



CHOIR HANDBOOK



Dear Choir Member and Family,

I warmly welcome you into a long tradition of excellence in music at Snider High School! This year, students will perform the highest level of choral repertoire while developing marketable and life skills in *leadership, communication, and collaboration*. This handbook contains information that is **essential** for our group to function. I invite you to grab a cup of something warm and take a few minutes to read this **entire handbook**. Even if you're a pro, details in this document change every year. After reading this document, please keep it in a safe place, then **SIGN AND DETACH** the last two pages, which your student will turn in for a grade.

The main curricular goals of this program include Connection (Indiana State Music Standard #1), Listening and Responding (ISMS #2), a focus on Performance (ISMS #3), and Creating (ISMS #4), which we will achieve by encouraging every student to strive for the highest degree of excellence in school. Our success as a program is achieved through our families, students, and teachers all working together. May you and your student find great success and fulfillment this year at Snider.

Sincerely,
Corwin Daniels
Choir Director

Corwin.daniels@fwcs.k12.in.us

Office Phone: 467-4650

GRADING

FWCS uses two categories to grade, Formative (Homework/Classwork) and Summative (Tests). Summative points are worth 80% of students' grades and Formative is worth 20% per FWCS grading policy.

1. **Concert Attendance** – (summative)
 - **All performances**, unless otherwise communicated, are **mandatory and graded** for this course.
 - **Concerts are worth 200 Summative Grade points**
 - **Tardiness** to a concert or rehearsal will result in a 40 point deduction from the performance grade, tardiness exceeding half of the rehearsal/performance will result in a 100 point deduction.
 - **Excused absences/tardies** are to be communicated **well in advance** and will be handled on a **case by case** basis. Excused absences include illness and family emergency. **Work and lack of transportation will not be excused.**
2. **Weekly Participation Points** – (formative)
 - Students automatically earn **5** participation points **each week** of class if they are present in class and participating. These points will mainly be formative, but some weeks will be summative
 - Students will have **1** point deducted from their weekly participation points for any of the following:
 - Continuing disruptive behavior after receiving a verbal warning
 - Coming to class without necessary materials
 - Violation of a FWCS Policy or Classroom Norm
3. **Singing Tests** – (summative)
 - Individual demonstration of accurate rhythm, pitch, expression, and vocal technique
4. **Written tests/quizzes** – (summative)
 - Music History, Vocal Technique, Music Theory, Musical terms, Sight-reading, Rhythms

CONCERT ATTENDANCE

PLEASE NOTE: All performances, unless otherwise communicated by Mr. Daniels, are mandatory and graded for this course.

- Being part of a choir is very similar to being on a sports team. Students will be performing at concerts held outside of school hours like athletes play at games. Students' attendance at concerts is essential for the success of the group and to pass the course. **Our concert schedule is attached on page 6**
- If a student will be unable to attend a concert for any reason, **their parent/guardian** needs to contact Mr. Daniels through email or phone call with as much notice as possible. The earlier a conflict is communicated the more time we have to work on a solution together.
- **If no contact is made** prior to the concert, students will **not** receive an opportunity to make up the lost points.

Expectations/Policies

Things you can expect from Mr. Daniels:

1. My teaching style is built on an ethic of **mutual care and respect**.
2. I will show up on time, prepared to teach.
3. I will never ask students to do something that I am unwilling to do.
4. I will never intentionally say something to hurt, belittle, or embarrass a student.
5. I will give 100% and show compassion when others struggle.

Things Mr. Daniels expects from students:

1. Come to class ready to demonstrate an ethic of **mutual care and respect**.
2. Show up on time, prepared to learn.
3. Push through moments of discomfort as we all learn together.
4. Speak to others how you want to be spoken to.
5. Give 100% and show compassion when others struggle.

Choir Classroom “Norms” (rules):

1. Demonstrate **mutual care and respect**
2. Step Up, Step Back
3. Make mistakes
4. Believe you belong/Be part of the team

If you have any questions about these, please reach out to me

Snider Music Dept./FWCS Policies

1. **No food or drink**, other than bottled water, is allowed in the Music Wing.
2. **No gum**. Chewing gum while singing hinders good technique and poses a choking hazard.
3. **Cell phones** are prohibited per FWCS Policy and should always be in a YONDR pouch while at Snider High School
4. **No passes** out of class may be written during the **first or last 10 minutes** of a class period. Only **one** student may be released from the classroom at a given time.
5. Students may not bring **backpacks** into the classroom.

