

Regis Middle School

Mrs. Santine

Music Department

Room 251

8th Grade Choir

Course Description:

The 8th Grade Choir will be instructed in the fundamentals of choral music, involving music reading, music theory, and in proper vocal technique through large group instruction. Students will develop their vocal skills, music literacy, and appreciation for sacred and secular music while fostering their spiritual growth through song. Individual or small group instruction may be available from time to time. Participation in the Choir requires that all students must sing!

The 8th Grade Choir performs in four concerts throughout the year, which includes a fall concert, a Christmas concert, a “prelude to spring” concert, and a spring concert. If there is interest within the ensemble, we may add an 8th Grade Choir Variety Show to our performance schedule; more information to follow as the school year progresses. Concert attendance and participation is mandatory!

Our 2025-2026 concert performances are currently scheduled for the following dates:

Monday, October 27 at 7:00pm.....RMS/RHS Fall Choir Concert, Auditorium
Monday, December 15 at 7:00pm.....RMS/RHS Christmas Choir Concert, Auditorium
Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00pm.....RMS “Prelude to Spring” Concert (Band & Choir) Auditorium
Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7:00pm.....RMS Spring Concert (Band & Choir), Auditorium

Objectives:

Aligned with Wisconsin Music Standards and the Diocese of La Crosse Diocesan Curriculum, students will:

1. Create and perform music in class and in concert
2. Define and demonstrate understanding of various musical elements
3. Demonstrate proper vocal technique and breathing exercises
4. Read and interpret rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic elements using standard musical notation
5. Develop skills as a team member in the ensemble, as well as an independent singer
6. Demonstrate proper concert/ audience etiquette appropriate to the performance venue
7. Cultivate a sense of community, empathy, and reverence for the human spirit, reflecting Catholic values of love, compassion, and unity

Concert Attire:

Since we are performing on stage, it is important to dress in a manner that shows pride in ourselves and reflects the time and effort that goes into preparing for performances. For that reason, students are expected to dress up for concerts, following these guidelines:

GIRLS—

- Please wear a school-appropriate dress or a dressy top and skirt, and dress shoes, dress flats, or dress boots.
- No Uggs, Birkenstocks, Crocs, flip-flops, or tennis shoes.
- Leggings or tights may be worn under dresses/skirts.
- If possible, students are encouraged (but not required) to incorporate “fall” colors for the Fall Concert (think of the changing leaves in autumn... dark green, dark red, dark brown, dark orange, dark yellow, etc.), “Christmas” colors for the Christmas concert (red, green, white, silver, gold, etc.), and “spring” colors for the final two concerts (pastels or brighter colors).

BOYS—

- Please wear a button-down dress shirt (short-sleeved or long-sleeved, any color), a **necktie or bowtie**, dress pants or dress khakis, and dark-colored dress or dressy-casual shoes.
- No white or colorful tennis shoes; no Birkenstocks, Crocs, flip-flops, or sandals.
- If possible, students are encouraged (but not required) to incorporate “fall” colors for the Fall Concert (think of the changing leaves in autumn... dark green, dark red, dark brown, dark orange, dark yellow, etc.), “Christmas” colors for the Christmas concert (red, green, white, silver, gold, etc.), and “spring” colors for the final two concerts (pastels or brighter colors).
- Boys may wear a solid color polo shirt for the spring concert in May.

If you have any specific questions about concert attire, please ask sooner rather than later!

Materials needed for Choir:

Each day, students are expected to bring the following items:

1. A **black ½-inch or 1-inch choir binder** with any materials you’ve been given for choir
2. A sharpened **pencil**
3. **Assignment notebook/planner**
4. Your school-issued Chromebook with **wired** earbuds or headphones

If you forget any of these items, you will **lose points from your weekly participation grade**. If you lose any of the school music you are given, you will be responsible for the cost of replacing it—usually \$2-3 per song. Please take care of your materials!

Expectations

Students are to be in his/her assigned seat on time with their choir binder and music, assignment notebook, Chromebook (if assigned that day), and a pencil in hand. **We have five simple classroom rules in the choir room:**

1. Be respectful!
2. When it is time to make a sound OR time to listen, do so and give your best effort!
3. Behave appropriately!
4. Gum, food, candy, and soda are not allowed in the classroom. Water bottles are allowed!
5. Hands off the piano and other equipment!

Evaluation and Grading System

Grades for the course are determined by class participation and behavior, daily assignment grades, quizzes and tests based on daily assignments, and concert participation (as a performer and as an audience member).

1. 50% of each quarter grade is determined by the total weekly participation grades*. **This includes participation by presence, by positive attitude and by exemplary behavior.**
2. 20% of each quarter grade is determined by the total daily assignment/homework grades.
3. 30% of each quarter grade is determined by **concert participation grades**, quizzes, and test grades. *Concert participation grades include arriving on time for warm-ups, wearing appropriate assigned concert apparel, remembering your choir music for the concert if memorization is not required, and participating well as an audience member and performer.*

The following numerical equivalents are assigned to letter grades:

A= 93-100	B-= 80-82	D+= 67-69
A-= 90-92	C+= 77-79	D= 63-66
B+= 87-89	C= 73-76	D-= 60-62
B= 83-86	C-= 70-72	F= below 60

*This year, you will be receiving a **weekly participation grade**. Each student starts out with **15 points per week (five points per class day)**. If you are participating to your best abilities, (have all materials with you, not talking out of turn, staying on-task, etc.) you will receive full points for that week. If not, points will be deducted as Mrs. Santine sees fit.

All 8th Grade Choir students will be assigned to a Google Classroom. Some assignments will be assigned and turned in through their Classroom; others will be turned in during class time.

CHOIR CONTRACT

This contract is to be signed by the student and his/her parent or guardian after reading the syllabus together. **Please return it to Mrs. Santine on or before Friday, September 19, 2025.**

Students: Please print your **first and last name** neatly in the blank below, and then sign your full name on the signature line at the bottom of the sheet.

I, _____, agree to follow the rules and expectations explained in this syllabus. I understand that being a member of the choir means that I will sing and participate to the best of my ability. I will show respect for myself, my school and other people, and will always try to do my best work. I also understand that I am expected to be at all choir performances that are scheduled this year.

Parents/Guardians: After reading the syllabus, please sign your name in the indicated blank at the bottom of the sheet. Also, please note the dates and times of the four concerts for this school year, as well as the concert attire for each performance (page two of the syllabus). All singers are expected to participate in all concerts. Please contact Mrs. Santine at bsantine@regiscatholicschools.com with any questions.

2025-2026 Concert Dates:

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Student Signature

Today's Date

Parent/Guardian signature