

GRAND PAWS

Show Choir



2018-2019

Handbook

www.manteno-show-choirs.com

Mission Statement

Grand Paws is a highly selective and competitive show choir that performs regularly throughout the community in addition to its competition schedule in the spring. This extracurricular choir serves as an extension of the Manteno Middle School music program, Manteno Middle School, and the Manteno community. Grand Paws has been in existence for many years, having performed both locally and around the state, and won numerous awards during its tenure. Manteno Grand Paws show choir strives to provide the highest quality of music education for its members, while continuing to uphold its reputation as a fine performing ensemble.

Attitude is the key in making this experience successful for you. What you get out of your participation is a product of the attitude you bring and the effort you put forth, and has an impact on those around you.

Respect from others is a reflection of what you give. Support one another in all efforts, both during and outside of performances. In this group, you are only as good as the person next to you.

Commitment occurs in EVERY rehearsal and performance. We depend on one another to put forth the best show.

Prepare for each and every rehearsal. In order to be at your best, you will need to work on individual issues with the material outside of rehearsal to ensure that all time spent with the group is as productive as it can be.

Each student is responsible for these established guidelines. If, after reviewing these policies, you feel you cannot commit to the program, it is recommended that you not participate at this time.

Contacting the Directors

If there is ever a need to contact Mrs. Katelyn Bever or Ms. Jennifer Grill regarding anything Show Choir related, they can be reached at the following:

Mrs. Katelyn Bever kbever@manteno5.org (815) 928-7196	Ms. Jennifer Grill jgrill@manteno5.org (815) 928-7159
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Parent Contact

It is imperative that we have all of the information possible in regards to contacting you. You are what keep this program going, and without you being in the know, we cannot be successful. Please make sure that we have your up to date information, especially email address. Weekly emails will be sent out to parents that contain practice dates, competition schedules, and any other information you need to know regarding Grand Paws. Remind text messages, described below, will also be utilized to stay in contact with parents and students. The directors rely on Remind to stay in contact with students while at performances. The Manteno Show Choir website will also be utilized for you to find itineraries and practice schedules at all times.

Remind

Remind is a safe way for teachers to stay in communication with their students via text messages. Teachers never see students' phone numbers and students never see theirs. Students and parents are encouraged to sign up for Remind. This is the best way to get updates about Grand Paws especially as we are attending competitions. It is very important that you sign up for the notifications, as it will be utilized on almost a daily basis next year.

Sign Up for Remind

Text: @PawsMMS18

To: @81010

OR Download the App and join the class - @PawsMMS18



Show Choir Website

Grand Paws has their own website (www.manteno-show-choirs.com). Grand Paws utilized this website to display important information for students and parents. The following information can be found on the Grand Paws page of the show choir website,

- Contact information for the directors
- Contact information for the show choir boosters
- Grand Paws Handbook
- Practice Schedule
- Competition Schedule
- Competition Itineraries

Follow Us on Facebook

The official Grand Paws Facebook page launched this year! We are excited to share news about the group, upcoming events, and photos on this page. Like us at -

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



General Guidelines

The show choir season lasts throughout the entire school year. It begins with the Oktoberfest Parade and ends in the spring with the annual Show Choir Gala. Throughout this time, students will attend a number of rehearsals to prepare the Grand Paws show.

Rehearsals for the year will be on **Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM (MES show choir room) and Thursday morning from 7:00 AM-7:45 AM (MMS choir room)**. A schedule will be given to you. The directors will do their best to stick to the schedules, but they are subject to change. If any conflicts arise please contact at least 24 hours in advance. **Attendance is required at all Grand Paws performances.**

Performance Schedule

Oktoberfest Parade	Saturday, September 29	El Paso	Friday, February 15
Spaghetti Dinner	Tuesday, October 30	Chicagoland	Friday, March 1
Parent Preview	Saturday, January 19	Wheaton South	Friday, March 8
Danville	Friday, February 1	Herscher	Saturday, March 16
Main Event	Friday, February 8	Gala	Saturday, April 6

Competition locations and dates are subject to change pending administrative approval

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required with very few exceptions. If you have any conflicts with practice or competition dates, please bring them to the attention of Mrs. Bever or Ms. Grill as soon as possible. Issues regarding missed practices/performances will be discussed amongst the Grand Paws team in order to reach a consensus on to properly handle each situation.

