

# Teays Valley Middle School Choral Music Department

*Teays Valley East Middle School*

*Teays Valley West Middle School*

David Mailer - Director ([dmailer@tvsd.us](mailto:dmailer@tvsd.us))

Dear 5th Grade Students and Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our upcoming 6th grade students. At Teays Valley East and West Middle School, we have 4 choirs in our choral music program. 6th Grade Girls' Choir is comprised of all 6th grade female singers. Dudes' Chorus is comprised of all male singers in grades 6 through 8, although each grade meets during separate class periods. There is also a 7th Grade Girls' Choir and an 8th Grade Girls' Choir. All choirs at Teays Valley Middle School are open to all students regardless of musical ability, based on behavior. We encourage all students that enjoy music, especially singing, to sign up. All choirs rehearse during the school day for the entire school year. Each choir performs 4 concerts each year (approximately 1 per grading period). Except for concerts, there are no rehearsals outside of the school day. All necessary work for choir is done during the class period; there is never any choir homework. There is no expense involved in middle school choir (unless you damage the school-owned music that you are issued).

All concerts are held at 7:00pm in the Teays Valley High School Auditorium. Concerts are usually held on a Tuesday or Thursday evening. All performances are mandatory and are worth 20% of a student's 9-week grade.

As 6th grade students, you will have 4 academic classes, lunch, and 2 "elective" periods. As 6th grade students you will have the opportunity to enroll in 6th grade choir, band, band and choir, as well as a unified arts rotation that includes a semester of computer technology, a semester of physical education (gym), health, and a semester of art. Many of our choir students at West alternate days between choir and art or choir and gym if their schedule doesn't already include these classes. Participation in choir during one school year does not obligate a student to participate in following years.

Students will receive a grade and credit for their participation in choir. Students are graded primarily on their individual improvement and effort. Apart from the 4 concert dates, which contribute significantly to students' quarterly grades, students will not have any time commitments outside of the school day. Middle school choir concerts will never conflict with school sports, cheerleading, or other middle school activities. We try to achieve a healthy balance between academics, athletics and the arts at the middle school. The vast majority of female athletes (including cheerleaders) are also in choir. Over half of the Dudes' Chorus members are also involved in school athletics. Middle school choir students usually do well in their academic classes. 70% of the National Junior Honors Society members are in choir.

Many 6th grade choir members choose to participate in both band and choir. For these students, band will meet every day. For upcoming 6th grade students who are not certain whether they can handle both band and choir, I would strongly recommend that you sign up for band. Beginning band is only offered in the 6th grade. Students can join choir in any grade level they choose from 6-12.

Students at both schools can drop choir from their schedule at any point in the school year if they decide that choir is not a good fit for them.

For our 4 concerts, girls will wear black pants (black jeans, leggings, joggers, etc. are all fine) and a black top with cap sleeves or longer (doesn't need to be fancy). Any kind of shoes are fine, including tennis shoes. Boys will wear beige/tan pants (khakis, tan jeans, tan joggers, etc.) and a white long-sleeved button-down dress shirt. Any kind of shoes are fine, including tennis shoes, and we will issue school-owned ties for each concert.

Students who are interested in joining 6th grade choir should sign up by messaging me on Schoology (To: David Mailer) or sending me an email at [dmailer@tvsd.us](mailto:dmailer@tvsd.us) (or have your parents message or email me). Please include your first and last name and student ID # (lunch #), if you know it, and which school you are attending next year (East or West). If students or parents have additional questions, please e-mail me at [dmailer@tvsd.us](mailto:dmailer@tvsd.us) or message me on Schoology.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you next year!

Mr. Mailer