



# ROCKFORD CHOIRS

## 2017-2018 HANDBOOK

PERFORMING, DESCRIBING & CREATING MUSIC  
IN A  
POSITIVE, PERFORMANCED-BASED  
ACADEMICALLY-CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT

CULTIVATING MUSIC LITERACY  
THROUGH A  
NURTURING, STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH

FOSTERING A  
LIFE-LONG LOVE OF MUSIC

[WWW.ROCKFORDCHOIRS.COM](http://WWW.ROCKFORDCHOIRS.COM)



# Contact Information

Mandy Scott, Director  
[mscott@rockfordschools.org](mailto:mscott@rockfordschools.org)  
616-863-6030 ext. 7262

Renee Vande Wege, Director  
[rvandewege@rockfordschools.org](mailto:rvandewege@rockfordschools.org)  
616-863-6348 ext. 7756

Jed Scott, Aces Director  
[scottjed@gmail.com](mailto:scottjed@gmail.com)

Peggy Odren, Accompanist

## The Rockford Choirs

**FRESHMAN CHOIRS** - Beginning Mixed Ensembles (Vande Wege), open to all interested 9th grade students.

**TREBLE CHORUS** - Intermediate Treble Ensemble (Scott), open to all interested 10th-12th grade treble voices, but primarily 10th grade treble voices.

**CHORALE** - Intermediate Mixed Ensemble (Scott), open to all interested 10th-12th grade men and 11th-12th grade women. First trimester is probationary, and students must show enthusiastic daily participation and positive contribution to the team.

**ADVANCED TREBLE ENSEMBLE** - Advanced Treble Ensemble (Scott), open by audition in the spring to 11th-12th grade treble voices.

**CHAMBER SINGERS** - Advanced Mixed Ensemble (Scott), open by audition in the spring to 11th-12th grade students.

**ACES** - Select a cappella men's ensemble (Jed Scott), open by auditions in the fall to 9th-12th grade men. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM and Thursdays from 2:45-3:45 PM.

<https://www.facebook.com/RockfordAces>

# 2017-2018 Class Schedule

## Mrs. Scott

Chamber Singers  
Chorale  
Treble Chorus  
Advanced Treble  
(Planning)

1st Hour  
2nd Hour  
3rd Hour  
4th Hour  
5th Hour

## Mrs. Vande Wege

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Freshman Choir A  
Freshman Choir B  
Elementary Music  
Elementary Music

## Website and Social Media

We ACTIVELY use the website and social media to communicate calendar information, rehearsal reminders, audition postings and choir updates.

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We ask that you please visit our website:

[www.rockfordchoirs.com](http://www.rockfordchoirs.com)

to fill out the **PERSONAL INFORMATION FORM!**

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This information is kept confidential, and it allows us to communicate with parents via email and text messages (if you choose).

Also, please LIKE our **FACEBOOK** page for updates and announcements!

<https://www.facebook.com/RockfordChoirs>

Check out our **YouTube** channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/rockfordchoirs>

# Grading Policy

Daily Participation 50%  
Concert Attendance 25%  
Journals 15%  
Assignments and Quizzes 10%

Final Exam 5% of overall trimester grade

## Daily Participation

**50% of your grade will be determined by daily participation!**

Students will earn daily participation points by meeting the following expectations:

- Positive Attitude
- Active Engagement
- Following Social Contract & Choir Room Rules
- Building Rehearsal Skills
- Arriving Prepared for Class

Students are responsible for returning (in good condition) original copies of music. If music is not returned, students are required to pay the replacement fee prior to receiving their trimester grade.

## Concert Attendance

**25% of your grade will be determined by concert attendance!**

Points may be deducted for tardiness to performances. If you are unable to make a performance, your conflict must be communicated in advance, and may or may not be excused (see below). In the case of emergency, a parent or guardian must call or email Mrs. Scott or Mrs. Vande Wege.

Examples of **EXCUSED** absences include: illness, family emergency, school-related event that is communicated in advance (e.g. athletic events)

Examples of **UNEXCUSED** absences include: work conflicts, family parties, lack of transportation, non-school related activities

Please be advised that there may be performances during the school day (District Choral Festival, State Choral Festival, etc.). These are approved by the school, and are MANDATORY for all students to attend. It is the responsibility of the student to contact teachers of missed classes and make up assignments and tests. Whenever possible, we will allow students to use choir time to make up missed work.

**Athletic/Performing Arts Conflicts School Policy**  
*(approved by the Athletic Office and Performing Arts Dept.)*

1. Concert/Performance/Game is a priority over a Practice/Rehearsal
2. Practice vs. Rehearsal should be split so the student can attend part of both
3. Game vs. Concert/Performance
  - a. Conferences or District-Qualifying Game (as long as it is not a last-minute rescheduled game)
  - b. District or State Event Performance
  - c. Other conflicts should be worked out with coaches and director with no penalty to the student

We appreciate our musician athletes! **With adequate notice**, we strive to be flexible and support the endeavors of our dedicated students!

