

# WFHS CHOIR 2025-2026



**Mr. Brady Ritland – Director**

britland@west-fargo.k12.nd.us  
Vocal Music Office: 701-499-1831  
WFHS Office: 701-356-2050

The goal of the Music Department at West Fargo High School is to develop **Independent Musicians** and **Informed Consumers** who can perform and appreciate music to its fullest. To assist students in reaching these goals, our choral curriculum emphasizes the development of skills and understanding in **Music Literacy, Healthy Vocal Production, Musical Expression, Critical Listening, Music History, and Music Theory**. In choir, students will act as a team and be able to describe how their voice contributes to the choir as a whole. Literature will be sung from a variety of musical eras and styles.

## **Important WFHS Choir Dates/Performances:**

**Performances in bold are REQUIRED for all choir students.**

\*\* = Required for Concert Choir only

**Thursday, October 2, 7:30 PM**

Sun-Mon, October 5-6, All Day

\*\*Wednesday October 22, All Day

Saturday, November 1, All Day

**Thursday, December 4, 7:30 PM**

**Thursday, February 26, 7:30 PM**

Tuesday, March 24, All Day

Thurs-Sat, March 26-28, All Day

Friday, April 24, All Day

**Thursday, May 14, 7:30 PM**

\*\*Sunday, May 17, 2:00 PM

\*\*Sunday, May 24, Time TBD

**Fall Choir Concert**

NDSU Choral Festival

EDC Choir Festival

Concordia Choral Festival

**Holiday Choir Concert**

**Spring Choir Concert**

EDC Vocal Music Contest

All-State Music Festival

State Vocal Music Contest

**Choir Awards Concert**

WFPS Choir Concert

Graduation Performance

**WFHS Theater**

NDSU

Grand Forks Red River

Concordia College

**WFHS Theater**

**WFHS Theater**

Fargo, Hope Church South

Bismarck Civic Center

University of Jamestown

**WFHS Theater**

SHS Theater

Scheels Arena

## Choir Rules

- A. Work hard, be kind.
- B. Use common sense.
- C. Come to class prepared and on time.
- D. When warm-up begins, start singing and get right to your seat.
- E. When others are talking/singing, listen and don't be a distraction.
- F. No non-choir activities are allowed during choir rehearsal (reading, homework, texting, etc.)
- G. Absolutely no phones in rehearsal. (**ND STATE LAW. See WFHS Cell Phone Policy**). *1<sup>st</sup> offense = phone goes to office.*
- H. No food or drinks other than water during rehearsal. This **ESPECIALLY** includes gum.
- I. Take care of the piano!!! (No food or drinks on top, keep hands out of piano body, only move with 3 people or more, keep plugged in, ask for permission to play.)

## Grading Procedures

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Approximate weight:</i>
Participation in Class	50%
Concert Performances	25%
Lessons	15%
Octet Days	10%

### **A. Participation in Class**

1. Students will earn a maximum of 10 points per week by participating in the following elements:
  - a. Vocal Warm-up
  - b. Good Posture
  - c. Sight-singing
  - d. Use of your pencil throughout the rehearsal
  - e. Attentiveness and Focus
  - f. Effort and Attitude
  - g. Preparedness for class (i.e., having your folder, pencil, and other required materials)
2. Students who are ill and unable to sing can still earn full credit if they:
  - Receive Mr. Ritland's permission to sit in "Sick Bay" at the beginning of rehearsal.
    - *Sick bay is in the back corner of the choir room risers.*
  - Follow along and be engaged in rehearsal (elements d-g above).
  - **Sick bay can only be used up to 3 days per semester. After which, students will need to present a note from a doctor or a parent/guardian to continue using sick bay. Failure to provide said note and still sitting in sick bay will result in a 50% loss of the week's points.**
    - Sick bay should **ONLY** be used if a student is sick with a contagious illness, or completely unable to sing. It is **NOT** for days that their voice doesn't feel 100%. Abuse of sick bay will result in a total loss of weekly points.
3. Attendance:
  - a. **Excused** absences do not have to be made up. If it is excused by the school, it is excused by me.
  - b. An **unexcused** absence (UV) from rehearsal will result in the loss of that week's total participation points (10 points) and cannot be made up. If a student skips **two** rehearsals without reason, that student is subject to **removal from the roster**.
    - i. In a performing ensemble, an empty chair affects not only the absent singer's development, but the entire choir's development as well. Your presence or absence will always have an influence on the choir.
  - c. **Tardies** in choir will be given out to anyone that is not in the choir room by the time warm-ups begin. (Approximately 5 minutes after the bell.)

### **B. Concert Performances**

1. Students will earn a maximum of 50 points per concert via the following:
  - a. Being in proper uniform for the performance (most of which is provided by the music department).

Option 1 – Black dress, jet-black tights, slip (for static cling), black dress flats  
You will need to provide the tights, the slip, and the flats.

Option 2 – Tuxedo (jacket, shirt, and pants), bowtie, cummerbund, black socks, and black dress shoes

You will need to provide the black socks and black dress shoes.

- b. Attending the entire concert
  - c. Using good concert etiquette
  - d. Your individual effort toward the best possible performance
2. Make-up procedures for missed concerts:
- a. Illnesses, injuries, a death in the family, or “school activity conflicts” are the only excuses accepted for missing a concert. Extreme circumstances other than these will be considered on an individual basis. If an unavoidable conflict with a concert arises, talk to Mr. Ritland **as soon as possible**.
  - b. A 50-point essay (1000-word minimum) must be completed within 2 weeks of the concert for anyone missing the performance. See Mr. Ritland for the specifics of the assignment.
    - a. Use of A.I. of any kind on this assignment (or any writing assignment in this class) is prohibited and will result in a zero.
  - c. An **unexcused absence** from a required performance will result in a 50-point loss and is grounds for **removal from the roster**.

**C. Octet Days**

- 1. Students will participate in one octet day each quarter for a maximum of 20 points. Octet days consist of two - four people per voice part singing a small section of a piece of music from the choir folder selected by Mr. Ritland.
- 2. Students not actively singing in an octet will write constructive feedback for each octet’s performance, which will be turned in for 10 of the 20 total points.

**D. Lessons**

- 1. Every choir student is required to attend **two** 20-minute voice lessons each quarter for a maximum of 30 points (15 points per lesson). During the lesson, the student will work on breathing and tone production, choir music, and be given the opportunity to work on solo literature that can be used for solo/ensemble contest days, or various auditions.
  - a. Students may utilize their WIN session time to sign up for lessons.
- 2. Students must sign up for lessons at least one day in advance if not utilizing WIN sessions. Lesson sign-up sheets will be posted outside Mr. Ritland’s office every Monday.

**Fund Raising**

If they wish, students may participate in department-wide fund-raising drives for future choir trips, tours, and other choir activities. Funds earned may only be used for choir-related functions. Upon graduation, remaining funds may only be passed on to siblings, otherwise it will be donated back to the choir fund.

**Please detach and return the bottom of this page by Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.**

(15 points)

**I have read and understand what is necessary to participate in choir at West Fargo High School. By signing, the student agrees to attend all required concerts/performances listed on this syllabus.**

---

*Parent/Guardian Name*

*Parent/Guardian Signature*

*Date*

---

*Student Name*

*Student Signature*

*Date*