



Handbook

2022-2023

DOMINIQUE ELLIS, DIRECTOR

CABELL MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL

DOMINIQUE.SEARS@KI2.WV.US

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WELCOME!

Hello!

My name is Mrs. Dominique Ellis, the director of Cabell Midland's Rhythm in Red Show Choir and let me be the first to welcome you to the world of show choir! This competitive show choir has been captivating audiences under the name Rhythm in Red since 2002. This choir has a history of excellence, high expectations of student accountability, responsibility, attitude, and performance.

New members the first thing I have to say is: Be patient with yourself. This new experience, people, and maybe even school can get overwhelming. And it is my job to push you out of your comfort zone and grow into a better performer, student, and young adult.

Returners, welcome back! It is my hope that this year will be fun, successful full of memories. As always it is my job to continue your journey into the performing arts through, hard work, activities, and leadership opportunities. Whether you are a second year or a fourth-year senior, you are expected to behave as a leader for our newest members.

Parents this group becomes a second home to many students. It's my job to create a welcoming and safe place for student to express themselves and become the best students they can be. I would also like to welcome you to the family as well! I'm excited to get to know you and your children.

I'm excited for what this year has in store and can't wait to see it unfold!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ellis

STARTING THE YEAR

Welcome to the Rhythm in Red Show Choir

The Rhythm in Red Show Choir upholds high expectations of student accountability, responsibility, attitude, and performance quality. They will perform in many venues and settings throughout the year, in our community, state, and region. This includes at fundraisers, concerts, community events, and Holiday events, and competition.

Rhythm in Red Show Choir is an audition-based ensemble. Anyone wishing to participate in these groups must agree to follow all rules, meet outlined expectations, and will be held accountable for his or her actions.

Rhythm in Red Show Choir is a two-semester class. It must be taken for the full year school term. No student on the roster will be allowed to drop the class without the discretion of the director, in conjunction with the administration. Students who do not meet expectations outlined by this handbook and the director will be removed from the group.

The success of these groups relies on everyone participating with a positive and supportive attitude. Welcome to the Cabell Midland Show Choirs as we work together for another successful year in song, dance, performance, and competition!

Things you will need:

1. Physical Completed by a Physician

Every member is required to complete and turn in a physical at the beginning of the year. If a physical evaluation is not completed by a physician before the first conditioning rehearsal, student will not be able to participate until it is completed. If the physical is not completed by the first choreography rehearsal, the student will be cut from the group. If you are unsure of how to get a completed physical, please contact the director.

2. A Notarized Copy of the Rhythm in Red Show Choir Contract.

At the end of this handbook there are two contracts one is to keep with your handbook, the other is to turn in. It MUST be notarized by a licensed notary. This will be due the first week of school. If it is not turned in, student will not be placed in the competition ensemble.

RHYTHM IN RED SHOW CHOIR OFFICERS

Goals: To create a positive welcoming attitude to new and returning members. These students should be a leader by example. These people exude friendship, teamwork, and kindness. They are an important part of welcoming the newest members. They strive to create a fun and exciting group atmosphere and provide a backbone to the ensemble as professional leadership. They are expected to uphold the expectations of the Show Choir, and school handbook at all times.

Expectations for the year:

Big Little Program
Group bonding experiences and games
Thanksgiving
Senior Stockings boxes
Christmas-Secret Santa

Competition Secret Pals
End of the year banquet
Maybe- Show Choir Prom
Any other fun things through-out the year.
Senior Boxes

Requirements: Student will be expected to meet directly before practice twice a month to hold meetings and must be planned in advance, so it is on the calendar. Any other additional meetings must be done in a time where all the members are able to attend, and the director must be informed of meeting. The leadership team will be under the direction of the director and can be removed if found to be abusing or neglecting their position. Before such moment occurs, the student will have a sit-down meeting with the director and go over problems and create a plan of improvement.

Officers:

President: Organize meeting dates, Head of Big Little Program, Organize and distribute specific jobs for the rest of the officers based on want and skill set.

Vice President

Secretary- Take detailed notes to report back to the director for approval.

Senior Representative

Junior Representative- In charge of Senior Stocking and Boxes

Sophomore Representative

Freshman Representative- This will be voted on after one month of school (First week of September)

Additionally: This student can be a Section Leader or a Dance Captain however student must be aware of the extra, and different responsibility. Student will complete and submit an application to the director for consideration. Director will then create a ballot. Student may not be put on the ballot, even if application has been submitted. This occurrence could be due to incomplete application, GPA/grade issues, or past behavioral issues. Once ballot is released student will be able to create a platform and current members will be able to vote on their officers and representatives.

