

Choir

Chesterton Academy of St. Michael · 2026–2027

Mr. Nesheim · aric.nesheim@chestertonstmichael.org

4x/week, the whole school together: Mon · Tue · Thu Per. 8 · Fri Per. 6 (1:23–2:00) · Cecilia (Worship Center)

Overview

Knowing songs is different from knowing how to sing. Singing is a life skill—like playing tennis or swinging a bat: nobody is born good at it, and everybody can learn it. In this class the whole school sings as one choir, and we're learning not just songs but how to sing: tonal memory, breathing and vocal technique, healthy posture (body, jaw, and tongue all count!), and a musical ear.

This is a performing choir, so most of our class time is spent rehearsing real music for real audiences—four performances this year, listed below.

Why we sing

Many of the natural gifts we all have for music—abstract thinking, imagination, intuition, the voice itself—go largely uncultivated. Choir helps us apply all these capacities and better understand the fullness of the human person.

Performances

Concerts are this course's “exams”. This year's four:

1) Vision Dinner — Sat Nov 7. A few selections; details to come.

2) Advent Concert: The Festival of Lessons and Carols — Wed & Thu evenings, Dec 16–17. Our biggest program of the year, with dress rehearsal Tue Dec 15.

3) Spring Festival of the Arts — Wed & Thu evenings, Apr 28–29.

4) Graduation Mass — Wed Jun 2. We sing the seniors out.

Call times and concert dress will be announced well ahead of each one, and if a conflict comes up, talk to me as early as you can. What we're singing is announced as each program is set.

How rehearsal works

Most of our time together we spend singing: warm-ups, then work by section, then putting it all together. Bring: 1) a pencil to mark music every rehearsal 2) your music folder 3) water if you want it. Expect to memorize some of each program. And every rehearsal ends the same way: something beautiful, sung well.

Grading

Category	Weight	What it measures
Participation	50%	Being here, on time, and singing. Engagement in rehearsal—posture, pencil marks in your music, your part sung like you mean it—and respect for the people singing next to you.
Performance	50%	The performances themselves and the preparation for them: dress rehearsals, plus sometimes small-group or individual part checks (memorization, pitch and rhythm, overall preparedness).

Important Dates

First rehearsal Tue Aug 25

Vision Dinner Sat Nov 7

Dress rehearsal Tue Dec 15

The Festival of Lessons and Carols Wed–Thu Dec 16–17 (evenings)

Spring Festival of the Arts Wed–Thu Apr 28–29 (evenings)

Graduation Mass Wed Jun 2

Last rehearsal Thu Jun 3

Last day of school Fri Jun 4