



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

All rehearsals are scheduled at the United Church of Christ – Congregational at 226 E. Main Street in Vermillion. These dates are also available on our website.

Extra rehearsals may be scheduled as necessary as concerts draw near.

REHEARSALS - Tuesdays 3:30 to 5:00 PM

September 5- 1st rehearsal, 12- Parent Meeting- 5:00, 19, 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24, (no choir on 31st- Halloween)

November 7, 14, 21, 28

December 5

January 9, 16, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 20, 27

March 5, (No choir 12- USD spring break), 19,26

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (last day concert and party!)

September 22	VCC Retreat at the UCC	5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
January 12	VCC Retreat at the UCC	5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

CONCERTS:

October 10 – 5:00 pm Parent’s Night Preview at the UCC.

October 15 – (time TBA) Music is Alive Festival in Prentis Park

November 12 – 10:30am UCC Service (CALL TIME 9:30 am)

December TBA – WH Over Holiday Festival

December TBA – Library Open House / Parade of Lights

December TBA – Caroling

February 3 – 6:00 pm National Anthem at Stampede Game (Sioux Falls)

February 22 – National Anthem at USD Basketball (game 7:00 call is TBD)

February 23 – National Anthem at VHS Basketball (game 7:00 call is TBD) Rhythm in Red Rehearsal to follow

February 24 – Time TBD Rhythm in Red Invitational Exhibition Performance

March 22 – VCC & Yankton Collaboration (More info TBD)

April 21 – 3:00pm Final Gala UCC (CALL TIME 2pm)

April 30 – School Tour

THE CHOIR:

The *Vermillion Children’s Choir* is made up of area children with unchanged voices who are in grades 3-8, who subscribe to the following philosophy, goals, and aim. VCC is a year-long commitment, rehearsals beginning in September and ending in May.

PHILOSOPHY:

The *Vermillion Children’s Choir* is founded and organized on the premise that children are capable of artistically producing beautiful choral music.

The *Vermillion Children’s Choir* is dedicated to the artistic development and expression of each student through music. We are dedicated to instilling a lifelong appreciation for music in its various styles. Through the use of choral music, students will learn the fundamentals of reading music, rhythm and steady beat, and correct vocal production. The Vermillion Children’s Choir will strengthen the presence of the arts in our community, within our schools and homes.

GOALS:

The *Vermillion Children's Choir* will give students an opportunity to develop:

- Discipline through practice
- Cooperative skills by working in an ensemble
- Problem solving skills in learning music
- Creativity by learning to express themselves
- A sense of community and respect for others

These goals will be achieved by positive response to professional teaching/conducting methods used in rehearsal and performance, by individual practicing between rehearsals as necessary, and by performing in a variety of situations and venues.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS IS REQUIRED!

As a member of the Vermillion Children's Choir each singer has responsibilities, one of which is attendance at all rehearsals. A complete rehearsal schedule is provided at the beginning of the season. Every effort should be made to avoid conflicts with other activities.

Attendance policy is as such:

1. Each student is given 3 unexcused absences for the year. After those have been exhausted, the child and parent will be given notice that their position in the choir is under review.
2. Absences will be excused when communicated with VCC through email or through direct contact with a Parent Representative.
3. Missed performances without prior notification will result in immediate review of child's participation in ensemble.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

During the school year, rehearsals will not be held on any day on which Vermillion schools have dismissed early or canceled classes because of weather, unless weather conditions change. If a change of weather allows rehearsals to be resumed, you will be called.

Out-of-town Choir members should always use their judgment regarding the trip to Vermillion for rehearsal when road conditions are uncertain. (Members will not be penalized for absences that result from hazardous conditions.)

Cancelations will be sent through email and texting.

PLEASE respond to texting/emailing so we know you got the message.

REHEARSAL/CONCERT BEHAVIOR:

The image that the *Vermillion Children's Choir* projects is extremely important. We represent not only our organization and ourselves but also our community and region. Therefore, appearance and behavior before, during and after our concerts and performances need to be exemplary. *Choir* members are to be appropriately dressed (see Uniforms, page 4). Common courtesy and good manners to each other and to adults are expected at all times. Unacceptable behavior at any rehearsal or performance will not be tolerated. At such a time that behavior is becoming an issue, a meeting will be called with the parents and child to discuss the issues and come to a resolution. **This choir is a privilege, not a right** and a child will be asked to leave as the need arises.

Choir members must be focused on the music and their work during rehearsals. Therefore, baby-sitting charges or siblings for whom they are responsible must not accompany singers.