Performance Attire - PLEASE READ!!!

“Artist Black”

Snider’s “Artist Black” dress code encourages uniformity and professional appearance in the performance setting. It sends a message that Snider’s musicians are part of the modern era; actively engaged in the music-making of today. *Students who fail to adhere to the guidelines below at a concert will be given the option to change their clothes or receive a significant deduction from their concert grade.*

ARTIST BLACK IS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A black suit with or without the suit jacket, with a black “button-down” undershirt, black bowtie, black socks, black **DRESS** shoes, and black suit pants.
- A **SOLID** black “tea length” (past the knee) dress/gown, with a high neckline, with or without black tights/hose, black flats, or modest heels (No more than 3”).
- A **SOLID** black blouse with or without a black blazer, with black suit pants or a black “tea length” (past the knee) skirt, black socks/tights/hose, and formal black shoes.

ARTIST BLACK IS NOT:

- Black shoes that are made of a material that cannot be polished/shined (**NO Tennis shoes**, canvas/felt shoes (converse/vans/Ugg), rubber shoes (**crocs**/boots), or slippers).
- Any black clothing that has sequins, patterns, is sheer/see-through, or is black with a different color with it (including white).
- Black Jeans/Leggings/Yoga pants
- Any article of clothing that exposes a midriff, undergarments, has a slit above the knee, or a low-cut neckline.
- **DARK NAVY** or **GRAY**

Students may wear any article of clothing to a performance that affirms the expression of their identity so long as it is appropriate AND adheres to the above guidelines

Informal Uniform

Students will receive a Choir T-shirt free of charge. For an “informal uniform”, students may be asked to wear these shirts with a pair of dark (black or blue) jeans/jean skirt and comfortable shoes.

I.S.S.M.A. Solo & Ensemble Contest

Students have the opportunity to enter the *ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) Solo & Ensemble Contest*. This event will be on Saturday February 7th at Huntington North High School. The times will be provided about one week prior to the event. The entry fees are due before students will be registered. The deadline for registration is 12/1. The cost is \$16 for a solo and \$8 for each member of an ensemble. Accompanists will not be provided but a digital track will be. Students may seek out hiring a live accompanist should they so desire. (Note: Piano solos will need to be memorized for both district and state events).

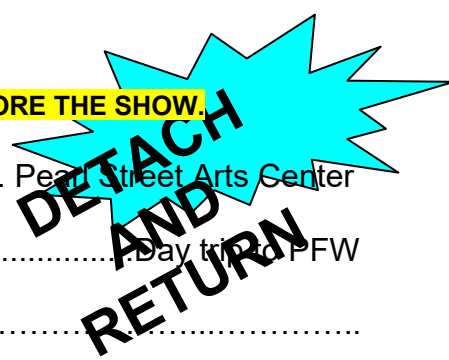
Students who perform at Level 1 and receive a gold rating will be eligible to perform at the Indiana state ISSMA festival on February 22nd at Perry Meridian High School in Indianapolis. **State entry fees are the same as the district and are to be paid the day of the district contest** to be entered for the state event. Students will need to have their own transportation to district and state events.

CHOIR SCHEDULE

2025 – 2026

PLEASE POST THIS SCHEDULE IN YOUR HOME.

ALL CONCERTS WILL HAVE A REQUIRED DRESS REHEARSAL BEFORE THE SHOW.



- October 8th - Fall Concert.....7:00 p.m. Pearl Street Arts Center
- November 17th - Three Rivers Choral Fest Field Trip (*Adv. Choir Only*).....Day trip to PFW
- *November 26th - ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Registration Deadline.....
- December 18th - Madrigals/Winter Concert.....7:00 p.m.
- Auditorium
- *January 8th-10th - In-Class Auditions/Voice Checks for next school year.....
- *February 1st - ISSMA Vocal Solo & Ensemble *District* Contest..... Location TBA
- *February 22nd - ISSMA Vocal Solo & Ensemble **State** Contest.....PMMS/HS Indianapolis
- *March 19th-22nd - Musical.....7:00 p.m. Auditorium
- April 25th – District ISSMA Organizational Contest.....Location TBA
- May 18th – Spring Concert.....7:00 p.m. Auditorium
- May 23rd - Music in the Parks Trip to Indiana Beach choristers & family.....

