

Whatever you are, be a good one!

**Waukee High School
Choral Handbook
2009-2010**

*Live with excellence, enthusiasm
and passion!*

www.waukeevmb.org

W

elcome 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 the best we can be in all respects.

The Vocal Department website (www.waukeevmb.org) 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 email communications.

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iterature 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.

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rocedures and rules that should be followed in the classroom are:

- 1) Be in your seat/place with all required materials when the bell rings.
- 2) Respect all surrounds including other singers and directors.
- 3) Food and beverage are not allowed in the auditorium or vocal rooms. Bottled water is permissible.
- 4) Talking during rehearsals should be kept minimum.
- 5) Gum has no place in the choral rehearsal.
- 6) Attitude accounts for 99% of all success OR challenges.
- 7) Class time is dedicated to music rehearsal and learning. Assignments for other classes should be completed at another time. Choir is not a study hall.

***Each student needs to provide a black 1" three ring binder.

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ttire during performance for Chorale is robes and stoles provided by the school.

Women are to wear a dress or skirt underneath with nude nylons and black shoes without decorative buttons or clasps. No heels above 1 inch and no sandals. Men are to wear black dress pants, shoes, socks and a white shirt under their robes.

A Cappella and Intermezzo 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.

EARNING YOUR GRADE

Grades are given each quarter/term for the choral ensembles at Waukee High School. Full academic credit is earned. The following criteria are considered when determining grades.

ATTENDANCE AND FULL PARTICIPATION

Singers are expected to be present at all rehearsals to participate fully in those rehearsals. Unlike other academic endeavors in which the absence of individuals may have no appreciable impact on the work of the class, the vocal music ensemble's ability to function optimally is directly related to the full participation of each member in each rehearsal. It is impossible to provide meaningful or relevant make-up for missed class time. Vocal music students must make a commitment to give 100% effort in **every** rehearsal. When a student is absent, daily points will be impacted.

Attendance is required at ALL PERFORMANCES AND EXTRA REHEARSALS (outside of the school day). Any student who must be absent MUST bring a note from home explaining the nature of the absence. Students absent from performances will be given an appropriate writing/research assignment in order to provide an opportunity for make-up work. PERFORMANCES are an important part of each student's grade.

ATTENDANCE IS RECORDED AND LOSS OF POINTS WILL OCCUR AS OUTLINED BELOW.

- Poor classroom participation - half of daily points
- Each absence will result in the loss of daily points.
- In the case of tardiness not associated with a class conflict, the grade will be lowered by half of daily points for late entry to a rehearsal. Tardiness is calculated from the bell!
- An absence from a dress rehearsal will result in the loss of all possible points.
- Students absent from performances will be given an appropriate writing/research assignment in order to provide an opportunity for make-up work.
- Students with consistent daily attendance issues may be removed from select ensembles

LISTENING ASSIGNMENTS/MISC. ASSIGNMENTS

Rehearsals and performances may be taped and choir members will be asked to listen to excerpts of those recordings. In order to develop critical listening and thinking skills, students will be asked to reflect in writing upon what they hear. Questions will be provided to guide these listening experiences.

Each term additional small assignments may be given. These may include, transferring markings into the student's music, numbering measures in music, writing assignments, etc.

LESSONS

Each term students will be expected to attend a minimum of four 15-20 minute voice lessons. Lessons will be scheduled during the school day. School Board policy indicates that students will be excused from their classes in order to attend lessons each term free from penalty. Vocal staff will schedule students into lesson times on a rotating schedule.

In the event that students are unable to attend a scheduled lesson due to "pop quizzes" or other unexpected but necessary classroom activities, make-up lesson opportunities will be provided. Students will need to complete the make-up lesson within one week of their absence. Students with unexcused absences from lessons will not be allowed the opportunity to reschedule.

TESTING

We will directly assess students' abilities to sing their parts independently, with accuracy of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and articulations, using a healthy and appropriate vocal production. Following each evaluation, students will receive a comment sheet, which may provide feedback on these categories, as well as the score earned. Testing will take place once each quarter/term.

CONCERT ETTIQUETTE

- 1) Be respectful of the performing ensemble and others seated in the performance hall. Noise is distracting to all
- 2) Please do not exit and enter the performance hall during a performance. Wait for an appropriate pause.
- 3) Polite applause is most appropriate and encouraged.

EVALUATION

Daily Work	40%
Concerts	20%
Lessons	20%
Testing	10%
Assignments	10%

LETTERING

Each student involved in the Waukee High School Vocal Music Program has the opportunity and potential to earn a Vocal Music Letter. The criteria are explained below.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE REQUIRED TO LETTER:

1. Attend all performances, concerts, and functions that are deemed required for whatever ensembles you belong to.
2. Have NO unexcused absences from any rehearsal
3. Have NO absences for any performance.
4. Must have attended all scheduled lessons.
5. Have no more than two tardies per quarter.
6. Attend the Music Awards Assembly.