REHEARSALS

Frequency of Rehearsals

After-school rehearsals will be held 2-3 times per week and may change throughout the year. There may be times that extra rehearsals are needed. **In these cases, the director will try to inform students at least one week in advance.** Rehearsals are scheduled in advance via our monthly calendar. Throughout the year, Choreography Camps and Vocal Camps will be held. These rehearsals are often longer than regularly scheduled rehearsals, so students should plan accordingly for food, snacks, water, etc.

Excused Absences

Show choir members are required to attend ALL rehearsals and performances unless previously excused by the director, or if an emergency is the cause of an absence. Students must submit documentation of their absence to the director. Some examples of excused absences include:

School related functions

Family emergency

Illness, verified by a doctor's note

Other – at the discretion of the director

Work is not a valid excuse for miss of rehearsal or performance. If the student has more than three unexcused absences throughout the year, removal from the group will be discussed.

Unexcused absences will result in a 0 in the gradebook for a rehearsal and cannot be made up.

Rehearsal Attire

Rehearsals are an extension of the school day. Therefore, clothing worn must be school appropriate. See the director if you are unsure if your rehearsal wear is appropriate or not. For ALL rehearsals, the following attire should be worn.

Girls – Black t-shirt, solid black shorts or leggings, socks, and tennis shoes. For long hair, a hair tie is needed. Colorful leggings are not permitted. Ladies will need to wear 2-inch character heels any time the choir is dancing. No mid-drift should be showing. Sports bras, without a shirt over is unacceptable

Boys – Red t-shirt, solid black shorts, socks, and tennis shoes. No ripped up/ cut off shirts, midriff should not be exposed.

Expectations and Decorum

- Rehearsal begins immediately on the scheduled time. Students must change clothes, get a drink, use the restroom, and socialize PRIOR to the beginning of rehearsal. Student are expected to be on stage at the exact time rehearsal starts. Points will be taken off for late arrival.
- The director is in charge of ALL decisions made during rehearsal.
- Students will show respect to all others in the way they speak, act, and conduct themselves appropriately.
- Section leaders and dance captains, at times, will be asked to rehearse sectionals. During these times, all students will conduct themselves professionally.
- Students are dismissed from rehearsal as a group, not individually. The director will dismiss students at the end of rehearsal.
- All rehearsals are CLOSED – this means that only Rhythm in Red students and staff, or CMHS faculty/administration may attend rehearsal unless otherwise given permission.

REHEARSAL TEAM SECTION LEADER AND DANCE CAPTAINS HEAD STAGECREW

Goals:

These students enhance the rehearsal experience. These students are expected to learn the choreography and show music at quicker pace and at a higher quality. These students may be taking additional dance or vocal classes, but it is not a requirement for placement into position. These students may be expected to learn additional parts so they can clean or teach others during sectionals or cleaning workshops. They are expected to act professional during all classes, events, and rehearsals.

How to Receive this Position:

Student will fill out an application at the end of the year. Dance caption will each have 10 minutes to clean the audition piece taught. Dance Captions and Section Leaders are chosen by the director. The quantity of section leaders and Dance captains may change from year to year. The Rehearsal Team will be under the direction of the director and can be removed if found to be abusing or neglecting their position. Before such moment occurs, the student will have a sit-down meeting with the director and go over problems and create a plan of improvement.

Qualities:

Leader
Independent Learner
Hardworking
Attendance
Focused and attentive in rehearsal and class
Can pick up materials (Dance or Vocal)
Kind to ALL members of the group
Energetic and willing to take criticism

Additionally: This student can be part of the Leadership Team however student must be aware of the extra, and different responsibility. Student will complete and submit an application to the director for consideration. Student may not be put on the considered, even if application has been submitted. This occurrence could be due to- incomplete application, GPA/grade issues, or past behavioral issues

FUNDRAISERS

Both groups fundraise constantly throughout the year. Fundraisers are designed to meet the needs of the group and individuals so that each student and the group as a whole may be successful. Several expenses incur throughout the year, for things such as music, set pieces, travel, costumes, staff fees, etc. All fundraisers fit into one of two categories: Personal or General and will be designated at the discretion of the director, to be discussed with the fundraising chairperson.