1. Students will be allowed excused absences at the discretion of the director. The **parent/guardian** must request these absences **in writing (email/letter) one day** prior to the absence. Absences due to conflicts with other sports/activities at MMS must be brought to the directors' attentions as well. Students **must** be at Tuesday and Thursday practices when the choreographer is there, during dress rehearsals, and practices prior to performances.
2. Students will receive one free pass to use for the year on any unexcused absence from rehearsal. This pass can be used without a week's notice and can be used with no questions asked. **You will not be allowed to use your pass during the week of competitions, during dress rehearsals, or when the choreographer is here.** Students who miss one of these dates due to their free pass will forfeit the opportunity to perform at the group's next outing.
3. Excused tardiness or absences due to a school-sponsored event will always be considered. Prior communication with the directing staff is essential in these cases. Parents/Guardians must contact Mrs. Bever or Ms. Grill with these conflicts at least 24 hours in advance .
4. Excused absences from school due to illness is also an excused absence from show choir and will not count towards your allotted absences. Again, communication with the directing staff will help to alleviate potential misunderstandings.
5. Unexcused tardiness/absences will not be tolerated. Consequences for missing **THREE or more rehearsals OR ONE performance** can include dismissal from the performing group.

Eligibility

Members of Grand Paws are student-performers. With this in mind, it is crucial that all participants stay on top of their classwork and keep passing grades throughout the school year. Per the Manteno Middle School student handbook:

Scholastic eligibility applies to any extracurricular activity in which interscholastic competition takes place. This also includes activities sponsored by the IESA and the Kan-Will Conference which require scholastic eligibility. To remain academically eligible at Manteno Middle School, a student must be passing all subjects cumulatively each week.

- A grade of A, B, C, or D will be recognized as a passing grade.
- The director will check eligibility each week.
- Starting in January, any student that is marked scholastically ineligible for **three consecutive** weeks will be dismissed from Grand Paws. *Prior* to January, students who are deemed ineligible for **three weeks** will be put on suspension from Grand Paws and will not be able to attend practices until they are passing.

Eligibility shall be checked weekly on Friday to govern eligibility for the following Monday through Saturday. The eligibility check shall be the same day each week except when school is not in session; then it must be taken on the last weekday of student attendance. At the beginning of a new term, teachers shall have recorded five grades before eligibility shall be marked for that course.

Students who are deemed ineligible are still expected to attend Grand Paws practices however, students will utilize this practice time to work on classwork. Students may ask Mrs. Bever, Ms. Grill, or the high school assistants for help during this time.

Competitions

Competition days usually consist of an all day/night commitment. We will travel together by bus and arrive early enough for setup and preparation. After our competition, we will stay and support the other show choirs in attendance and participate in the awards ceremony. Students must stay for the **entire competition** with few exceptions. Please plan your day accordingly. We need **all** members to effectively participate in these events.

1. Students are expected to wear their competition shirts and jeans while not performing at competitions - this is our uniform. While performing, students are expected to wear all costumes pieces properly.
2. Students are expected to follow all school rules while riding the bus to and from competitions. During this time, students are welcome to talk with their peers and reflect on what they need to do to make their performance great.
3. We attend competitions to watch other groups in addition to performing ourselves. Therefore, the homeroom will be locked when not in use preparing for our show.
4. After we have completed our performance, the student members will go directly to the homeroom and organize all garments. Do not leave any articles of clothing misplaced or off of a hanger outside of your garment bag. Any loss of garments could result in removal from future performances and/or expensive replacement costs.
5. Support other groups and their efforts. Please be respectful of all performances; refrain from talking or using your cell phone. Do not speak negatively about choirs, students, schools, parents, judges, etc. Rather, choose to celebrate the accomplishments of others. (This applies to both students AND adults representing Manteno Middle School!)

