



Helena Middle School Choir 2026-27



Welcome!

Welcome to the choir program at Helena Middle School! This choir program has a long and proud tradition of vocal excellence and classroom community. Every choir member that belongs to this program belongs to an outstanding team of fellow singers who will share music, time, community and laughter throughout the coming school year.

Goals

- To learn and develop the basic skills necessary for a proper singing voice.
- To read and understand written music.
- To have the opportunity to sing in an ensemble.
- To give your best effort and have an enjoyable experience while becoming a musician.

Required Dates

- **Concert Dates:**
 - 12/3/2026, 6:00 pm, @ HMS auditorium, Grades 6, 7, 8.
 - 12/11/2026, time TBD, @ Capitol Rotunda, Grade 8.
 - 12/18/2026, time TBD, @ Touchmark & Helena Point, opt-in Caroling in the Community, Grades 6, 7, 8.
 - 3/9/2027, time TBD, @ HMS auditorium, Grade 8.
 - 5/13/2026, time TBD, @ HMS auditorium, Grades 6 & 7.
 - 6/2/2026, 6:00 pm, @ HMS auditorium, Grade 8.

Classroom Expectations and Consequences

- **Daily Classroom Routine:** Daily lesson plans will be projected. These lesson plans will include:
 - Bellringer
 - Body and Vocal Warm-up
 - Learning Targets
 - Closing
- **Classroom Expectations:** Every day in choir, students are expected to do their best every day and participate 100% in classroom activities.
 - **Best Rehearsal Etiquette:** During rehearsal all students are expected to have proper singing posture both sitting and standing. All classroom materials and furniture shall be treated with respect and care.
 - **Full Participation:** During rehearsal all students are expected to give Ms. Kecskes their full attention and to participate in all activities to the best of their ability.
 - **Clear and Kind Communication:** During rehearsal in the choir room students are expected to communicate clearly and kindly with everyone around you. Students will raise their hand if they have a question. Foul language, shouting, screaming, harassment, bullying, or any other form of unkindness is not tolerated. Hands and feet will always be kept in your own space. Always keep yourself and other safe.
- **Consequences:**
 - **Loss of Daily Participation Points:** Students who are not following classroom expectations will receive verbal warnings.
 - 1 warning: loss of 1 point
 - 2 warnings: loss of 2 points
 - 3 warning: write up and loss of all daily points
 - Loss of daily participation points due to inappropriate classroom behavior cannot be made-up.
 - **Behavior Referral:** If students are being unsafe, are escalated and cannot be safely in the choir room with others they will be sent to the office with a behavior referral form. Parents will be informed by the office staff if such an event occurs.
 - **Call Home:** For any serious behavior issues students will lose all daily participation points and Ms. Kecskes will call parents/guardians to inform them.

Grading Policy

- Daily Participation Points: 5 points.
- Skills Checks: 30 points.
 - Grading Scale:
 - 30: Exceeding the standard.
 - 20: Meeting the standard.
 - 10: Approaching the standard.
 - 0: No participation.
- Creative Projects: 50 points.
- Concert Attendance: 100 points.
- Concert Assessments: 25 points.
- Make-up Assignments: Make-up assignments can be completed for daily participation points and for concerts.

Concert Attendance Policy

- Concert Attendance: Every choir member is required to perform at each concert. Every choir member is required to be a good and exemplary audience member when not on stage. Every choir member is expected to show up at least 15 minutes before the performance time.
- Concert Absences: It is each student's responsibility to plan for concerts during the year, but it is also understood that conflicts sometimes arise. To make-up a missed concert for full credit, you must turn in the concert make up assignment before the end of the quarter.
- Concert Attire: Every choir member is expected to wear "Sunday Best" semi-formal clothing. If at all uncertain, ask Ms. Kecskes and she will help you.

Handbook Acknowledgment Form

Please take this form home. Every choir member and their parent/guardian is required to sign this form to acknowledge and affirm their understanding of HMS Choir policy, expectations and procedures, concert dates and general guidelines.

Student Name (Printed):_____ Period:_____

Student Signature:_____ Date:_____

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____