



VOCAL MUSIC

2019-20 HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO THE WAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM

It is with enthusiasm and excitement that we welcome you. We are glad you have chosen to sing with us and look forward to an outstanding year together! The purpose of the Waukee Choral Program is to help each individual develop - musically, socially, and personally. We believe that being in music classes helps build self-discipline, confidence, dedication, and learning how to work with others toward a common goal. As performance oriented groups, we strive to be the best we can be in all respects.

The vocal department website is a good way to find information that is available regarding the choral program. Information is updated as frequently as possible and includes calendars, documents, news items and other general department information. Be sure to sign up for our text communications for the ensembles that you are involved in.

Literature for each of our choirs is chosen very carefully. It is the belief of the Waukee Vocal Music Department that students are to be exposed to a variety of choral literature. The selection of choral music is determined by the instructor based upon availability, quality, educational value and suitability for healthy vocal development. It is not the intent of this department to persuade student views with opposing beliefs or ideals that a musical selection's text may present. Rather, we desire to familiarize students with quality choral literature that will give them a better historical and global perspective as well as to make them conversant with musical aesthetics. It is our goal to give the students a broad perspective of the numerous choral composers, styles and types.

Procedures & Rules in the Classroom

- Be in your place with all required materials when the bell rings.
- Respect all surroundings including other singers and directors.

- Food and beverage are not allowed in the auditorium or vocal rooms. Bottled water is allowed and encouraged.
- Talking during rehearsals should be kept minimum.
- Cell phones are not permitted in rehearsals.
- Gum has no place in the choral rehearsal.
- Attitude accounts for 99% of all success OR challenges.
- Class time is dedicated to music rehearsal and learning. Assignments for other classes must be completed at another time. Choir is not a study hall.

Each student needs to provide a black half inch or one inch three ring binder and pencil

Attire during performance for all ensembles is formalwear (tuxedos and dresses) provided by the school. Women are to wear black shoes without decorative buttons or clasps. No heels above 1 inch and no sandals. Men are to wear a white dress shirt with their tux, black socks and shoes.

All ensembles perform in formal wear, also provided by the school. Students will check out their tuxedo or gown and return it dry-cleaned at the end of the year. Appropriate shoes need to be acquired by the individual families. Women are to wear black flats without decorative buttons or clasps. No open toed shoes. Men should have black dress shoes.

***Please Note: Students not properly dressed, will not be allowed to perform.**

ENSEMBLES

DAILY SCHEDULE

1st Block

1A 8:00 – 8:42 – Cantate and Bass Clef

1B 8:48 – 9:32 – Intermezzo, Concert Choir, and A Cappella

2nd Block

2A 9:38 - 10:21 - Bella Voce and Warrior Chor

2B 10:27 – 11:10 – Bella Voce, Vox Musica and Warrior Chor

Jazz choir and Show choir programs are extensions of the choral program at Waukee High School. These ensembles rehearse weekly outside of the school day and participate and compete at various festivals throughout Iowa. Participation is open to all students enrolled in the Waukee High School Vocal Music Program by audition.

A Cappella

A Cappella is the highest auditioned ensemble, and is open to all singers in grades 10-12 who elicit a mature vocal tone and/or advanced musical ability. Also, students should have enrolled for at least one year in Bella Voce, Warrior Chor or Intermezzo. (The director, based upon student performance in an audition, may overlook this requirement) Students in this ensemble participate in an intensive and highly rewarding musical experience. In depth study of music from each time period of musical history will be explored, including multicultural selections from around the world. Vocal production, sight singing, independence, and musical precision will be explored in detail with deliberate emphasis on unaccompanied singing. A Cappella students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day.

Bass Clef

Bass Clef is open to any first block bass or tenor voice participating in the Vocal Music Program not enrolled in band or publications. **There is a lesson requirement** for this ensemble.

Bella Voce

Bella Voce is an ensemble open to all 10th grade treble voices. Study of singing techniques and skills, focusing on sound unification, intonation and vocal independence will be explored and discussed, through a wide variety of literature. Solfege and music literacy will be explored in detail. Bella Voce students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day.