Personal Fundraisers

Students will be assigned a personal account ledger. It is the show choir's desire to provide enough fundraising opportunities to significantly aid in meeting each members' yearly fees. In the past, students have paid for their fees entirely through fundraising. Personal fundraisers award students a percentage of sales to be applied to their accounts. Examples of personal fundraisers include:

- Knight Nation T-shirt Sales
- Kinwood Candle Sales
- Scragglepop
- Fruit Sales
- 31 Basket Sales

General Fundraisers

General fundraisers are those which supplement the general show choir account. These funds are used throughout the year for things such as travel, music, licensing fees, arranger fees, set design, etc. These fundraisers are often event style fundraisers. Examples of general fundraisers include:

- Kroger Community Rewards
- Rhythm in Red Show Choir Competition***
- Cabaret Dinner Theatre***

Mandatory Event Fundraiser Acknowledgement

Rhythm in Red Show Choir Boosters largest events of the year are **Cabaret** and the **Rhythm in Red Show Choir Invitational**. These events are already scheduled. It is understood that work obligations and emergencies cannot be avoided. Otherwise, it is imperative and therefore mandatory for all parents/guardians/boosters to volunteer at these events and donate supplies if needed. These are incredibly large events that have a reputation for success and in order to help these events continue to grow, we need ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK. There will also be an mandatory Booster meeting in the month the event is held for information and distribution of jobs for **Cabaret** and the **Rhythm in Red Show Choir Invitational**

FUNDRAISERS Cont.

Importance of General Fundraisers

General fundraisers are equally as important to the success of the individual students because these funds are used for things that are needed for all students. The production of competition shows come with a significant price tag. The director works to keep all costs and expenditures reasonable, but some costs cannot be avoided. To help understand the importance of general fundraisers, here is a list of some typical annual expenditures for the competition show:

Music Licensing fees	\$250/song	5-6 songs
Music Arranger Fees	\$300-500/song	5-6 songs
Travel	\$100/school bus \$2000/charter Bus	10-15 trips 1-2 trips
Set Design	\$1000 for materials	Once per year
Professional Musicians	\$100/ musician/gig	As needed during competitions

SHOW CHOIR FEES

Through fundraising efforts, students will be given opportunity to pay for their personal fees. Per law and regulation, no student may be excluded from show choir for inability to pay personal fees. However, all students will be held accountable for paying these costs through fundraising efforts and personal payments in a timely manner. Unpaid debts will be addressed via official notification. Sponsorship opportunities are available to assist students who show a significant need for assistance in paying for their fees. Students needing sponsorship can request via emailing dominique.sears@k12.wv.us. This must be done before October. If financial issues arise throughout the year, please make Mrs. Ellis aware, immediately. Additionally, students who have fundraised or paid off their fees, may continue to fundraise and award their earnings to another student who is in need. This year's fee schedule as follows:

Payment due Date	Competition Amount	General Show Choir Amount	
Deposit Due Now	\$ 50	\$25	
August	\$50	\$25	
September	\$50	\$25	
October	\$50	\$25	If this not paid student can be pulled out of competition show
November	\$50	\$25	
December	\$50	\$25	
January	\$50	\$25	
February	\$50	\$25	
Total Due	\$400	\$200	

*Costuming accounts for 50% of fees. This is **nonrefundable** once costume have been ordered. Staffing (choreographer, instrumental directors, assistant director) account for 50%. This amount is nonrefundable.

TRAVEL, PERFORMANCE, AND CONDUCT

Terms of Membership

Being a member of Cabell Midland Show Choirs is an honor and a privilege. Students are expected to represent Cabell Midland High School, the music department, and our organizations with class, both in school and in the general public. Show choir members are expected to participate in ALL public performances. The only exceptions include health emergencies and absences previously excused by the teacher.

The following may result in dismissal from the group:

- Unexcused absences from a performance
- Excessive absences from rehearsals, after a conference with the director
- Behavior uncharacteristic of a CMHS Show Choir member – this includes social media.

If such conduct is seen student may be put on a plan of improvement, which includes a conference with director.

Performance Evaluations (Rhythm in Red)

Students are required to have their competition show at performance level within the week of the first performance or competition. This will be determined through performance evaluation. If the student does not pass the evaluation, they must schedule individual sessions with the dance captains, staff member, director, or section leader to improve their skills to receive consideration for placement back on stage. Students who fail a performance evaluation will not be permitted to perform at competition and are expected to attempt testing back in for the following performance. Students who do not pass performance evaluations will still be required to travel as part of the group.

