

Colina Middle School Choir Program

Amy Rolniak, Director

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Welcome to the Colina and Westlake High School Choir Family!

I am so excited that your child has chosen to be a part of this prestigious choral organization that I am committed to help grow. The Westlake High School Choir Program is going to support that mission. Your student will be joining the high schoolers for their concerts, and will be invited to our community events. My hope is that your student will benefit from the large community I have created at Westlake and that my students at Westlake will be good mentors for their Middle School peers.

I believe with my whole heart that singing together is important in the development of a person. It is teamwork without a losing team and no one riding the bench. My motto is "I Am Because We Are" and that is very important to the success of a choir...at any age or level.

I look forward to working with your child this year and also getting to know many of you through our performances. Please feel free to call or email anytime with questions or concerns. This year is looking bright!!

Sincerely and with gratitude,
Amy Rolniak

Syllabus

The Colina music department program is designed to provide students with opportunities to be expressive, engage in critical thinking, and learn about themselves in ways unknown to them. The elements that we will use to do this are through singing, listening, and creating. Of course, the friendships and good times that develop are as important as anything else!

Objectives

The students will be able to:

1. To sing in a safe and comfortable environment
2. To critically listen, think, and respond in the classroom
3. To understand the function of musical notation/increase in sight reading music
4. To understand the basics of vocal production/vocal health
5. To perform with accuracy, energy, and musicianship
6. To sing with accurate diction to communicate clearly
7. To sing with accurate pitch, in unison and harmony
8. To learn the positive effects of music and how music applies to everyday life
9. To develop individual leadership and teamwork characteristics

Goals

1. To be regular and prompt in attendance
2. To arrive to class prepared each day
3. To have respect for yourself, others, and the environment we work in
4. To take responsibility and ownership of your daily actions in the classroom
5. To contribute positively to your music education and to the group by the best use of your talents and gifts at all times
6. To strive to improve yourself musically
7. To grow personally through your experience in music
8. To be proud of yourself, your school, and your choir

Communication:

www.westlakechoir.org - Lots of information about choir. Check out the Colina Choir Tab

Email - Please check email regularly.

Remind - I will use Remind.Com for communication as well as email. Text @colchoir23 to 81010

Grades: All grading information can be found in Q. Please be sure to activate your account and use this software to stay in tune with grading. Mistakes that are made in the grading process are much easier to fix when the error is found early. Grading will be according to the following categories.

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| Performances | 50% |
| Daily Classwork | 30% |

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| Assignments | 15% |
| Assessments (Quizzes and Tests) | 5% |

Daily Classwork: Each student will be given a possible of 10 points for every scheduled class day. These will be put in as weekly grades. Our classwork is our rehearsal time. Each student will be graded on engagement and mastering concepts and skills taught each class rehearsal.

Performances:

- All public performances will be worth 100 points. Points will be deducted for not having appropriate concert attire or tardiness to the call time.
- These performances are culminating events for weeks and months of classroom work.
- If an emergency does occur and a performance or rehearsal was missed, please speak to Mrs. Rolniak on an individual basis outside of class so make-up work can be assigned.

Excused absences are defined as:

1. Personal Illness—if you are absent from school on the day of the concert or dress rehearsal and feel well enough to attend, you are expected to do so. If you aren't feeling well enough, your parent must email me.
 2. Family Emergency—illness in the family or other type of family emergency. The following things are NOT considered emergencies: babysitting, lack of transportation or not having concert clothes.
 3. Unavoidable family trip—please make every attempt to coordinate family vacations with your concert schedule.
- **If a student has an unexcused absence for a performance, he/she will NOT be able to make up the missed grade.**

Classroom Rules:

Choir students are expected to follow these rules:

- Be in your assigned place with choir folder and pencil ready to rehearse when the bell rings
- No gum, food or drinks allowed during rehearsal. Students may bring a bottle for water.
- Be respectful to everyone. Use appropriate language and demonstrate good manners at all times.
- Be engaged at all times—even when another section is working on a part
- Participate to your fullest!

Donations:

CVUSD does not provide any funding for the Colina choir program. All performances we attend (both on & off campus), and the costs associated with those activities (transportation, piano accompanist, festival fees, etc.) must be paid from the Colina choir account. The amount of money in the account fluctuates annually depending upon fundraisers and fair share donations. Since we are a self-funded program, we ask for **\$100.00** donation from each participating child. This helps to cover the costs stated above as well as classroom materials (sheet music, etc.).

That's only \$0.56 a day! This is a bargain for quality vocal instruction and priceless memories!! ☺

Fair Share donations can be made by cash or check. Make checks payable to *Colina Middle School* and reference "choir" & your child's name on the memo line. Please make the donation as soon as possible. You may choose to break the fair share donation into installments if needed. No student will be turned away from choir if a family is unable to participate in Fair Share. Keep in mind that Fair Share sustains the program. Please make every effort to meet all fair share deadlines. It is through Fair Share that people get paid, materials are provided to your child, and wonderful experiences can be planned.

Performances:

All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.

Students call time will be 5:30 p.m.

Location of Concerts: Westlake Carpenter Family Theatre

Concert Length: Each concert will be approximately 2 hours

Fall Concert Friday October 13

Winter Concert Thursday December 7th

Festival Concert Friday March 1st

Pops Concert Thursday May 30th

We will also participate in an **SCVA festival in March or April** and **CVUSD All District Music Festival in April**. I will get those dates to you as soon as I get them.