Cantate

Cantate is open to any first block treble voice participating in the Vocal Music Program not enrolled in band or publications. There is a lesson requirement.

Concert Choir

Concert Choir is an auditioned 11-12 ensemble that is open to students who elicit a mature vocal sound and strong reading skills.

Intermezzo

Intermezzo is an ensemble open to all singers in grades 11-12. Further study of singing techniques and skills, focusing on sound unification, intonation, vocal independence and stage presence will be explored and discussed, through a wide variety of literature. Study in solfege and music literacy will continue. Intermezzo students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day.

Vox Musica

Vox Musica is an auditioned ensemble for 10th grade soprano and alto voices. Study of singing techniques and skills, focusing on sound unification, intonation, and vocal independence will be explored and discussed through a wide variety of literature. Solfege and music literacy will be explored in detail.

Warrior Chor

Warrior Chor is an ensemble open to all 10th grade bass voices. Study of singing techniques and skills, focusing on sound unification, intonation and vocal independence will be explored and discussed, through a wide variety of literature. Solfege and music literacy will be explored in detail. Warrior Chor students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day.

Lessons are required for singers enrolled in the above ensembles

GRADES 10-12 VOCAL MUSIC

CALENDAR 2019-2020

Unless specified, all events will take place at Waukee High School

All Events in bold are required for all vocal music students

- Mon-Thurs June 24-27: Millennium Choreo Camp
- Mon-Thu July 15-18: Nova Choreo Camp
- Tue-Fri July 23-26: Spirit Choreo Camp
- Sat. August 17: Waukee All-State Clinic
- **Mon. October 14: Debut Concert**
- Sat. October 26: All-State Auditions
- Mon. November 18: Show Choir Preview Performance @ 7:00pm
- Thur-Sat. November 21-23: All-State Music Festival
- **Thur. December 5: Festival of Peace Dress Rehearsal @ 6:00pm**
- **Fri. December 6: Festival of Peace Evening Concert @ 7:00pm**
- **Sat. December 7: Festival of Peace Matinee Concert @ 2:00pm**
- Tue. December 17: A Cappella Caroling
- Thurs. January 16: Parade of Show Choirs Performance @ Waukee HS Field House
- Fri.-Sat. January 17-18 Starstruck Invitational
- Sat. January 25: Johnston Show Choir Invitational
- Fri. January 31: WDM Valley Vocal Jazz Festival
- Fri. February 7: Liberty High School Jazz Festival
- Sat. February 15: Show Choir Competition #2
- Sun-Mon. February 16-17: ISU Honor Choir
- Mon. February 28: Kirkwood Vocal Jazz Festival

- Wed-Sat. March 4-7: NC ACDA Regional Conference in Milwaukee, WI
- Sat. February 29: Show Choir Competition #3
- **Mon. February 24: Masterworks Concert @ 7:00pm**
- Mon. March 9: Jazz and Show Choir Palooza Show
- Sat. March 14: Show Choir Competition #4
- TBD March: Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships
- TBD March: All State Jazz Choir Auditions
- Wednesday, April 29: Solo and Ensemble Contest @ WHS
- Thurs.-Sat. April 23-25: Waukee HS Musical
- **Sat. May 9: State Large Group Music Festival**
- **Mon. May 11: Spring Concert and Awards**

Remember: This calendar may not include all dates or events that will be scheduled!

 Please return the Statement of Understanding ([see Appendix A](#)) and Formalwear Contract (handed out separately) to your director by Friday, August 25, 2017.

This is a course requirement

Please keep the rest of the handbook for reference, especially the calendar of events. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your director at Waukee High School (515.987.5163). Thank you for your cooperation.

We look forward to a fabulous year of working together and sharing in success!

APPENDIX A- STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

We have read the handbook and understand the expectations involved in the Waukee High School Vocal Music Program. We further understand that the directors are always available for consultation and should be contacted should any problems arise.

Date: _____ Signature of singer: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____