

Divine Mercy School Choirs 2021-2022

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Purpose and Eligibility

The purpose of the Divine Mercy School Choir is to lead and inspire the community to raise their voices and hearts in song during mass and other prayer opportunities. One of St. Augustine's most famous quotes is, "To sing well is to pray twice."

Students in Grades 2-4 are eligible for our Children's Choir, and grades 5-8 are eligible to participate in our Middle School Choir. There is no audition required to participate, however, everyone is expected to come with a willingness and genuine desire to participate in singing with the choir. Consistent attendance is expected, including weekday masses and the monthly youth-led masses on the weekends.

Expectations

- Be respectful of Mrs. Kuhn and your fellow students. Excessive interruptions are discouraged, as they disrupt the fun, learning environment, and sacred nature of our music.
- Arrive on time for all rehearsals. Head directly to the gym after school daily dismissal and wait silently for Mrs. Kuhn to collect you.
- Arrive on time for all designated performance masses, with a joyful and willing heart.
- Please come dressed appropriately for mass and for practices. Refer to Divine Mercy Student Handbook for appropriate dress code and current uniform regulations.
- Be respectful of others and of the property of the parish and school.
- Water is allowed with permission.

Consequences

Failure to adhere to the expectations will result in the following:

1. Verbal warning
2. Quiet time to reflect on one's actions
3. A one-on-one talk with Mrs. Kuhn about choir expectations and how we can change our actions to reflect respectful behavior and positive participation. A note will be sent home to parent/guardian to inform them of the consequential behavior which then must be returned and signed by parent/guardian before the next scheduled rehearsal.
4. A meeting with student and parent about consistent failure to meet behavior/participation expectations.
5. Removal from choir until the next season.

Attendance Policy

In order for our choir to be their best, consistent attendance to rehearsals and masses is crucial. Even when one student misses, our choir is a totally different group. Every voice has importance. If absences become a consistent issue, the student will be dismissed. Please make every attempt to schedule appointments on alternate days, and make sure any big homework projects are managed well to avoid missing. If your child is sick, please do not send them to rehearsal. However, do email or call Mrs. Kuhn to inform her of the absence.

Car Pick-up Policy

Please make every attempt to have your child picked up on time. Student car pickup will be from 3:50pm - 4:00pm. If a student is not picked up by 4:05pm, they will need to report to the After Care program in the school, and the parent/guardian will be responsible for any fees charged.

When We Sing

Weekly Practices

The DM Children's Choir practices every Wednesday from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Our Middle School Choir practices every Monday from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. If school is cancelled due to weather, we will not have practice. Also, if a practice has to be cancelled due to an unforeseen emergency (director is ill, bad weather conditions, etc.), you will be notified by email through the school office. Please keep an eye on your email. If students are absent for a regularly scheduled rehearsal, they will kindly be asked to watch the performance. This is because new music is learned weekly and an absent student would not be able to contribute to the group performance. Please review the expectations with your child and have them write the days in their planners to help them remember.

Weekday Masses at School

The DM School choir sings for all school masses during the week, which typically fall on **WEDNESDAYS at 8:30 am**, unless there is a Holy Day of Obligation during the week. In that case, the mass will be moved to that day. These masses take place in the gym, and all are invited to attend. Students are to arrive at school at the normal drop-off time, report to their classrooms to drop off bookbags and check in with the teacher, then come directly to the gym before 8:15am to warm up.

Weekend Masses

The DM School Choir will occasionally have an opportunity to sing once a month for our weekend liturgies at our main worship site, 800 Marquette Ave. Students are allowed to wear "Sunday best" for these masses. A schedule will be emailed as the dates approach.

If for some reason your child is unable to attend due to illness or family conflict, please let Mrs. Kuhn know immediately by phone or Email to allow time to adjust or make changes. After 3 unexcused absences from the weekend masses, the student may be dismissed from the choir.

What is Sunday Best?

One big lesson to teach our students is how to dress their best. This isn't just a lifelong skill to know, but when we come in the presence of the Lord, we should strive to look our very best. For weekend masses, students should adhere to the following:

Boys:

Nice slacks with a belt; no jeans.

Nice shirt, tucked in (Polo shirts are acceptable, as is a button down shirt. Tie optional.)

Nice dress shoes desired. Tennis shoes should be either black or gray, and no neon ornamentations or shoelaces.

Hair should be combed and out of the face.

Girls:

Skirt, Dress- Hemline should be no shorter than the ends of your fingertips when your arms are down by your side.

Nice Slacks and Shirt tucked in; no jeans.

Nice dress shoes. Avoid flip flops and tennis shoes.

Hair should be combed and pulled out of the face.

Jewelry is fine, however, nothing that will cause a distraction. (Large dangly earrings, big necklaces, bangle bracelets, etc. should be avoided.)