



TONKA DISTRICT
CHILDREN'S CHOIR

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

3rd Grade Skipper Choir

Parent and Singer Handbook

2026-2027

Tonka District Children's Choir Mission Statement:

The Tonka District Children's Choir program serves children in third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade from each of Minnetonka district's six elementary schools and two middle schools. Membership in the choir fosters musicality through performance and bridges friendships across the district. There is a place for everyone in the choir!

Tonka District Children's Choir Ensembles include:

Select Choir: Includes fourth, fifth, and sixth grade girls and boys from each of the six elementary schools and two middle schools in the Minnetonka School District. This is an auditioned group with a higher level of performance and rehearsal expectations. This group will cater to the dedicated and experienced young singer. Participation Fee: \$75.00

Core Choir: Includes fourth, fifth, and sixth grade boys and girls from each of the six elementary schools and two middle schools in the Minnetonka School District. Singers in this choir will develop singing and performing skills using choral music and individual instruction. The goals will be improved technique and a musically satisfying concert while creating a space where all voices are celebrated. Participation Fee: \$75.00

Third Grade Choirs: Includes third grade boys and girls from each of the six elementary schools in the Minnetonka School District. **Participation Fee: \$50.00**

There are (2) Third Grade District Choirs (families select choir that best fits their schedule):

- **Anchor Choir – Rehearses Tuesdays – Scenic Heights Elementary, from 4:30–5:30 p.m.**
- **Skipper Choir – Rehearses Mondays – Deephaven Elementary, from 4:15–5:15 p.m.**

Each choir performs its own repertoire. Participation offers an awesome opportunity for our young singers to learn more about their vocal instrument, meet new friends from across the district, and experience the discipline and joy of working together in a larger singing group. Students will also have the opportunity to sing solos or in small groups as well as play a lot of fun instruments to accompany our songs.

Skipper Choir Contact Information:

Melani Schwartz (Director)

Melani.Schwartz@minnetonkaschools.org

Sue Ryan (Assistant to Director)

Susan.Ryan@minnetonkaschools.org

Rehearsal Times and Spaces:

Third Grade Skipper Choir: Mondays, 4:15–5:15 p.m., Deephaven Elementary (Music Room)
Please do not arrive earlier than 4:10 p.m., so the director has time to set up.

2027 Concert Dates:

Wednesday, Feb. 3 – Winter Concert (all Choirs) at Minnetonka High School Arts Center
Arrive: 5:00 p.m. Concert: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 12 – Spring Concert (all Choirs) at Minnetonka High School Arts Center
Arrive: 5:00 p.m. Concert: 6:00 p.m.

Concert Dress - Formal Concert Attire:

All singers should wear white on top and black on bottom:
Black Slacks/Skirt; Black Socks/Nylons; Black Dress Shoes; and White Button-Down Shirt or Dressy White Blouse.

Attendance Policy:

Please mark your calendars to make sure your student is in attendance for all rehearsals. In case of illness or other unavoidable conflict, please notify your child's director and assistant to the director via email. Every rehearsal is important!

Parent Volunteers:

We need parent volunteers for our concerts and parties, and for parent pick-up times. Watch your email for opportunities.

Communications:

Choir Information will be sent via email. We'll always use the blind copy option to keep your information private. Be sure to check your junk mail and add our email to your address book.

Behavior:

As representatives of Minnetonka Schools and the Tonka District Children's Choir program, singers will be held to high standards of behavior during rehearsals and concerts.

2026-2027 Skipper Choir Rehearsal & Concert Dates:

Rehearsal Time: 4:15–5:15 p.m. - Deephaven Elementary Music Room

*We will have rehearsal every Monday that school is in session.

*If school is canceled due to inclement weather, rehearsal will also be canceled.

Monday, October 19 – Rehearsal

Monday, October 26 – Rehearsal

Monday, November 2 – Rehearsal

Monday, November 9 – Rehearsal

Monday, November 16 – Rehearsal

Monday, November 23 – Rehearsal

Monday, November 30 – Rehearsal

Monday, December 7 – Rehearsal

Monday, December 14 – Rehearsal

Monday, December 21 - Rehearsal

WINTER BREAK

Monday, January 11 – Rehearsal

Monday, January 18 – **No** Rehearsal - MLK Jr. Holiday

Monday, January 25 – Rehearsal (Tentative)

Monday, February 1 – Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 3 – CONCERT 6pm AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL ARTS CENTER (arrive by 5pm)

Monday, February 8 – Rehearsal

Monday, February 15 – **No** Rehearsal - President's Day Holiday

Monday, February 22 – Rehearsal

Monday, March 1 – Rehearsal

Monday, March 8 – Rehearsal

Monday, March 15 – Rehearsal

Monday, March 22 – Rehearsal

SPRING BREAK

Monday, April 12 – Rehearsal

Monday, April 19 – Rehearsal

Monday, April 26 – Rehearsal

Monday, May 3 – Rehearsal

Monday, May 10 – Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 12 – CONCERT 6pm AT MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL ARTS CENTER (arrive by 5pm)

Sunday in May (TBD) – Sing National Anthem at Minnesota Twins Baseball Game!