

## WP Chorus Attendance Policy

As a member of a performing ensemble, each student is expected to attend all class sessions *and* after school rehearsals and performances. A choral calendar of all required and optional events is distributed at the beginning of the school year. Extra copies are always available in the choir room.

**The after school rehearsals are treated in the same manner as a regular class session.** Attendance is required, and all FCPS regulations are in effect. Students are expected to place all activities and assignments in their school planner, and on their home calendars. Choir demands a team effort from each individual, and each student's participation affects the group outcome. Each singer plays a valuable role in the process of rehearsing and preparing for a performance. Whenever a singer is absent from a rehearsal, the student misses valuable opportunities for musical growth, both individually and with the ensemble. Attendance guidelines are important to support the learning process for both individual and the group. It helps the student gain self-discipline and time management skills.

### **DRESS REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS ARE CONSIDERED AS EXAM GRADES!**

A dress rehearsal (final rehearsal before a concert) and the concert are culminating events of weeks of training and preparation. When a student misses a performance, in reality it cannot be made up in the same manner as make-up tests are given in other classes. It is impossible to duplicate the many unique aspects of a performance on which a grade is based. The student misses the opportunity to

- prepare for a concert by dressing in performance attire
- perform in front of an audience, on a stage
- respond to conductor's gestures after weeks of rehearsal
- sing all the prepared material with their ensemble.
- hear the other ensembles in a live performance.
- experience the applause given after a successful performance

However, it is understood that extenuating circumstances may prevent a singer from attending a concert. In those rare cases, the student must make up the event in the manner outlined in the

#### **Make-up Project for Excused Absences from a Dress Rehearsal or Concert**

### **Refer to the FCPS extracurricular & co-curricular activity participation policy!**

Choir is not "extra-curricular", as in athletic team sports where no grade or credit is given. Choir is a *co-curricular* activity, in which the student is required to attend both in-school and after-school rehearsals and concerts. A grade and credit is given for completion of the requirements.

### **Excused Absences from a choral activity**

In each case listed below, the parent must call the choral office at 718-2687 or email the director at [eljohnson1@fcps.edu](mailto:eljohnson1@fcps.edu) before 3:00 PM to report the student's absence from an after-school rehearsal or performance.

- **Illness which confines you at home .**
- **Death in family**
- **Religious holiday**
- **Other pre-arranged absences must be approved by the school and director *in advance*** Pre-arranged absences from rehearsals will be considered on a case by case

basis.

**IMPORTANT:** All excused absences must be made-up within one week of the event, or as scheduled by

the student with the director, or no credit will be given, and the grade for the missed event will be “0”.  
**Please refer to “Make-up Work for Excused Absences from Daily Rehearsals”**

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** The following are considered *unexcused* absences for all required after-school rehearsals or concerts.

- You must plan ahead. Choir is a performance-based class, which requires that you attend after school rehearsals and concerts. Therefore, you must manage your time, keep a calendar and refer to it often, and communicate conflicts well in advance. The following are considered unexcused absences

**I had to work** – Give your employer at least 2 weeks notice of the conflict, and arrange your schedule accordingly. The director will be happy to call the employer at your request if it is necessary. If you give too short a notice to your employer, they have a right to respond unfavorably! Plan ahead, refer to your calendar, and communicate regularly to parents, teachers, employers, etc.

**I had to finish my homework/study for a test.** - Every student has homework, and is expected to manage time wisely and meet all academic deadlines. If you miss a required choral event because you were studying for a test or completing an assignment for another class, your absence at the required choral event is considered unexcused and graded as such. Again, plan ahead!

**I didn't have a ride** – It is your responsibility to find a ride to each required event. If your parent cannot regularly provide you transportation for an after-school rehearsal or concert, pre-arrange a ride with one of the other choir members in advance. There are many individuals in choir who live near you, and would be happy to provide transportation to and from the rehearsal. If your parent was planning on taking you to an event, but is caught in traffic or running late that day, you must call the choral office **(718-2687)** immediately, and we will try to have someone come to pick you up. In extreme cases where no other alternative is available, call a cab, get a receipt, and the director will reimburse you for the fare.

**It was my birthday/parent's anniversary, etc** – It is impossible to accommodate absences from major events because of choral singers' birthday and anniversary celebrations, attendance at plays, concerts, non-school-related athletic events, and other outside of school activities on evenings of required choral concerts, are considered unexcused absences. Great care is given when scheduling choral events to avoid conflicts with VHSL athletic events, school and club activities, etc. However personal celebrations must be scheduled to accommodate attendance the required graded event.