

St. Ambrose School Children's Choir

Dear Parents,

If you have a child in grade 4 – 8 that is interested in joining the St. Ambrose School Children's Choir there are openings that will be considered on a first come first serve basis. Because membership in the choir involves a major time commitment throughout the year for rehearsals and Masses, I would like both you and your child to decide whether he/she should join. Singing in the choir is a wonderful opportunity for your child to share in performing beautiful music and developing the skills of working with others to produce excellence. This process requires a positive attitude and outstanding efforts from its members. Therefore, there will be a probation period of one month to determine if a student should remain in the choir based on vocal ability and/or discipline.

MASSES AND PERFORMANCES

The choir will participate at the weekly school Mass on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am. The choir will also sing once a month at the 10:00am Sunday Mass. A complete schedule will be sent home once they have become a member of the choir.

MASS DRESS

Each member will be assigned a robe that will be worn at all weekend Masses. They will wear their school uniform for the weekly school Mass.

REHEARSAL/MASSES/PERFORMANCES

Rehearsal will be held on **Tuesdays** after school from **3:20-4:30 pm** in the music room of the Parish Activities Center. I will escort choir members from the school. Students who are in good standing and are committed members of the choir will be allowed to choose one excused absence from rehearsal per year. If a child is absent from school that day, he/she will automatically be excused and it will not count against them. If a student has two or more unexcused absences, he/she may be removed from the choir for the remainder of the year. If there is ever a question or concern about a missed rehearsal, please feel free to contact me. My goal is to make this a positive learning experience for all involved. I do realize that circumstances arise that are beyond our control and I am happy to discuss concerns. If possible, it is always better to know in advance. Students will not be granted an excused absence to finish homework or when they are detained for disciplinary reasons, unless arrangements have been made with me in advance by the principal or a teacher.

If your child needs to report to the Extended Day Program after choir rehearsal, please send a note to me, as well as the Program Director, indicating that your child has permission to attend rehearsal and report to the Extended Day Program after rehearsal. Children who do not attend Extended Day should be picked up at the Parish Activities Center. Students that are not picked

up by **4:35 pm** will be taken to the Extended Day Program and any fees incurred will be your responsibility.

If an emergency arises and your child is not able to attend a rehearsal or performance, an email or written excuse from you is required. The excuse must be presented in advance or the next day. If not, the absence may count as an unexcused absence.

REMARKS

One of the most important aspects of a successful choir is the support it receives from the parents and the community. Being a member of the choir requires a great deal of personal commitment from the children and, at times, they will need you to remind them that they have made the commitment and must honor it. Please take some time to discuss this with your child.

The attached contract should be signed by you and your child and returned to me by Tuesday, January 22nd. Feel free to contact me at dcotton@stambroseschool.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donald Cotton
Director of Music

St. Ambrose Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONTRACT

_____ understands the time commitment and behavior required and would like to be member of the St. Ambrose Children's Choir. I will support his/her participation in this activity.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Address

Home Telephone

Grade and Homeroom Teacher

Email Address

As part of my commitment as a choir parent, I am willing to help in the following ways when and if the need arises:

_____ Car Pooling

_____ Party Arrangements

_____ Help with concert arrangements

_____ Trip Chaperone

_____ Robes (Cleaning/Hemming)

_____ Choir Mom/Dad