

Dear choir parents,

I want you all to know how much I appreciate your dedication to bringing your students early to school each week for choir rehearsal. Father McDuffie and our principal, Mrs. Hutson, have both said what a wonderful job the students are doing in mass each week. They have so much potential and because of this, I am “raising the bar,” as you will. I believe that every member of the choir is a very important part of the team; therefore it affects the quality of our liturgy when even one student misses rehearsal or comes in late. I am enforcing a new absence policy starting in the second nine weeks period. The details are as follows:

- Attendance and punctuality are required at every rehearsal to be a member of the choir. Poor attendance and punctuality reflect a lack of discipline and respect for the Lord’s ministry and will result in removal from the choir.
- If a student misses rehearsal or is late to rehearsal, he/she will be responsible to come to me, ask what was missed, and learn the music for that week.
- If a student has an **unexcused** absence on Tuesday or Wednesday morning, he/she will not be allowed to sing in mass that week. If the absence is **excused**, I must receive a note or email from the student’s parent by Wednesday morning for the student to sing that day.
- If a student has **three or more** unexcused absences in a nine weeks period, he/she will be required to continue coming to rehearsals but will not be allowed to sing in mass for the remainder of the nine weeks. If the attendance does not improve in the next nine weeks period, the student will be removed from the choir and will have an opportunity to re-audition the following year.
- If a student is **tardy** to rehearsal twice in a nine weeks period (unexcused), it will count as one absence.

Excused absences include the following:

- Severe illness (the student misses school and has a doctor’s note)
- Unavoidable emergencies or family obligations
- Doctor’s appointments
- Severe and unavoidable traffic situations

Unexcused absences include but are not limited to the following:

- Failure to do homework or study for a test ahead of time
- Sleeping late
- Getting “stuck in traffic”
- Forgetting about rehearsal

Again, thank you so much for allowing me the privilege of having your student(s) in the choir. They are such a joy and a blessing to teach! Please feel free to call or email any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sarah DeWeese
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