

WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

Conservatory
Program

2026-2027

Pioneering. Thinkers.



The Wardlaw+Hartridge Conservatory Program is designed for students who are dedicated to acquiring the skills and knowledge they will need to lead and succeed in the performing arts in college and in professional settings.

The application process must be completed and approved by the first day of the second trimester of the year the student begins the program.

Students who successfully complete the requirements of this program will earn an endorsement on their Wardlaw+Hartridge transcript.



PRODUCTION TRACK

Students who select the Production Track must take Technical Theatre Practicum every year that they are in the program.

They will learn the basics of lighting, sound, video production, stage management and producing. **For the 2026-27 school year, students will take this course as an independent study and must complete at least 120 hours of specified service in PAC-related activities to satisfy this requirement.* Production students will also be required to take the Film course. Student who wish to major in Production in college may be required to take Advanced Audio Production and Studio Recording classes.

Courses listed below in italics will not be offered during the 2026-27 school year.

All Production Track students must serve on crew for all three W+H theatrical productions. They must also support our school concerts and recitals at the discretion of the PAC Manager.

REQUIREMENTS

When	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
During School	Technical Theatre Practicum *	Technical Theatre Practicum *	Technical Theatre Practicum *	Technical Theatre Practicum *
During School		<i>Advanced Audio Production</i>	<i>Studio Recording</i>	Film
During School	PAC Support	PAC Support	PAC Support	PAC Support
After School	W+H PLAY/MUSICAL PRODUCTION	W+H PLAY/MUSICAL PRODUCTION	W+H PLAY/MUSICAL PRODUCTION	W+H PLAY/MUSICAL PRODUCTION
After School	W+H Group Recital Support	W+H Group Recital Support	W+H Junior Recital Support	W+H Senior Recital Support
After School	School Concerts	School Concerts	School Concerts	School Concerts

PERFORMANCE TRACK



Students who select the Performance Track will be expected to participate in either Band or Choir and must be members of the respective select ensembles, Jazz Band or MadJazz, every year that they are in the program.

Students will also be required to take Fundamentals of Music Theory. Students who plan to major in performance in college will also be required to take AP Music Theory. They may elect to take the College Audition Preparation and Piano Lab course.



All voice students must participate in the W+H Upper School musical and instrumentalists must commit to playing in a W+H Chamber Ensemble or, if approved, play in the pit for the musical. N.B., any chamber music ensembles that are formed will perform in a recital program.

Courses listed below in italics will not be offered during the 2026-27 school year.

REQUIREMENTS

When	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
During School	Band or Choir	Band or Choir	Band or Choir	Band or Choir
During School	(Fundamentals if schedule allows)	Fundamentals of Music Theory	AP Music Theory	<i>College Audition Preparation & Piano Lab</i>
After School	Instrument/Voice Private Lessons	Instrument/Voice Private Lessons	Instrument/Voice Private Lessons	Instrument/Voice Private Lessons
After School	W+H MUSICAL PRODUCTION/ CHAMBER MUSIC	W+H MUSICAL PRODUCTION/ CHAMBER MUSIC	W+H MUSICAL PRODUCTION/ CHAMBER MUSIC	W+H MUSICAL PRODUCTION/ CHAMBER MUSIC
After School	Competition/ Festival	Competition/ Festival	Competition/ Festival	Competition/ Festival
After School	W+H Group Recital	W+H Group Recital	W+H Group Recital & Junior Recital	W+H Group Recital & Senior Recital

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly, 1-hour private music lessons on the student's principal instrument will be mandatory for all students in the program. In addition to working on skill development in private lessons, students will be required to prepare for CJMEA Region Band or Choir auditions and NJMEA All-State Band or Choir, if selected for Regions. Vocalists would be able to satisfy this requirement by participating in local and national vocal competitions, upon approval of the private music teacher. In freshman and sophomore years, students will be required to perform one memorized selection in both the winter and spring recitals. In junior and senior years, students will be required to perform 30 minutes of music at a recital.

ADMITTANCE

Students must select which track they would like to apply for and sign up for the required classes in PCR during their course selection. They will then sit for an interview with the Performing Arts Department faculty to discuss a specific plan of requirements that will be documented in a contract that the student, parent/guardian, and faculty will sign.

Once the plan has been set, the student must meet all of the required expectations in a timely fashion and be in good academic standing in all W+H Conservatory courses for the duration of the program. Students must maintain a GPA of 93% or higher in all W+H Conservatory courses to remain in the program. NB: Freshmen may wait to join the program as sophomores, but if students were enrolled at W+H as freshmen, they will not be permitted to join after their sophomore year.



EVALUATION

Each W+H Conservatory candidate will be evaluated by the Performing Arts Department Chair through one-on-one meetings twice each year, once in Trimester 1 and again in Trimester 3. Student enrollment in the W+H Conservatory Program is subject to the discretion of the Performing Arts Department faculty at any time throughout a student's time in Upper School. Students who miss appointments, do not complete required activities, or do not maintain their academic standing will be removed from the program.

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

Each candidate will curate a well-maintained digital portfolio in the form of a shared Google Slides presentation. The portfolio will be divided into the six competencies as listed below. Students will demonstrate their engagement and experiences in the W+H Conservatory Program through self-reflection, photographs, videos and other elements of their choice. Portfolios will be reviewed by the Performing Arts Department Chair where the candidate will discuss their reflections and plans moving forward.

The student will present their completed portfolio and reflections as a part of a special program at the end of the year.

W+H Conservatory students will demonstrate the following competencies:

- Acquire knowledge and mastery of skills needed for their respective discipline
- Display self-discipline to manage time and be accountable for deadlines
- Feel confident within their discipline and their ability to carry their skills to future opportunities
- Value the importance of everyone's role within the whole of a production, that every person involved in a production is vital to put something special together to engage our audiences
- Articulate the importance of the arts to them personally, to our school community and to the world
- Advocate for the arts in society

SENIOR CANDIDATES

Seniors must complete all requirements by JUNE 1 of their senior year.

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Mentorship Requirement

The final requirement of the WHCP is for juniors and seniors to demonstrate that they have served in a mentorship capacity. One of the competencies of the program is for the students to reflect on how they will “pay it forward” through service. This requirement is designed to give the students the opportunity to demonstrate this before they complete the program. Their mentorship is subject to approval by the Performing Arts Chairperson. A minimum of 10 hours of service will be required.

Examples of mentorship could include:

PERFORMANCE TRACK

- Coach, with faculty guidance, younger musicians in their preparation practice for a performance.
- Serve as section leader within an ensemble.



PRODUCTION TRACK

- Serve in a leadership position for events.
- Teach younger students about how to operate equipment.
- Volunteer to mentor in the Summer Theatre Programs.



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HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should do the following:

- *Speak with any Performing Arts department faculty about the program.*
- *Inform your advisor and college counselor of your interest in the program.*
- *Select W+H Conservatory (Performance or Production) on your course selection form in PCR and any required courses.*
- *Schedule an appointment with Mrs. Byrne to create your plan.*

Questions? Email
sbyrne@WHschool.org



Performing Arts Department Website

*Scan here to learn
more about our
PK(3) - Grade 12
Performing Arts
program.*

*Questions? Email
sbyrne@WHschool.org*

