

Darnell Choir Audition Packet

What is the Darnell Choir?

The Darnell Choir is a group of third, fourth, and fifth graders who like to sing and want to improve their singing. This is a non-tuition-based before-school extra-curricular program and the director of the group is not paid for her volunteer work. The group is limited to 45 students.

Is this group right for me/my child?

There are requirements that the family and student must meet in order to become and remain a member. This is not an activity where students just come and go when they want. Regular attendance is expected and homework is given. Parents and guardians are expected to check that homework is done and ensure that students are at practice on time each week.

→ **Only students who are interested in learning and working at school and at home should participate. All students must commit to attend on a regular basis.**

When do we meet? Once we begin, rehearsals will be from 8:00 AM – 8:45 AM on Wednesdays and are by invitation only.

Audition Schedule:

- Aug. 21-24 from 8:20-8:40 AM
- LAST CHANCE: Aug. 24 from 8:20-8:40 AM

Audition Procedure:

1. At 8:18 AM, students will enter the school office and inform the office staff that they are going to audition for Choir. Parents must say goodbye to students at this time.
2. Ms. Van Eaton will escort students to the Music Room with their completed double-sided audition form. Students must arrive with a completed audition form in their hand since this is their entrance ticket.
3. Students will sing their choice of either "My Country Tis of Thee" or "The Star Spangled Banner" in small groups. Ms. Van Eaton may record the audition for grading at a later time if there are multiple students auditioning at the same time.
4. Students may also sing one or more vocal exercises together or alone at Ms. Van Eaton's discretion.

Song Choice: Students must choose from one of the two songs shown below. Videos can be found online if needed. Students will sing both verses of "My Country Tis of Thee" or the first verse of "The Star Spangled Banner." More points are earned for memorizing the lyrics.

Audition Results: Students who pass their audition will receive a welcome letter on Monday, Aug. 25. Parents and guardians (whose email is written on the audition form) will receive an email with an electronic version of the letter. The first rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, August 30. The first rehearsal is VERY important.

Questions?

Please feel free to directly contact Ms. Van Eaton with questions or concerns. She can be reached at vaneaam@nv.ccsd.net or you may leave a voicemail message at (702)799-6630 Ext. 3023. Please, no long-distance return telephone numbers.

Song lyric videos are available at <https://www.vaneatonmusic.com/choir-info.html>.

(My Country 'Tis of Thee)

Words by Samuel Francis Smith

Music: Traditional

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of li - ber - ty,
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,

5
Of thee I sing. Land where my fa - thers died, Land of the
Thy name I love. I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and

10
pil - grim's pride, From ev - ry moun - tain-side, Let free - dom ring!
tem - pled hills; My heart with rap - ture fills Like that a - bove!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second staff contains the next two lines, with a measure rest at the beginning. The third staff contains the final two lines of lyrics. The music is simple and melodic, typical of a traditional hymn.

Star Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key

John Stafford Smith

O say, can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light, what so proud - ly we
hailed at the twi - light's last gleam - ing? Whose broad stripes and bright
stars, through the per - i - lous fight, o'er the ram - parts we watched, were so
gal - lant - ly stream - ing? And the rock - et's red glare, the bombs burst - ing in
air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that
star spang - led ban - ner - yet - wave o'er the land - of the free, and the home of the brave.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line. The fourth staff contains the fourth line. The fifth staff contains the fifth line. The sixth staff contains the sixth line. The music is more complex than the first song, with many eighth and sixteenth notes.

Choir Audition Form, page 2

THIS PORTION IS FOR YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN

Please read each statement and check the box if you agree.

1. Myself or a family member is able drop my child off at Choir rehearsal each week on time (drop-off is on Wednesdays from 7:55 AM to 8:00 AM).
2. Myself or a family member will not drop-off my child before 7:55 AM unless we are using the SafeKey Service.
3. Myself or a family member checks my child's backpack once a week.
4. Myself or a family member ensures that my child completes their homework.
5. We are interested in our child participating and performing.
6. If my child makes it into choir, we will purchase a shirt, shoes, socks, and pants for their uniform.
7. My child sings in a choir outside of school. NO YES

Name of choir: _____

8. My child attends private voice lessons. NO YES

Name of teacher: _____ Years in lessons: _____

9. My child attends private instrument lessons. NO YES

Name of teacher: _____ Years in lessons: _____

10. We do not have any family commitments on the evening of Dec. 6 and May 2.

Parent/Guardian initials: _____

You will receive an email at the address below with the audition results on the afternoon of August 25.

Please print clearly.

_____ @ _____

DO NOT write or draw on this page.

This is the rubric that Ms. Van Eaton will use to grade your audition. The students with the highest scores will be invited to join the group.

	Ready for Choir	Satisfactory	Not Yet Ready for Choir
Body Alignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Relaxed <input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent with learned technique	<input type="checkbox"/> An error in body alignment either in posture, positioning, or other	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not appear relaxed or is inconsistent <input type="checkbox"/> Needed more than one reminder
Pitch Accuracy	<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent <input type="checkbox"/> Accurate <input type="checkbox"/> No recognizable errors	<input type="checkbox"/> Singing within the given key but with a few (less than 5) errors	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 pitch errors <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect tonal center
Projection	<input type="checkbox"/> Can be heard without a microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Follows dynamic markings <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy vocal projection, supported	<input type="checkbox"/> Can be heard without a microphone <input type="checkbox"/> Does not follow dynamic markings (all the same dynamic level) <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy vocal projection	<input type="checkbox"/> Not singing loud enough to be heard <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamic level is either too loud or too soft given the song's dynamic markings
Diction & Vowel Shape	<input type="checkbox"/> All words properly shaped – no “ee” <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth is open three fingers	<input type="checkbox"/> Most words properly shaped <input type="checkbox"/> One or two vowels need a little work	<input type="checkbox"/> Word shape errors <input type="checkbox"/> Incorrect vowel shape
Text Memory	<input type="checkbox"/> Song is completely memorized in text and pitch	<input type="checkbox"/> Song is memorized with a few errors (less than 5) but continues with song or improvises	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 errors and/or missing a complete phrase <input type="checkbox"/> Stops during song and/or needs teacher assistance
Musi-cianship	<input type="checkbox"/> Makes eye contact <input type="checkbox"/> Facial expression and presence matches song meaning <input type="checkbox"/> Gives entire focus to the performance of the song	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial expression matches music but the entire focus is not on the performance of the song	<input type="checkbox"/> Facial expression does not match <input type="checkbox"/> Focus is not on the performance, and/or performance is focused on something other than the music
Respon-sibility	<input type="checkbox"/> On time to audition <input type="checkbox"/> All sections of the form are complete <input type="checkbox"/> Answers are indicative of choir membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Late to audition	<input type="checkbox"/> Form is incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Initials are circumspect <input type="checkbox"/> Answers are not indicative of choir membership
Colla-boration	<input type="checkbox"/> There are no behavior issues from previous years (teacher memory or student record) that would hinder group collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> There are only one or two minor behaviors	<input type="checkbox"/> There is a behavior concern that would interrupt the collaboration

Teacher notes: