



**TONKA DISTRICT**  
**CHILDRENS CHOIR**

**Parent and Singer**  
**Handbook**  
**2019-2020**

## **Tonka District Children's Choir Mission Statement:**

The Tonka District Children's Choirs serves children who love to sing in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade from each of the six elementary schools, MME and MMW. Membership in the choir fosters musicality through performance and bridges friendships across the district. There is a place for everyone in the choir!

## **Tonka District Children's Choir Ensembles:**

**Select Choir:** Includes fourth, fifth and sixth grade girls and boys from each of the six elementary schools, MME and MMW. This is an auditioned group with a higher level of performance and rehearsal expectations. This group will cater to the dedicated and experienced young singer. Select Choir rehearses every Thursday that school is in session from 5:00-6:30PM at Clear Springs Elementary School.

**Core Choir:** Includes fourth, fifth and sixth grade boys and girls from each of the six elementary schools, MME and MMW. Singers in this choir will develop singing and performing skills using choral music and individual instruction. The goals will be improved technique and a musically satisfying concert while creating a space where all voices are celebrated

**Third Grade Choir:** Includes third grade boys and girls from each of the six elementary schools in the Minnetonka School District. There are two Third Grade Choir options for the 2019-2020 school year. Skipper Choir meets at Scenic Heights on Mondays at 4:15-5:15 and Anchor Choir meets on Tuesdays at Minnewashta from 4:15-5:15.

## **Staff Contact Information:**

**Select Choir Director:** Melanie McIvor

Clear Springs Elementary

(952) 401-4093

[Melanie.mcivor@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:Melanie.mcivor@minnetonkaschools.org)

**Core Choir Director:** Seth Boyd

Minnetonka Middle School East

[Seth.boyd@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:Seth.boyd@minnetonkaschools.org)

**Third Grade Anchor Choir Assistant Director:**

Becky Asche

[Becky.asche@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:Becky.asche@minnetonkaschools.org)

**Third Grade Skipper Choir Director:** Melani

Schwartz

Scenic Heights and Deephaven Elementary Schools

[Melani.schwartz@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:Melani.schwartz@minnetonkaschools.org)

**Third Grade Anchor Choir Director:** Lisa Skaff

[lessons@skaffmusic.com](mailto:lessons@skaffmusic.com)

## **Concert Dates:**

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Winter Concert at the Art’s Center (High School), 7:00pm

**Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Elementary School Choir Tour (singers will need to be dropped off at Excelsior Elementary at 7:30 am) (This date is still tentative)

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** – West Metro Children’s Choir Festival with Robbinsdale Children’s Choir and Wayzata Children’s Choir. Select Choir Only.

**Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Spring Concert at the Art’s Center (High School), 7:00pm

## **National Anthem Performances:**

If we are able to secure a date and time with these sporting teams, we will let you know as soon as possible. Please know that these activities will have an extra fee for ticket purchases on top of the registration fee. These performances are optional.

**Twins Baseball** – date to be announced. This will take place on a weekend in late April or Early May.

**Timberwolves Basketball** – date to be announced. Select Choir Only. This will take place on a Friday evening or weekend in November.

**Date to be Announced** – National Anthem Performance at the High School Girls or Boys Varsity Basketball Game, 7:00 pm, meet at 6:15 for rehearsal at Minnetonka High School.

## **Saturday Commitments:**

**Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Choir retreat. Meet at Clear Springs from 10am-12pm

## **Parties:**

**Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**– Winter Party and Rehearsal, 4:30-6:30

For this event, all students will arrive at 4:30 for a little bit of rehearsal. We will then get bundled up and go sledding or watch a musical, depending on the weather. We end the evening with hot cocoa and candy canes.

**Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** – Popcorn Party, 4:30-6:30

We will take time to reflect and celebrate our accomplishments by watching our concert and eating popcorn.

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** – Roller Skating Party, 4:30-6:30

For this event, students need to be dropped off at Roller Gardens in St. Louis Park for two hours of music, skating, arcade games, and hot dog meal. The price of this party is included in the registration fee.

## **Rehearsal Dates:**

\*We will have rehearsal every Thursday that school is in session except for conference nights. If school is canceled due to inclement weather, we will also cancel rehearsal.

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

***No rehearsal, Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> due to Conferences***

***No rehearsal, Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – due to MEA weekend***

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

***No Rehearsal, Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – due to Halloween***

Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> –Saturday Retreat 10-12

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>

***No Rehearsal, Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving***

Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> – Choir Party and rehearsal, all singers attend from 4:30-6:30pm

***No Rehearsal, December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> due to Winter Break***

Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Rehearsals Resume

Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> – Dress rehearsal, all singers attend from 4:30-6:30pm

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> – Winter Concert 7:00pm, High School Art's Center (Singers dropped off at 6pm)

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Popcorn Party and Concert Viewing

Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

***No Rehearsal Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> due to conferences***

Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

***No Rehearsal April 2<sup>nd</sup> due to Spring Break***

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – West Metro Children's Choir Invitational

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – Elementary School Choir Tour (This date is still tentative)

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Dress rehearsal, all singers attend from 4:30-6:30

Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> - Spring Concert 7:00pm, High School Art's Center (singers dropped off at 6pm)

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Roller skating party at Roller Gardens 4:30-6:30pm (parents provide transportation)

## **Concert Dress:**

### **Formal Concert Attire:**

Boys: Black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, and white button-down shirt.

Girls: Black skirt/slacks, black nylons or tights, black dress shoes, button down or dressy white blouse.

- Singers will wear their formal outfits for the winter and spring concerts.

### **Informal Concert Attire:**

Boys and Girls: Tonka District Children's Choir T-Shirt and khaki slacks or neutral colored pants. (no jeans, sweat pants, or wind pants)

- Students will wear their informal concert attire for the National Anthem performance and Choir Tour

## **Rehearsal Times and Spaces:**

Third Grade Anchor Choir: 4:15-5:15 at Minnewashta, Music Room 140

Third Grade Skipper Choir: 4:15-5:15 at Scenic Heights, Music Room

Core Choir: 4:30-6:00 at Clear Springs Music Room MD

Select Choir: 5-6:30 at Clear Springs, Music Room 46

## **Choir Registration Fee: \$50.00**

The fee includes their choir t-shirt, roller skating party, lunch for the tour, and bussing for the tour.

## **Attendance Policy:**

In case of illness or other unavoidable conflict, please notify your child's director through email. If a singer misses three rehearsals during a semester, they will need to schedule a make-up time with the director. If a singer misses more than three during a semester, they will be asked not to attend the next concert or performance. Every rehearsal is important! When your singer misses one rehearsal, it slows down the progress of the entire choir, which affects the quality and quantity of the music that we can learn.

If a singer needs to leave early please provide a written letter or an email for safety purposes.

## **Parent Volunteers:**

There will be a few times during the year that we will need parent help. We often look for donations for our parties to make our choirs as cost effective as possible. We will also need volunteers to help with our parties, and the choir tour. Notifications of volunteer opportunities will be sent out through email.

## **Communications:**

### **Emails:**

Communications from the Directors will arrive through emails. We will create an email distribution list to send out direct messages and news. We will always use the blind copy option to keep information private. Please email with additional addresses if you'd like to receive choir news and notes. We often add grandparents or nannies, who do choir pick-up.

### **Schoology:**

The directors will use a group schoology page to communicate with parents and singers for sharing rehearsal and practice tracks. Please join the Tonka District Children's Choir group. Our group number is:

B57XH-RMJVC