

Willmar Senior High School

25-26 CHOIR HANDBOOK

WHS Music Mission Statement:

Through active participation in a variety of musical experiences, students are encouraged to strive for musical excellence and to become life-long participants, intelligent consumers and active patrons and advocates for the arts.

Standards Based Learning

Our schools are moving toward a system of instruction focusing on proficiency scales. These scales provide students more detail on what they are expected to learn and the progress they have made in their learning.

WHS Department SMART Goal:

The Music department's measurable assessments including, but not limited to: scales, rhythms, notations, terms, solfege, will show relevancy, mastery, musicianship at the end of each term. We will provide formative assessments throughout each term to prepare students for successful summative assessments (concerts). Each group will be assessed and scored by clinicians or judges at large group or solo ensemble contests as well as the directors.

Be Respectful!

- **Respect Yourself and Others:** You have the ability and skill to do what is asked of you in this course. Give yourself and those around you the credit you deserve and the opportunity to succeed at everything we attempt in class!
- **Respect Property.** It is the responsibility of each of us to take care of our own music, whether it is on the iPad or in your folder. We must also keep the room tidy, the chairs in good working order, and the piano in excellent condition. Please make every effort to treat the school's property and the property of your classmates with care.
- **No food, drink, (other than water), or gum in the music classrooms or theater is allowed.** (2nd breakfast should be eaten outside of classrooms.) Thank you!

Be Responsible!

- **Attendance, Tardies.** Students will be marked tardy if they are not in the room when the class begins. There will be few (if any) exceptions to this rule. Our class will begin at the bell. The

choir officers will take attendance at that time. If you come into class late, you'll need a pass. At the end of the period, please wait to be dismissed by your director. The bell is not your dismissal cue.

- **Classroom Materials.** You must have your iPad, pencil and a water bottle (if needed) with you at all times in the choir classroom. Also bring your assigned folder to your seat.

- **Restroom Policy.** There will be strict and closely monitored restroom regulations in place at the High School. Restroom breaks will be on a very limited basis. Take a pass. Phones are not allowed on restroom breaks.

- **Phones:** These must be silenced or off **during instructional time** and *parked* in your folder slot or phone caddy. The directors have the right to take the phone in accordance with the WHS Policy.

- **iPads:** Students will occasionally be using their iPads during rehearsals. Students are not permitted to use the iPad for gaming, listening to music, or surfing the web during the rehearsal unless directed to do so. This follows the WHS iPad policy. Inappropriate iPad use can result in a drop in grade and possible removal from the ensemble.

Grading:

Formative Skills (20% of Total Grade)

- Participation:

Each day you will be graded on participation, classroom exercises, such as sight-singing, and overall conduct. Just being in attendance, in person or online, is not going to get you a high grade in this class. You must show an active interest and participate in what is going on at all times! This includes gaming on your iPad/phone. Gaming could result in a drop in grade and possible termination from the ensemble. Students will be parking their phone in their folder slot during the daily rehearsal.

If you are absent, you are not able to earn participation points. You are, however, able to make up for these lost points, with no penalty, through choir make-ups, critiques, and online activities.

- Vocal Tests:

Throughout each term students will be assessed on progress made on solo and/or choir literature, improvements in vocal technique (breathing, posture, intonation, etc.), and increases in musicianship. These vocal tests may be done in class or recorded on Schoology. Vocal tests in the Formative Category are done throughout the term.

- Lessons/Sectionals:

Lessons are an opportunity to receive individual help in developing singing skill, musical knowledge, and artistic understanding. Class is an opportunity to apply those skills in an ensemble practice. You are responsible for being able to perform your literature or other assigned material to the best of your abilities.

You decide how much practicing is necessary for you to accomplish this and earn the grade you want. If you need extra assistance with the music, lessons are available. Sectionals are an opportunity for you to perform your vocal part as a section. These sectionals will be part of the choral rehearsal time, pulled out of the rehearsal with directors, or with student section leaders.

Summative Skills (70% of Total Grade)

- Vocal Tests:

Throughout each term students will be assessed on progress made on solo and/or choir literature, improvements in vocal technique (breathing, posture, intonation, etc.), and increases in musicianship. These vocal tests may be done in class or recorded on Schoology. The vocal tests in this category will be done when we have fully learned the literature or following a concert performance.

- Concert Performance:

The concert performance is considered the final (summative) grade for a term or for the concert literature we are working on. This performance is what we have been working toward the entire term/year. Each performance and the prior rehearsal will be included in this grade.

Concert/Performance Attendance Policy

- **Concert Performance is required.**
- **Unexpected absences include, but not limited to:** Not showing up, being in school day of and/or the day after a performance, but missed the performance, can't get a ride, unexpected trips.
- **Excused absences include, but are not limited to:** Illness (day of and/or day after), family emergency, prior approval for missing a concert.
- ***Prior Approval and Conflicts must be listed on the return form which is part of this document.***

Written Skill (10% of Total Grade)

- Assessments:

We will have periodic exams and quizzes on literature and musical concepts learned. Additionally, there will be an exam to conclude each term. Exams will cover units of study during the concert preparation period, as well as the performance literature itself. Many times, the exam will be a listening evaluation, performance critique, as well as a written test.