# Voice Lessons

## VOICE TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION

**Lisa Doering**  
[lisahdoering@gmail.com](mailto:lisahdoering@gmail.com)  
612-872-4832

**Joyce Kash**  
616-540-2254

All students are encouraged to study voice privately to develop their vocal technique and musicianship. Voice lessons are available for an additional fee during choir classes and after school. Our voice teachers are professional singers and accomplished teachers. Interested students should contact teachers directly. Lesson payments should be made directly to the voice teacher. Voice lessons are \$25 per 30-minute lesson once a week.

# Choir Booster Meetings

## CHOIR BOOSTER EXECUTIVE BOARD

Carol Jewell & Karen Dufendach, Choir Booster Co-Presidents

Mary Jo Bouwkamp, Vice-President

Kathryn Scheffler, Secretary

Gretchen Mousel & Christine Snedeker, Co-Treasurers

The Rockford Choir program needs YOUR help! Parent involvement is an essential part of the success of the Rockford Choirs, and every helping hand allows your student to have a better choir experience. Plus, it's FUN for YOU! Having a student enrolled in the Rockford Choirs automatically makes you a part of the Rockford Choir Boosters. Please join us this year for our meetings to find out more!

**\* First Choir Booster Meeting \***  
**Thursday, September 14 at 7pm**  
**Rockford High School Choir Room**

## 2017-2018 Special Events

Saturday, October 28 (10:30 am) - Aces perform at  
ACDA Michigan Fall Conference (WMU, Kalamazoo)

Saturday, January 27 (1:00 pm) - Freshman Choir at  
Michigan Music Conference (DeVos Place, Grand Rapids)

March 27-April 4 - Rockford Touring Choir

Italy Tour (Milan, Venice, Florence, Bologna, Rome)

# Attire Information

## Parent Choir Attire Volunteer Opportunities

The Choir Attire Volunteers: Based out of the RHS choir room supply closet, our goal is to take the day to day details of attire off the plate of our directors while helping your student to look their very best. In doing so, the directors can focus on helping your student to sound their very best while sharing their love of music. In the first month that school begins, your student will be issued their attire for choir performances this school year. Email [choirattire@gmail.com](mailto:choirattire@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming part of our team!

## Student Attire Responsibility

Each student is responsible for their own attire. This responsibility includes the safety, upkeep, and completeness of each piece of attire as well as the garment bag issued. There is a \$20 attire and participation fee to be received by Friday, September 8, in order for your student to be issued their choir attire and garment bag. The complete cost of attire purchase and maintenance is significantly more, but this fee helps to alleviate overall costs. Please understand we are not "Men's Wearhouse" but promise to find the best match in our inventory for your student.

## Tuxedo Information (Care and Cleaning)

Fitted & assigned tuxedos will be taken home when directed, stored in issued garment bags, and worn to each concert. No jewelry is allowed and should be covered if removal is not possible. Accessory items (ties and cummerbunds) will be distributed and re-collected for performances.

Choir Boosters will have tuxes dry cleaned at the end of the school year. (We are grateful for the ongoing support of Afendoulis Cleaners & Tuxedos) DO NOT MACHINE WASH TUXEDO PANTS OR JACKETS - Dry Clean Only. Please remove the dry cleaning tags from tux and studs from shirts.

## Tuxedo Accessories

1. Long, solid colored black socks (your responsibility to find) are required.
2. Black shiny patent leather shoes (gently used - issued from Choir Attire Closet) are required.
3. White pleated 'wing tip' collar tux shirts (issued from Choir Attire Closet from online vendor) are required.

### **Gown Information (Care and Cleaning)**

Fitted and assigned evening gowns will be taken home when directed, stored in issued garment bags and then worn to each concert. If needed, dresses are machine washable and dry quickly. Accessory items (necklaces) will be distributed for Advanced Treble Ensemble and Chamber Singers and re-collected at each event.

### **Gown Accessories**

1. Long, solid colored black knee high hosiery, socks or nylons are required.
2. Black dress shoes (issued from Choir Attire Closet from online vendor) are required.
3. Singers may only wear clear nail polish or a French manicure for performances.
4. Hair should be pulled back from face with neutral colored accessories. Small stud earrings only please.

### **Donations**

We would love to have extra on hand; long black socks and knee high hosiery. Please consider sending in a package or two for our "forgetful student" inventory. When you graduate, please consider donating your shoes and shirts for incoming students/freshman orientation used sale. THANK YOU! We are also always grateful for the donation of your TIME- consider helping in the closet during fittings, trimester changes, performances, inventory, end of the year returns/collections, ordering, washing, errands, bag tags, summer prep and especially with alterations!

### **Alterations**

Arranged ONLY through the Choir Attire Closet volunteers. PLEASE DO NOT USE TAPE OR GLUE OR CUT THE ISSUED ATTIRE!! We make every attempt to send attire home with no alteration needs before the first concert.

### **Returns**

All students are expected to stay after The Spring Pops Concert to have attire checked in that evening. Return pant and coat and gown only in assigned garment bag, name tag showing on issued hanger, clothing facing out. Please note: Shoes/shirts returned are assumed to be donations; we cannot store these items in the summer!

**If you have any concerns:**

**[ChoirAttire@gmail.com](mailto:ChoirAttire@gmail.com)**

**616.951.4901**

**On Facebook as "Choir Attire"**