



West Fargo High School Choir Syllabus

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Welcome to WFHS Choir! I am so excited to have every singer in choir. We are going to have a wonderful time singing together, creating relationships with one another, and growing as musicians every day. I am looking forward to the wonderful music we are going to make, the growth of each student across the year, and the joy we will bring to the community through our performances! Please take a moment to read through the following information, as it includes our concert schedule, rehearsal expectations, concert attendance policy, my grading policy, and other important choir information!

Choirs Offered

The WFHS Choir Program has two ensembles and one extracurricular group:

- Packer Singers – block 4A
- Concert Choir – block 2A
- Madrigal Singers (extracurricular) – Open to 10th-12th students by audition
 - Rehearses 3 mornings a week, to be determined by students in ensemble

These courses are designed to sequence a student through the choral program at WFHS. We will work on vocal development, music literacy, and musical expression in every choir. Repertoire is selected to expose students to a wide variety of musical styles, genres, and time periods.

Classroom Expectations

1. Respect yourself and others around you.
2. Be on time for class and ready to work hard.
3. Keep the choir room, practice rooms, and music wing looking better than you found it. Pick up after yourself please!
4. Phones are not allowed in rehearsal (ND State Law, see WFHS Cell Phone Policy).

5. Gum is not allowed in rehearsal.
6. Take care of the piano! This means no food or drinks on the piano, keep hands out of piano body, only move with three or more people, keep it plugged in, and ask for permission before playing.

Grading Policy

Rehearsal Expectations – 50%

Concert Attendance and Performance – 25%

Sectional Attendance, Voice Tests, Other Assignments – 25%

Rehearsal Expectations

1. Students will earn 5 points per class by meeting the following rehearsal expectations:
 - a. Participating in Vocal Warm-Ups
 - b. Singing with Balanced Alignment
 - c. Having a pencil – and using it!
 - d. Attentiveness and Focus
 - e. Effort
 - f. Having all necessary materials (Folder, music)
2. Students who are ill and unable to sing can still earn full credit for the day if they:
 - a. Receive permission to sit away from the choir at the beginning of rehearsal.
 - b. Remain engaged in rehearsal (taking notes, marking in music)
 - c. **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 loss of a portion of the week's points.**
 - i. 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 (sickness, school activities, etc.) do not need to be made up.
 - b. An unexcused absence (UV) from rehearsal will result in the loss of that class period's points. This can be made up for 2/5 points by doing an individual lesson with Mr. Gregoire. After 2 unexcused absences, students will no longer be able to make up the points for a UV from Choir.
 - 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 will result in the loss of 1 point. If it is a persistent habit, this loss will increase upon teacher discretion.

Concert Attendance and Performance

1. Students will earn a maximum of 100 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, black dress flats.

You will need to provide the tights 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. Gregoire **as soon as possible**.
 - i. Students will work with Mr. Gregoire to make up the points for full credit.
3. Students with an **unexcused absence** from a required performance will be able to make up the points for partial credit.

Sectional Attendance, Voice Tests, Other Assignments

1. Every music student is required to attend 2 sectionals per concert cycle. Students will be requested for two WIN sessions to work with their peers and Mr. Gregoire on specific concert pieces and sight-reading skills. If a student misses a sectional, they will receive a grade of zero until they find time to individually make up the points with Mr. Gregoire.
2. There will be periodic “Voice Tests” where students will use their iPads to record their singing in a rehearsal to check for accuracy, tone development, and musical expression.
3. Other assignments may be assigned at the discretion of the teacher.

Important Dates

When?	What?	Who?
10/1/26	Fall Choir Concert	ALL Singers
12/3/26	Holiday Choir Concert	ALL Singers (& 8th Grade!)
2/25/27	Midwinter Choir Concert	ALL Singers
4/2/27	EDC Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest	ALL Singers
4/23/27	State Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest	Any Advancing Singer
4/27 or 5/27	All-District Choir Concert (Date TBD)	Concert Choir
5/20/27	Spring Awards Choir Concert	ALL Singers

Fundraising

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 4***

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 performances listed on this syllabus.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Name

Student Signature

Date