CHOIR MEMBERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE REHEARSAL SITE BEFORE REHEARSAL IS OVER UNLESS A WRITTEN NOTE IS SENT BY THE PARENT

PROMPTNESS:

REHEARSALS WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 3:30 AND END AT 5:00.

All *Choir* members must be at rehearsals in time to be ready to begin at the scheduled time. Late arrivals not only miss important announcements, warm-ups, and rehearsal, but also disrupt the entire *Choir*. If any *Choir* member is consistently tardy, HE/SHE MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE CHOIR, at the discretion of the director, with advice from the Board.

Singers may be dropped off no earlier than 15 minutes before a rehearsal. They must be picked up no later than 10 minutes after a rehearsal is scheduled to end.

MUSIC:

The professional staff will choose all music. Material of a sacred nature, and that having to do with various holidays, may be included. Music is very costly and difficult to replace. Each *Choir* member must assume the responsibility of looking after it with great care.

Music will be purchased by and belong to the *Vermillion Children's Choir*. Copies will be used by each *Choir* member, and he/she will be responsible for returning that music, when requested, in good condition. *Choir* members should not mark music, except as instructed by the directors and then **only in pencil**. All marks must be erased before music is handed in.

If music is damaged, the choir member should show it to one of the directors for repair. If it is damaged beyond repair, or **if music is lost**, choir members will be billed for replacement costs.

WHAT TO BRING TO REHEARSAL:

1. Each singer may choose to bring a filled water bottle, with a secure cap (water only). **NO GUM, CANDY, POP, OR JUICE** (unless medically necessary -- to be brought only with permission).
2. Please silence cell phones.

REMOVAL FROM THE CHOIR:

If a member is removed from the *Choir* for any reason, parents will be called to immediately pick up their child. A meeting will be held at the earliest possible time to determine whether or not membership in the choir will be continued. Although the Board's advice may be sought, the Artistic Director makes the final decision.

TUITION:

The Board, on a yearly basis, sets tuition. Tuition must be paid in a timely fashion as agreed upon, or the singer may not be allowed to perform. Tuition is as follows:

1. \$150 per year – ½ due in October. Final ½ due January
2. Reduced rate of \$100 for second child in family
3. Scholarships and payment plans are considered on an individual basis. Please contact David Holdhusen for more information.

If tuition is not paid as scheduled, the singer may not be able to perform the concerts. Please do not put your child in that position.

REFUNDS:

If a *Choir* member is **removed** for any reason, or chooses to leave the *Choir*, there will be **NO REFUND** of any tuition. **Any outstanding balance of tuition will be collected.** Our expenses are based on number of singers at the beginning of the season. Tuition paid and tuition anticipated have already been spent on music, uniforms, supplies, postage, etc.

SPONSORSHIP:

The Vermillion Children's Choir is seeking the support from an array of generous individuals, businesses, and organizations, in Vermillion and the area. Would your employer, or a service organization to which you belong, possibly be interested? Do you know individuals who might like to contribute? If you do, please contact a Board Member.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

Three parent representatives will be asked to serve terms on the Board of Directors. Besides participating in the general governing/decision-making of the **Choir**, they will also be especially responsible for maintaining communication between parents/guardians and the staff and Board.

All parents/guardians are encouraged to contribute their ideas and efforts for the good of the **Choir**. Please contact the executive director and/or parent representatives with your suggestions and to volunteer, and they will also be in touch with you when specific tasks need attention. In addition, parents/guardians are always welcome to quietly observe rehearsals.

UNIFORMS:

Each student will be provided with an official VCC polo this fall, as needed. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Singers will provide the following:

- Black slacks with black socks – (NOT JEANS)
- Black closed toe shoes

UNIFORM POLICY:

The VCC uniforms are paid for by the tuition of each child. The uniforms are kept for VCC performances only. We may not be able to reorder uniforms during the season, so please take good care of your investment!

No hats, caps, jewelry, brightly colored nail polish, glitter make-up, etc., are allowed during performances.

Every effort will be made to ensure that participation in the Choir is not a financial burden. If you have outgrown your polo shirt or no longer need it, please donate it back to the choir. We will in return provide it to those choir members in need.

A uniformly well-dressed choir presents itself as a disciplined, proud, and well-practiced group. The audience sees the entire Choir as one unit. If just one child is wearing the wrong colored socks or appears disheveled, he/she will detract from the focus, appreciation, and enjoyment of the audience. Please be sure your singer is dressed properly.