Performance/Travel Conduct

Students are expected to:

- Follow all school/county policies of home **and** away schools to which we may travel
- Avoid actions outside school environment that threatens school or group reputation
- Expected to not show public displays of affection
- Behave in a professional way
- Show respect for the school, teachers, directors, and students of ALL groups
- Avoid using loud or distasteful language
- Maintain composure during awards ceremonies in which we may perform for finals
- Avoid or limit talking on the bus when traveling to competitions
- Be respectful in restaurants/hotels, leave the place better than you found it
- Students are to remain at all events until the group departs together
- **For ALL TRIPS & COMPETITIONS – students will be dismissed from CMHS after all equipment is unloaded, and is only dismissed by Mrs. Ellis**

AUDITIONS

Returning students: Students that are going into their 3rd or 4th year of the Rhythm in Red Show Choir will not be asked to re-audition for the program. Students going into their 2nd year will be required to audition or will not be put into consideration for the upcoming year. They must have been in the competition show for this consideration.

*If student has been put on a Plan of Improvement at any point in the second semester they will be required to reaudition for the next year.

New students or second year auditions: Students will be required to have a singing and dance audition. If student has not completed either process, they will not be considered for our competition show.

Singing Auditions: Student are required to sing 1-2 minutes of a song of their choice. Those auditioning must have accompaniment. No, A Capella auditions will be considered. A piano (but not an accompanist) and a sound system will be provided. Those auditioning may be asked to sight read or complete pitch matching exercises. For returning students this audition can be held during class or after school. New members must come to the given audition date, after school.

Dance Auditions: On a separate audition date, new students, will be expected to attend a dance audition. All returning and new students are required to attend dance audition; current seniors can attend. Dance auditions will be held after school.

Attire: Comfortable, moveable clothes, closed toed shoes (sneakers) if you have character heels you can bring them, water, a light snack if needed.

What to expect: Physical warmup, learning of the choreographed section, and small group showcase.

Admittance: Student will be notified via official letter. They will also be sent information and are officially members of the Rhythm in Red. Conditioning, fundraisers, summer workshops and meetings are open to newest members.

General Show Choir

The General Show Choir is meant for students that may have done well in their audition, however due to different circumstances pertaining to the organization of the choir they are not able to be in the Competition Show as a performer. Students in this will be invited to join the class but is not part of the Competition Team. This is in hopes that they could be prepare for next years audition.

The General Show choir members are still considered a part of the Rhythm in Red and will be eligible for the following:

Fundraisers

Financial Assistance

Holding Office for the Leadership Team

Group Team Building

Becoming Dance Captain or Section Leader the following year.

WV All County and All State Choirs

ACDA Choirs

Requirements:

In the class for both semesters for the school year

Physical and Contract signed

General Choir Fees (See Fundraiser Section)

Learn Christmas Show and attend all Christmas performances

Learn all of the competition music to a performance level

All class Requirements

Stage Crew or Combo band for the competition season.

After school rehearsals when stage crew or combo meet.

DIRECTOR, PARENT AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Director's Role and Expectations, as outlined by administration:

- Establish, and oversee goals for the program
- Select the music to be performed
- Select where and when the choir performs
- Rehearse music/choreography
- Teach, evaluate, and oversee student learning
- Analyze data that affects student learning
- Decide on how funds are used, while informing the booster board of officers
- Communicate regularly and consistently with students, parents, and administration
- It is the sole job of the director to communicate with other choir directors unless requested for another to reach out to them
- Host a yearly competition, the **Rhythm in Red Show Choir Invitational**
- Attend at least one competition, excluding the host competition
- Utilize expertise to meet the goals of the overall success of the show choir program, as it is a member of the music department
- Oversee hiring of staff positions including assistant director, choreographer(s), and instrumental director

Parent/Booster Role and Expectations, as outlined by the director, administration, and bylaws:

- Provide support for student success in meeting the director's goals for the program
- Serve on committees, as members or committee head (see booster bylaws)
- Communicate with the director
- Support student success in fundraising efforts
- Plan, in conjunction with the director, all fundraiser events
- Assist the director with fundraising/communication efforts
- Overall, utilize personal networking and skills to ensure the success of the show choir by helping meet the goals of the director

Student's Role and Expectations

- Attend all rehearsals and performance
- Maintain faithful attendance in ALL classes – NOT JUST SHOW CHOIR!!!
- Maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in ALL classes
- Communicate academic concerns to the director
- Memorize all show music and choreography
- Rehearse music and choreography personally, outside of school or rehearsal
- Overall, enjoy performing, have fun, and make music!

ENSEMBLE ESSENTIALS

Even though the show changes from year to year, these items you will need to get as soon as possible once you have signed a contract and received and tuned in the physical.

