCUSED.* PLAN AHEAD! In order to receive a rare consideration for an absence from a performance (such as an unexpected illness or death in the family), a written excuse from your parent/guardian is required PRIOR TO or IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCERT. *In terms of any COVID-related closures, we will follow what CLS mandates. Since churches and schools are in session with safe measures in place, we will hold to our schedule barring any unforeseen circumstances.*

- **A phone call or e-mail to Mrs. Rohde or Mrs. Wood is required as soon as the condition is known.** In the case of Handbells/chimes, a *substitute* needs to be acquired for the rest of the group to be successful.
- If an absence is considered “excused”, the student may make up the performance with a separate conversation and document from the teacher.
- Special note: You have been given plenty of notice to clear your schedules. CHECK NOW if you are in activities to determine possible conflicts. If you come to us the week before a performance with an “oh, by the way,” the likelihood of your being excused from either conflict will be significantly reduced. Respect your obligation to each program and give at least 2 weeks notification so a resolution can be made.

Contacting Us

Your child’s growth and success are extremely important to us. We realize that this is a lot of information to take in at once, but please know that enrolling your child in music will have a profoundly positive effect on their future.

Communication is key to a successful music program. We always welcome and appreciate hearing your questions or concerns.

Please feel free to contact us at any time by FastDirect or email:

[Mrs. Rohde
brohde@clscubs.org](mailto:brohde@clscubs.org)

[Mrs. Wood
rwood@clscubs.org](mailto:rwood@clscubs.org)

We are looking forward to an INCREDIBLE year of making music and serving the Lord!

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High.” Psalm 92:1

In His amazing grace,
Mrs. Becky Rohde and Mrs. Rachael Wood
Music Directors

2021-2022 Performance Dates

Please mark these dates on your calendar

Sunday, September 26	8:30 am	7/8 th Choir
Sunday, October 10	11:00 am	5/6 th Chimes
Sunday, November 7	8:30 am	6 th Choir
*Friday, November 12 After school through 7:00 concert <u>CHORfest at CLHS</u> - 7/8 th Choir		
Wednesday, December 1	7:00 pm	5 th Choir
Sunday, December 12	8:30 am	7/8 th Handbells
Wednesday, December 15		Christmas Concert at CLS, 1:30 and 7:00 pm <u>1st - 6th grade music groups</u>
Sunday, January 23	11:00	7/8 th Choir
Saturday, January 29	TBA	Band/Strings ISSMA Solo and Ensemble, optional
Saturday, February 5	TBA	Vocal/Piano ISSMA Solo and Ensemble, optional
Sunday, February 27	8:30 am	5/6 th Chimes
Sunday, February 27	11:00	6 th Choir
Wednesday, March 9	7:00 pm	7/8 th Handbells
Sunday, March 13	8:30 am	5 th Choir
Tuesday, May 10	7:00 pm	<u>Celebration of Talents - ALL GROUPS 5-8th</u>

*Large events are still in the planning stages. We will give more information when it is ready!

Please note that students will also have the opportunity to participate in chapel throughout the year. Notification of this will be given in advance.

Statement of Understanding

My student and I have read and discussed the Concordia Choir/Handbell Policies. We understand the grading procedure, the assignments, and work that must be put in to become a successful musician and ensemble member **and** that **attendance at all services and concerts is mandatory**.

I also know that if any questions or concerns should arise about my child's participation in music throughout the year, contacting the music director as soon as possible is essential, and she will answer any questions I may have.

- Please sign below with your student and return to your homeroom teacher by **Thursday, August 26** . This is your first assignment!

Parent/Guardian's signature Date

Student's signature Date

I may be able to help in the following areas.

This does not obligate you to help. We will call for volunteers as needed.

- Concert Usher:** Hand out programs at a concert
- Photographer:** Take digital pictures at events and email them to Music Directors
- Videographer:** Be willing to record the performance
- Musician:** If you play an instrument or sing and would like to help us out when needed (please specify your instrument) _____
- At-Large Parent Helpers:** Be willing to consider helping where needed most

We are looking forward to a wonderful year of making music to the glory of God!