Travel Guidelines

As we prepare for our travels, keep in mind the purpose of each trip. Making music of the highest caliber is our first priority. We represent our communities and state as musical ambassadors. We are called upon to demonstrate for the duration of our travels the very best in personal behavior, integrity, group/team attitude, and, of course, musicality, which is, in turn, representative of the highest standards. By behaving responsibly and mindfully, by planning ahead, and having some basic guidelines, we will all have a GREAT experience. Some specific guidelines:

1. Be early to the bus so that we may depart on time. All members must ride the bus to competitions. We will not wait for members who are late; the bus will leave at its set departure time. ***Early is on time, on time is late, and late it unacceptable!***
 - a. Students may opt to ride home with parents/guardians following the awards ceremony at competitions. In order to do so, parents must submit an email or letter to Mrs. Bever the Wednesday prior to the competition stating that the parent/guardian will be taking their child home. Late notes will not be permitted.
2. Our bus time is best used to rest the voice, visit with your neighbor, read, watch a video, and relax. Please avoid shouting and be **respectful** to those around you.
3. Please remember that the bus is our home on the road for the tour, and that each member will be responsible to take care of his/her belongings, space and any trash. We are guests on the bus and must treat the vehicle accordingly.
4. **THERE IS A ZERO TOLERANCE RULE FOR ANY ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE.** No tobacco, alcohol, or drugs! Any person who violates this rule will be sent home at their expense, and be prosecuted to the fullest extent of school conduct code and the law. While there will be directors and chaperones present throughout a trip, it is expected that parents send their children on tour only after discussing responsible choices and behaviors. Parents accept full liability for injuries, accidents, and events brought about by the behaviors and actions of their child.

Performance Etiquette/Costumes/Appearance Standards

It is our responsibility to entertain and emotionally move the crowd with each of our performances. Thus, each performance is important and each student shall be prepared and focused to give their best performance possible. Because of that, students should tend to their appearance (hair, makeup, and uniforms) in the same way every time they are in front of an audience so that our looks will not in any way take away from the audience's focus on our group performance. (The directing staff will clearly communicate any exceptions to this policy.)

Members are responsible for ALL costume pieces purchased and assigned. All costumes are your **personal** responsibility to look after, keep track of, and most importantly, store correctly. **You will not perform if this condition is not met.** All assigned jewelry and garments shall be worn appropriately for performances, and **no unassigned jewelry or clothing will be permitted.** Hair should be worn out of the face, and girls should wear stage-appropriate makeup.

Costumes will be purchased for students. We will have fittings throughout the start of the season to make sure everyone has the proper attire. However, students will need to purchase a few items on their own. These items will be stored with the show choir costumes, but will be returned to students at the end of the season. Please see the chart below to see what your performer will need.

Girls	Boys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undergarments/Bodysuits - This information will be given to you at a later date. ● Earrings - This information will be given to you at a later date. ● Tights - Body Wrappers totalSTRETCH Tights in JAZZY TAN footed tights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://bodywrappers.com/details.php?id=240 ○ If you Google search <i>Body Wrappers totalSTRETCH Tights in JAZZY TAN</i> you will be able to find websites that sell them. Be sure to select Jazzy Tan as your color and that they are footed. ● Character Shoes - Adult Chorus 1.5 Character Shoes in CARMEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.discountdance.com/dancewear/style_THP315.html?pid=22722&Shop=Style&&skey=character+shoes&search=true&SortOrder=R&SID=997319566 ● Makeup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foundation ○ BLACK mascara - consider waterproof for sweating ○ BLACK eyeliner - stick OR liquid/consider water proof 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Black Shoes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.payless.com/mens-dexter-spencer-slip-on-shoe/75888.html?dwvar_75888_color=black#start=18 ● Black Belt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ http://www.jcpenney.com/p/stafford-black-belt/pp5003861160?pTmpType=regular&catId=cat1004600024&deptId=dept20000014&urlState=/g/belts-belts-suspenders-view-all-accessories-for-men/N-bwo3yDgm42c8Z1z13zy3Z1z14Oh1Z15zZxc8Z16Q ● Black Socks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any plain TALL dress sock is fine <p><i>**If you are struggling to find the shoes or belt in your size, you may choose a similar look. However, you must get these approved by Mrs. Bever or Ms. Grill.</i></p>

If there are any issues that occur with the rules listed above, the Grand Paws team will meet to discuss how to handle individual situations. Severe violations of the rules could result in dismissal from the group. The team will be sure to discuss any consequences with the student(s) and parent(s) involved.