All:

- A physical from your physicians
- A 1 -- 1 1/2-inch binder to keep all music in throughout the year.
- Water bottle for all rehearsals
- Pencils
- Competition Warm-Ups: Jackets only, however if student wants the pants, they can choose to order them as well for an additional fee. Orders will be taken during 1st semester. **Money will be due at the time of order!**

*This warmup will be used every year the student is in the group

Ladies:

All items are due before October 1st. If you should have any questions about specifics, please see an officer or Mrs. Ellis



Character Heels:

Capezio Adult 2'' Jr. Footlight T-Strap Character Shoes

Style Number: 750

Color: Caramel

Price: \$39.95 (discountdance.com)

Quantity: 1 Pair



Tights:

Capezio Adult Ultra Soft Low-Rise Transition Tights

Style Number: 1872

Color: Caramel

Price: \$12.90 (discountdance.com)

Quantity: Only 1 pair is required. However, 2 or more is recommended in the event of lost or damaged tights.



Body Suit:

Natalie Adult Seamless Camisole Undergarment Leotard

Style Number: N234 (Regular Sizes) or N234W (Plus Sizes)

Color: Nude

Price: \$18.22 (discountdance.com)

Quantity: Only 1 is required. However, 2 are recommended in the event of a lost or damaged body suit.

* Please Note – Purchase of these items are the responsibility of the student and/or their family. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Ellis or email her at dominique.sears@k12.wv.us

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

Rhythm in Red Show Choir Boosters– Closed Group

This closed group has been created to help parents and guardians of Rhythm in Red stay informed of all the events going on in show choir. Please know that this is for informational purposes only and all posts will be approved by the administrator.

To Join: Find the Facebook group, Request membership, Facebook group administrators will accept you into the group.

Cabell Midland Rhythm in Red Show Choir – Open Group

This group is for public announcements of events, performances, and fundraisers by the Rhythm in Red Show Choir at Cabell Midland High School.

To Join: Follow “Cabell Midland Rhythm in Red Show Choirs”

Remind

This is the primary mode of communication throughout the summer and school year. This mobile app and online service allows the director to send out reminders to all members simultaneously. Members may also message the director as needed on the application or online. To Join “Cabell Midland Rhythm in Red” on Remind:

To Join: **Text** @9ab842 to the number 81010

Send a blank **email** to risc@mail.remind.com

Twitter

There is a public info Twitter page, as well as one for the Rhythm in Red Show Choir invitational. Follow these two pages:

@CMHSRhythmInRed and @RIRInvitational



RHYTHM IN RED SHOW CHOIR CONTRACT 2022-2023

I, _____ (student), member of Rhythm in Red, acknowledge that I have received and read the show choir handbook. I understand and agree to abide by all course requirements and policies outlined in this handbook.

I agree to pay the fees outlined in the handbook, and that through fundraisers, understand that I am given the opportunity to raise the funds for costumes and staff fees necessary for performances. I understand that I may apply for a financial aid to help cover these fees as well.

I agree to meet all deadlines for assignments, paperwork, and fundraisers. I will submit payments to the booster treasurer in a timely manner. And if not, I am aware I can be removed from the competition show.

I understand that my commitment to Cabell Midland Show Choirs involves attendance and participation in all show choir activities. I am to schedule work and non-emergency doctors' appointments around my show choir schedule. I understand that if I do not meet these requirements, I risk being suspended from a performance or trip, or removal from the group. I will represent Cabell Midland High School in a positive, mature manner.

I understand that I am committing myself to the Cabell Midland Show Choirs for the entire **2022-2023** school year and will fulfill all obligations for the group. Only with the permission of Mrs. Ellis, in conference with administration, will a student be excused from this commitment and be removed from show choir. I also understand that misconduct outlined in the show choir handbook may result in my dismissal from the group.

I understand that quitting or dismissal from the group may affect a refund of fees paid. Any funds raised will go into the general show choir booster account. I will compose myself in and out of school, and on social media, in a way that represents Rhythm in Red and Cabell Midland High School in a positive way.

PARENTS: I promise, to the best of my ability, to work both the Cabaret, and Rhythm in Red Invitational events, including the booster meeting before said events.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all the above listed requirements of Cabell Midland Show Choirs for the 2021-2022 school year, as outlined in this contract and the Cabell Midland Show Choirs Handbook.

Student Name _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Notary Signature _____ Commission Expires _____

Today's Date _____

Stamp Below



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