Grading Scale

A =93% or Higher	B- =80% to 82.9%	D+ =67% to 69.9%
A- =90% to 92.9%	C+ =77% to 79.9%	D =63% to 66.9%
B+ =87% to 89.9%	C =73% to 76.9%	D- =60% to 62.9%
B =83% to 86.9%	C- 70% to 72.9%	F =0% to 59.9%

2025-2026 Return Form

We have received, discussed, and understand the Attendance and Performance Policy as stated in the WHS Choir Handbook.

This includes:

The policy of a **1 letter grade drop** for an Unexcused Concert Absence.

The expectation of **attending and participating** in class every day.

The expectation for **phones and electronics**.

The expectation for **grading**.

This also includes the dates that are in conflict with the concert schedule.

Please return this form by Tuesday, September 9th.

Student Name_____

Student Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____

Conflicts _____

Date_____

Choir (circle one)

Cardinal

Varsity

Concert

Choralaires

This form should be annotated in PDF and returned via Schoology to the Handbook Return Form Assignment.

Please return this form By Tuesday, September 9th

- **Turning this in is worth 10 pts**
- **Late forms will receive 8 points**
- **Everyone MUST turn in a signed Policy Form.**

Thank you,

Travis Michelson - michelsont@willmar.k12.mn.us

Madison Wilson - wilsonma@willmar.k12.mn.us

School Address:

Willmar High School 2701 30th Street NE, Willmar, MN 56201

www.willmar.k12.mn.us/srhigh

'25-'26 WHS Music Department Schedule

	<u>Cardinal - C</u>	<u>Choralaire - CH</u>	<u>Varsity - V</u>	<u>Concert - CN</u>	
August 28	WPS Teacher Kickoff Meeting		WEAC		WEAC
September 4	Coupon Book Kick-off - All		During School		Music Rooms
September 9-12	Auditions for Fall Musical - All		After school		Choir Room
September 15	CLC Planning Meeting		5:00pm		St. Cloud
September 19	Coupon Book Money Due - All				
October 13	WHS Fall Showcase Concert -- All		7:30PM		WHS Gym
October 24	Fruit Fundraiser #1 kick-off		During School		
October 27	CLC Jazz Festival - (Jazz Band - Selected Students)		All Day		Detroit Lakes
November 3	Fruit Orders Due - All				
November 4	Morning Performance of Musical		8:45am		WHS BPAC
November 6,7,8	Fall Musical		7:00pm		WHS BPAC
November 9	Fall Musical		1:00pm		WHS BPAC
December 4	Fruit Delivery		3:00-5:00pm		WHS Band Room
December 8	Holiday Orchestra Concert		6:00pm		WHS BPAC
	Holiday Band Concert		7:30 pm		WHS BPAC
December 12	Cardinal Choir Service Club - C		Noon		Holiday Inn
December 15	Holiday Choir Concerts - All Choirs		6:00 and 7:30pm		WHS BPAC
December 16	Holiday Pep Band Performance/Alumni/C,V,CN		6:30		Gym
December 17	5th grade Recruitment Concert during block 1		9:00 a.m.		WHS BPAC
January 23	Fruit Fundraiser #2 kick-off		During School		
January 31	Men's Choir Festival -all choir guys		All Day		WHS BPAC
February 4	8AA Vocal S/E Contest - All Choir		All Day		BECKER HS
February 5	Fruit Orders Due - All				
February 6	NDSU Jazz Festival – (Jazz Band)		All Day		NDSU
February 11	8AA Band S/E Contest		All Day		?
February 12-14	All State Performances - Selected Students		All Day		Minneapolis
February 23	Deadline for All State Auditions		NOON		Willmar
February 25	8AA Orchestra S/E Contest		All Day		
February 26	Fruit Delivery - All		3:00-4:30pm		WHS Band Room
March 5-7	Middle School Musical		7:00 pm		WHS BPAC
March 7	Middle School Musical		1:00 pm		WHS BPAC
March 9	Orchestra Concert - All Orchestras		6:00 pm		WHS BPAC
March 9	Band Concert - All Bands		7:30 pm		WHS BPAC
March 12	Willmar Jazz Festival		All Day		WHS BPAC
March 16	Choir Concert		6 and 7:30 pm		WHS PAC
March 30	CLC Music Festival Honor's Rehearsal		4-8pm		TechHS
April 2	CLC Music Festival - Cardinal BCO		All Day		Apollo HS
April ????	Senior Music Trip				
May 11	MS/Varsity Orch. Concert		7:30pm		WHS BPAC
May 18	Varsity/Concert B/C Concert - All V, CN		7:30pm		WHS BPAC
May 20	Senior Awards Ceremony - 2701		6:00pm		WHS BPAC
May 20	Commencement Concert - C, CH		8:00 pm		WHS BPAC
May 25	Memorial Day Program - All Bands		10:30am		Fairview Cemetery
May 31	Graduation – C Band, CCHV Choirs		2:00pm		Civic Center