Costs

All costumes and music expenses will be paid in full by the participants. If these fees are not paid, students will not be able to practice or perform with the group. Student fees for show choir are nonrefundable and are \$600 for singer/dancer, \$400 combo, and \$225 crew. Part of these fees are a \$100 volunteer fee and \$50 car wash fee. This \$100 will be returned once eight volunteer hours from Manteno Show Choirs has been satisfied. You will reimburse yourself for the \$50 car wash fee by selling 10 tickets to our first annual car wash! Fees can be turned in to the mailbox in the show choir room unless indicated differently in the chart below. Students should also pay the \$75 activity fee to Manteno Middle School and their first \$50 payment to show choir boosters prior to the Oktoberfest parade. Students who do not submit the activity fee cannot participate in practices or performances until it is paid.

Singer/Dancers:

\$75 due September 18th

MMS activity fee (Ms. Grill)

\$50 due September 18th

(Ms. Grill)

\$175 due October 2nd

\$175 due November 6th

\$125 due December 4th

Combo:

\$75 due September 18th

MMS activity fee (Ms. Grill)

\$50 due September 18th

(Ms. Grill)

\$175 due by October 2nd

\$100 due by November 6th

Crew:

\$50 due September 18th

(Ms. Grill)

\$175 Due by October 2nd

**** Activity fees are included in the amounts above. This is your total investment.**

Recognizing that this is a considerable cost to any family, we will continue to work diligently to provide fundraising opportunities for students to be able to offset the costs associated with Grand Paws.

Volunteer Hours

It truly takes an army to run a successful show choir! Without your support... having a show choir would not be possible. With this in mind, we ask that students and parents volunteer throughout the show choir season at various events including, but not limited to, spaghetti dinner, parent preview, Main Event, Gala, at competitions, and occasionally at practices. Parents are asked to complete at least 8 hours of volunteer work during the season. Once these 8 hours have been completed, your \$100 volunteer fee, discussed above, will be refunded to you. We ask that you distributed your hours in three areas,

4 hours	Main Event
2 hours	Show Choir BINGO
2 hours	Flex Hours - Can be completed at any event (Gala, Dralle car wash, costuming, chaperoning, hair/makeup, trailer help, being on a fundraising committee, etc.)

In order to get credit for your hours, you must email the Show Choir Boosters at mantenoschooster@aol.com. You MUST email within the month your volunteer hours were completed.

Fundraisers

Throughout the year, Manteno Show Choirs hosts an array of different fundraisers to help support the students and the program. Some of our fundraisers, such as our famous Cheesecake Sales, benefit the student on a personal basis by helping pay for their Show Choir fees. Other fundraisers, such as Main Event, go into the General Fund and are distributed and budgeted to help support our students as a group. Listed below are some of our yearly fundraisers that you and your students can participate in:

Fundraisers Include... Cheesecake Orders, Butter Braids, Main Event Ad Sales, Main Event Sponsorship, etc.

Parent Involvement

In addition to the student leadership positions, there will be many opportunities for parents to become involved with Grand Paws to help coordinate other volunteer activities, head committees, and provide valuable assistance throughout the course of the year. Most of the parent positions are filled on a volunteer basis, and opportunities will be available in many of the following categories as well as several others not mentioned here:

Remember: our success is contingent upon your participation in the operation of the group. Please feel free to volunteer for the committees as much as is possible. Thank you in advance for your help!

All policies and their administration are at the discretion of the directors with no exceptions. If you have any questions or concerns about the above guidelines, please free to contact Mrs. Bever or Ms. Grill.

Please sign and detach this portion of the handbook. Return this signed portion to Mrs. Bever by **Thursday, September 13th, 2017**. Please keep the rest of the 2018-2019 Handbook for your records.

I, _____ (printed student name) understand that, as a member of Grand Paws, I must adhere to all expectations stated in the Grand Paws Handbook for the 2018-2019 school year.

Student Signature

Date

I, _____ (printed parent/guardian name) understand that my student must adhere to all expectations stated in the Grand Paws Handbook. As the parent/guardian of this student, I understand both the time and monetary commitment of the group, and am willing to participate fully in the support of Manteno Grand Paws. I give my student permission to participate in Manteno Grand Paws Show Choir for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Parent Signature

Date