FIVE OF THE FOLLOWING “EXTRAS” ARE REQUIRED TO LETTER:

1. Sing a solo at contest.
2. Hold an office and fulfill the responsibilities of that office.
3. Have NO absences whatsoever.
4. Have NO tardies whatsoever.
5. Accompany at a choir or chorus performance (playing piano)
6. Accompany students or groups at Solo/Ensemble Contest (with an instrument)
7. Attend a summer vocal music camp.
8. Attend the All-State Concert in Ames.
9. Perform a solo at an outside of school event (church, talent show, etc). THIS NEEDS TO BE APPROVED BY A DIRECTOR IN ADVANCE, NOT SEVERAL MONTHS LATER!
10. Study private voice throughout the school year.
11. Participate in a church or community choir
12. Participate in State Piano
13. Volunteer to assist/serve/entertain/etc. at Feaste and Frolic
14. Give 5 hours of service to the choral department. Jobs should be approved in advance by the director. (Examples: technical assistance for performances, filing music, making decorations for an event, sorting robes or other costumes, etc.)
15. Participate in the show choir program – counts as 2 if singer, one for crew/band
16. Participate in jazz choir program – counts as 2
17. Audition for All-State
18. Audition for Opus
19. Participate in the Musical as a Chorus Member - counts as one
20. Participate in the Musical as a Lead - counts as two
21. Attend an event at the Civic Center -student must submit a program and write a paragraph
22. National Anthem
23. Participate in summer lesson program.
24. Opus/All-State Selection
26. On Broadway – feature performance

The above requirements must be met each year in order to letter. It is then possible to letter numerous time throughout one's high school career. Alternative awards may be given in lieu of an actual letter for multiple letter winners, (for example, lyre pins, service bars, etc). Additional awards may be given at the time of the awards assembly as well.

Ensembles

Chorale is an ensemble open to all 10th grade students. 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. Chorale students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day.

Intermezzo is an ensemble open to all grades 11-12. Additional 10th grade students will be used to create a balanced ensemble. 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.

A Cappella is an auditioned ensemble open to all students grades 10-12 who elicit a mature vocal tone. Also, students should have enrolled for at least one year in Chorale 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 multi-cultural selections from around the world. Vocal production, independence, and musical precision will be explored in detail with deliberate emphasis on unaccompanied singing. This ensemble tours biennially to a variety of destinations. A Cappella students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day, and are the featured curricular ensemble for the annual production of Feaste and Frolic.

Jazz choir and **S**how 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 by audition.

VOCAL MUSIC CALENDAR

2009-2010

(As of 8-24-09)

Please mark the following dates on your calendar to avoid scheduling other events at that time. Not only are the students required to attend, they would also like to see their families and friends in the audience. More detailed information on some of these events may be shared at a later date. PLEASE NOTE: This calendar does not include every date or event that may be scheduled during the 2008-2009 school year.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHORALE

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

October 12:	Debut Concert
December 17:	12:00 performance at the Kaleidoscope (tentative)
January 28:	Metro Mixed Choir Festival @ Hoover
May 8:	State Large Group Music Festival
May 11:	Formal Concert/Music Awards

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERMEZZO

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

October 12:	Debut Concert
December 11:	Feaste and Frolic Dress Rehearsal
December 12 & 13:	Feaste and Frolic
May 8:	State Large Group Music Festival
May 11:	Formal Concert/Music Awards

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CAPPELLA

ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

October 12:	Debut Concert
December 11:	Feaste and Frolic Dress Rehearsal
December 12 & 13:	Feaste and Frolic
February 7:	Tentative NCACDA Rehearsal 2-4:30pm
February 21:	Tentative NCACDA Rehearsal 3-5:30pm
February 25:	Tentative NCACDA Rehearsal 6:30-8:30pm
February 28:	Tentative NCACDA Rehearsal 1:30-4:00pm
March 1:	A Celebration of Talent
March 2-4:	NCACDA in Minneapolis
May 8:	State Large Group Music Festival
May 11:	Formal Concert/Music Awards
May 25:	Commencement

OTHER CONTESTS AND EVENTS
ATTENDANCE OPTIONAL

August 29:	Waukee All-State Camp
October 24:	All-State Auditions
October 29:	Waukee IDOL
November 19:	Opus Honor Choir Festival
November 19-21:	All-State Music Festival
February 13:	State Piano Festival
April 9 & 10:	Broadway Musical Production
April 22:	Solo/Ensemble Contest
May 15:	On Broadway

AVENUE JAZZ/SOUND CHECK/TONE DEF/MILLENNIUM/SPIRIT
ATTENDANCE REQUIRED (Please refer to the show choir handbook and calendar)

October 23:	Show Choir 101 Camp
November TBA:	Waukee IDOL
January 15-16:	Waukee Show Choir Invitational
January 23:	Show Choir Invitational
February 13:	Urbandale Show Choir
February 15:	Audubon Jazz Choir
February 20:	Show Choir Invitational
February 26:	SWCC Jazz
March 9:	A Slice of Jazz Concert
March 13:	Show Choir Invitational (Millennium)
March 23:	Show/Jazz Banquet
March 30:	Best of Iowa Jazz

** Dates and events may change.

***Minor performances or other activities will be scheduled in addition to those listed as invitations and/or other calendar dates become available or needed.

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

Please return the Statement of Understanding along with the Medical Release Form and Good Conduct contract to Mr. Ryan Beeken or Mrs. Amy Hall, Waukee High School Choral Directors, by September 10, 2008. This is a course requirement and grades will be lowered if this requirement is not met. Please keep the rest of the handbook for reference, especially the calendar of events. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Ryan Beeken or Mrs. Amy Hall at Waukee High School (987-5163). Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to fabulous year of working together and sharing in success!

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: _____

We have enrolled/updated our profile at www.waukeevmb.org _____

We have completed and submitted the WHS Good Conduct Contract _____

We have enrolled in the text messaging alert system at www.waukeevmb.org _____

We do not have text messaging capabilities _____

WHS VOCAL MUSIC MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM

My child _____ has my permission to participate in Vocal Music Activities and travel with the department on any trips during the 2009-2010 school year.

- 1) List any physical restrictions (if any) below.

- 2) List any allergies that may effect participation while on choir trips.

- 3) List any medications that may be dispensed for headache, colds, sore throats, etc.

I give my permission for my child to receive emergency medical treatment in case of illness or injury. I further understand that I am responsible for any medical expenses.

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

Home Phone

Insurance Company

Business Phone

Policy Number and Group

Emergency Phone

2nd Emergency Contact Name and Number