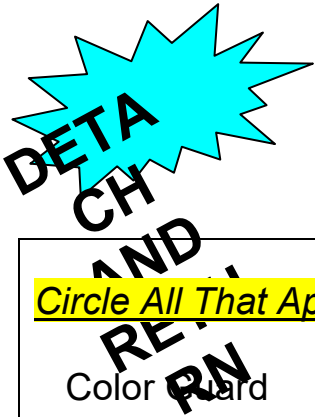
KEY

* = *Not a required performance*

= *Pending completion of Auditorium Updates*

DATES MAY CHANGE, PLEASE WATCH FOR PARENTSQUARE UPDATES AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM MR. DANIELS

SNIDER 'PAB'



(Performing Arts Boosters)

MY STUDENT IS IN:

Circle All That Apply:	Marching Band	Concert Band
Color Guard	Winter Guard	Orchestra
Choir	Drama Class	Drama Productions

Student(s) Name _____ Year of Graduation _____

PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS

Snider Performing Arts Boosters (PAB): is the overall support group for all five disciplines: choir, band, orchestra, drama, and color guard. Throughout the year, the group works very hard to financially help our individual programs and provide assistance for events. (This helps keep your child from doing too many fundraisers!).

Concessions: The organization will need your help sometime through the year. Concessions seem to generate the most revenue (**OVER \$100,000 yearly WOW!**) but we do need adults and a few students to work the concession stands for the various athletic events. The **PAB leadership would like each parent to work concessions 2 times this year.** With the multitude of events, there should be some time you can manage to assist. The PAB has established an online web site so you can sign up online to work concessions. Students may assist but the adults will handle the money.

PAB Booster location: **SniderPAB@gmail.com** & on Facebook- **Snider High School Performing Arts Boosters.** Newsletter information of dates & events will be available at this address. Concession needs will also be posted so you will know when we need help. This will make it easy to sign up and you can refer to the online web site at your convenience. If you do not have email, printed information can be sent home.

SPIRIT WEAR: Snider clothing & other items are available for purchase through the PAB.

Parent Assistance: Some of you may have signed the PAB help list but there are areas specific to choir that were *not* listed. A specific choir parent sign-up sheet is included in this Choir Handbook. There should be something listed which would fit your interest and schedule. Feel free to sign up for as many areas where you would be available to help. Let's make this even a bigger and better year!

CHOIR - PARENT HELP FORM

YOUR STUDENT NEEDS YOUR HELP TO HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR.
Checking an item does not commit you to the job but will let me know who to contact.

Parent Name	
Student name	
Parent Phone number(s)	
Parent email address:	

PLEASE MARK THE AREAS YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP WITH THANK YOU!!!!!!

Work Concessions

~~_____ MOST HELP NEEDED HERE!~~

_____ Sewing/Alterations

_____ Videotape Concerts

_____ Sound System Assistance

_____ PAB Board Membership

_____ Madrigal Dinner-Set Up /Tear Down

_____ Take Tickets at concerts

_____ Photograph Events

_____ Chaperone

_____ ISSMA Assistance (April)

_____ Awards Program & Social (May)

_____ Other:

_____ Madrigal Dinner- Kitchen Help

_____ Uniform Fitting & Care

_____ Publicity/Social Media

_____ Compile Photos for Display

Parent / Student Summary Form

This Handbook has been provided to inform students and parents of the structure of the choral program and to provide the dates known at this time. We look forward to our public concerts & *appreciate* the parents, relatives & friends who attend the programs and support the students' efforts!

Please post the 'CHOIR DATES' page in this booklet for future reference and refer to it when scheduling work & other appointments.

Please **SIGN** below & **RETURN** the forms listed below by Wednesday, August 16th.

Thank you!

Form Check List:

- 1. Choir Parent Help Form (Page 9-10)
- 2. Affirmation of understanding (Page 11)



I have read the 'Snider Choir Handbook' and understand my commitment and responsibilities, including the required rehearsals & performances. I also agree to abide by the expectations and policies set forth.
(This handbook is not inclusive but outlines the basic policies).

Student Name _____ **Period** _____

Student signature _____

Parent / Guardian Name _____

Parent / Guardian signature _____

Note: All participants are held accountable for the policies outlined even if all the forms are not returned.