

**2011-2012 WWSHS
Esprit Show Choir
Information and Guidelines**
Call or email Lora Wright with questions 630-306-3618
Lorawright2004@yahoo.com

Esprit website: www.wwsesprit.com

Esprit is an auditioned all girls show choir for WWSHS girls in grades 9-12. Esprit performs in the community and competes during the school year.

Esprit (legal name: WWSHS Show Choir Club Inc) is a 501C3 non-profit club that is not financially sponsored by District 200. However, Esprit is an official school club with a legal agreement with District 200 to provide an auditioned show choir to ONLY Wheaton Warrenville South students. WWS high school provides rehearsal space, instruments, risers, etc to Esprit for use.

The Esprit mission statement is as follows:

To provide an extracurricular show choir opportunity for WWSHS girls in grades 9-12 which emphasizes self-esteem, pride, respect, dedication, responsibility, camaraderie and fun

To provide its members with professional vocal and dance instruction in a positive environment.

To emphasize the value of working hard toward the common goal of creating entertaining, spirited, competition-worthy performances of which the girls can be proud.

Rehearsals:

Mondays 4:30-6:30 with some exceptions and additions (see full calendar, attached)

Commitment

The show choir season lasts throughout the school year with our schedule slowing down considerably in April. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required with very few exceptions. Because Esprit rehearses just once per week in most weeks, it is ESSENTIAL that girls attend weekly rehearsals. *See full calendar for all rehearsal dates.*

Before auditioning for Esprit, please read the attendance policy and make sure that you are committed to ALL the dates on the following chart:

Attendance at the rehearsals and competitions/performances listed in the chart below is mandatory to be a member of the group:

Thursday, June 2	Mandatory meeting Student and at least one parent	7:00 PM \$600 fee due Orchestra Room
Fri-Sun August 5-7	retreat	East Troy
Monday, Oct 10	Rehearsal/clinic	12-3 pm
Monday, January 2	Rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Monday, January 9	Rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Monday, January 16	Rehearsal/preview performance	3:30-8:00
Thursday, Jan 19	Rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Saturday, Jan 21	Competition	Milton, WI
Monday, Feb 6	Rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Monday Feb 13	Rehearsal	
Fri-Sun. Feb 17-19	Competition	Davenport, IA
Monday, Feb 27	Rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Fri-Sun March 2-4	Competition	Fairfield, OH
Monday, March 5	Rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Fri-Sat March 9-10	Competition (hosted by WWS)	WWS Choral Classic
Monday, April 9	rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Thursday, April 12	rehearsal	4:30-6:30
Fri-Sat April 13-14	Cabaret WWS Commons	TBA

If you have any conflicts with these dates, please bring them to the attention of Mrs. Wright prior to auditions. Depending upon what you will miss, you *may* still be eligible for participation in the group (at the discretion of the directing staff).

Attendance Policy

Because Esprit meets only once per week, it is essential that girls attend all rehearsals.

1. Students are allowed two excused absences. If you must miss a rehearsal due to anything other than illness, you must submit your request in writing at least one week prior to the rehearsal. Email is fine. These two excused absences cannot be used on any of the black out

dates above.

2. Students cannot be absent during any of the black out dates in the chart above. If you are absent for any part of the black out dates, you may be taken out of all or part of performances and or competitions following the absence. This will be at the discretion of the director. There are NO excused absences for black out dates in the chart above.

3. Excused tardiness or absences due to a **school-sponsored** event or extracurricular activity will always be considered. Prior communication with the directing staff is essential in these cases. However, you cannot miss any part of the black out dates in the chart above, even for school sponsored events.

4. Excused absence from school due to illness is also an excused absence from show choir and will *not* count toward your two allowed excused absences. However, chronic absences due to illness may affect your ability to “keep up” and may result in the director having to remove you from part or all of a performance and or competition. If you are absent from school, you CAN come to rehearsal regardless of your attendance at school that day. If you are absent from school due to illness and will also miss Esprit rehearsal due to illness, you MUST still notify through email or phone Mrs. Wright or Mr. Burlace.

5. Unexcused tardiness will not be tolerated. Three unexcused tardies will result in possible removal from the group.

6. If a girl is absent for four or more calendar dates (or three before first competition) for ANY reason (excused or unexcused), her absences will be considered chronic and a review of her further involvement with the club by the parent board, director and parents will take place. If it is decided that the girl will be removed from the club due to chronic absence (whether excused or unexcused) ALL fees must still be paid in full to the club.

Costs- \$1500 per girl

Fees cover the following: retreat (meals, etc), vocal instruction, choreography instruction, sheet music, clinicians, costumes, transportation, custom music arranging, hotel accommodations, insurance, t-shirt and warm up jacket, calling post, fall party and spring awards ceremony.

Fee schedule:

Thursday June 2 \$600

Monday August 29- \$400

Monday, November 28 \$300

Monday January 2 \$200

Individualized payment plans can be worked out. Please call Lora Wright @ 630-306-3618 before auditioning to discuss payment plan options.

All payments made are non refundable

Auditioning for Esprit is a legally binding financial agreement in that you have agreed to make all payments (\$1500) if your daughter is chosen for the group.

If your daughter's name appears on the official posted roster on Friday, May 27, your financial commitment to Esprit begins and is legally binding. Anyone resigning from the group or being removed from the group per guidelines ON OR AFTER the official roster is posted is legally obligated to pay the \$1500 fee in full.

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 Esprit.

Competitions

Esprit competes on Saturday mornings/afternoons (and at times we have competed in the finals in the evening) It is an all day commitment and sometimes a Friday and/or Saturday overnight. Exact dates and times will be given in the fall but for now, please plan to block out the entire weekend. We will travel together by bus and arrive early enough for set up and preparation. After our competition, we will stay and support the other show choirs in attendance. This will include the awards presentation and possibly a performance in the evening finals. Please plan your day accordingly. We need all members to effectively participate in these events.

Summer Camps where you can improve your skills

Summer camp information (Show choir Camps of America, Rising Stars, etc.) is available from the director, and all choir members are expected to take advantage of these opportunities. Although these camps are not included in your fees for the year, it is highly recommended to take advantage of any opportunities available to you that will help to improve your performing skills.

Questions: contact Lora Wright lorawright2004@yahoo.com or 630-306-3618
Or director John Burlace jburlace@cusd200.org

All policies and their administration are at the discretion of the board of directors and director John Burlace with no exceptions. If you have any questions or concerns about the above guidelines, please free to contact lora Wright 630-306-3618 or email lorawright2004@yahoo.com or Mr. Burlace (630-784-7285 or jburlace@cusd200.org) before committing to the show choir program.