

SJSD Junior Concert Choir 2023 - 2024

May 1st, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter has been given to you because a music teacher has recognized your child's special talent and interest in singing. **This is an invitation for your child to audition for the St. James-Assiniboia Divisional Junior Concert Choir. The Junior Concert Choir is open to students who will be in Grades 6, 7 and 8 in the 2023-2024 school year.**

The choir program was inaugurated in our school division in 1982 as a choral enrichment experience for talented grade five students. Over the years the program has grown to include a Junior Concert Choir and a Senior Concert Choir. Membership in this choir gives children the opportunity to develop excellent choral singing skills and to meet with other talented musicians throughout the school division. In addition to having fun singing together, this choir also works very hard. Since we only meet once a week and our singers are from different schools, **regular attendance at all practices and performances is required. Extra practices will not be scheduled.**

The choir season runs from September 2023 to May 2024. We perform at a number of divisional events and music festivals. The choir requires commitment from both choristers and parents that all rehearsals and performances be attended. Students must be attending a school in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division and must also **be members of their home school choirs, sharing their exemplary choral skills and providing leadership in their school choral programs.** Being a member of the Divisional Choir is a privilege. **They must also be willing to commit to participation for the entire season, ending in mid-May, and make every effort to attend all performances.** If for any reason students are not meeting expectations, in terms of attendance, behaviour, work ethic, or musicianship, either in the Divisional Choir or in their school choir, parents will be notified and membership in the Children's Choir will be reviewed.

Weekly rehearsals will be held on Wednesdays from 4:15 until 5:45PM at Westwood Collegiate beginning on September 6th, 2023. A two-day choir camp has been planned for September 27th - September 29th, 2023 at Camp Assiniboia, approximately 30 minutes west of Winnipeg. This camp experience allows the choir to learn many of the songs for the year, get to know one another and bond as a choir.

Fees: \$TBD (Camp Fee: \$150-\$175 + Yearly Non-Refundable Fee: \$35.00)

There is a yearly non-refundable fee of \$35.00 to belong to this choir. This fee covers the care and dry-cleaning of choir uniforms, any lost music, honourariums for section leaders, social events such as year-end parties, Candlelight and Cabaret expenses, and other administrative costs.

Divisional Children's Choir Auditions will take place on May 17, 23 & 24 at Westwood Collegiate, 360 Rouge Rd.

If your child wishes to audition:

1. Go online at <https://www.sjsdchoirs.ca/junior/> to select an audition time:



2. Complete the online application form **BEFORE YOUR AUDITION** at:
<https://forms.gle/Shuc3jzdygF1xtSQ9>



3. **Prepare for your audition:**

- ❖ The audition procedure will consist of the following:
- ❖ Warm up exercises (to determine range and vocal consistency throughout the range)
- ❖ Melodic sing-backs (echoing)
- ❖ Sight-reading
 - a rhythmic line (be able to clap and count out loud)
 - a melodic line (sing the line on “loo” after given the starting pitch)
- ❖ Singing a prepared selection of your OWN CHOICE or “O Canada” either with the piano or a capella. I want to hear their voice and see their style/energy. I am looking for quality performances with evidence of preparation.
- ❖ Singing the canon “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”, “Freres Jacques” or “To Stop the Train” to determine voice independence.

Please be sure the online form is completed prior to attending your audition.

Audition results will be sent to students’ home addresses in mid-June. Each school will receive a complete list of choir members at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

Your support of this program is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Neufeld
Director, SJASD Junior Concert Choir
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