

**2019-2020
WESTLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

**VOCAL MUSIC
HANDBOOK**

Website

westlandvocalmusic.com



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[@westlandsings](https://twitter.com/westlandsings)



[@westlandsings](https://www.instagram.com/westlandsings)



Westland Vocal Music

OUR PROGRAM

Most placement auditions take place in the spring of the preceding school year.

The director has the right to place students in the appropriate choir based on ability level, grade, and/or attitude and behavior.

Men's Chorus – 4th and 5th periods (students sing for 25 min. and then have lunch for 25 min.)

TTB all levels – Open to all students, no audition necessary

Women's Chorus – 4th and 5th periods (students have lunch for 25 min. then sing for 25 min.)

SSA all levels – Open to all students, no audition necessary

Concert Women's Choir – 1st period

Beginning level SSA – Open to grades 9-12, by recommendation or audition

Symphonic Choir – 8th period

Intermediate SATB – Open to grades 9-12, by audition

Chorale – 7th period

Advanced SATB Chamber Ensemble – Open to grades 10-12, by audition

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

“...WISE musicians, STRONG singers, and KIND people...”

Being a part of WHS Vocal Music is a privilege. Along with this privilege comes the expectation to act in accordance to our program mission statement. In order for class to be as productive as possible, each choir member will be expected to participate fully in rehearsal. Not participating is simply not an option. All students will abide by the following expectations.

WISE MUSICIANS, STRONG SINGERS

- **Get your music and a pencil**, put your stuff on the wall and have a seat before the bell rings.
- **Leave the distractions in your bag** (cell phones, food, books, etc.)
- **Take notes in your music** – Do not trust yourself to remember anything.

KIND PEOPLE

- **Mutual Respect** – Respect individual's skills, talents and contributions. Be helpful and encouraging rather than negative and demeaning.
- **Appreciation/No Put Downs** – Treat others like you want to be treated – No negative comments, name calling, and hateful gestures, behaviors, and language
- **Attentive Listening** – Listen with your eyes, ears and mind.

FOLDERS, MUSIC and A PENCIL - (your textbook and supplies for class):

- If the student is given a folder, this folder is the property of Westland High School and will be returned at the end of the year. Do not write on or destroy the folder. If the folder assigned to a student is lost, the student will be charged \$15.
- You will be issued music throughout the year. **This music should be kept in your folder and be with you in class each and every day.**
- You are also expected to have a pencil with you at your seat every day. Every day. You will need a pencil EVERY SINGLE DAY.

IN CASE OF BEHAVIOR ISSUES

In accordance with the Westland High School Student Handbook, disruption or any kind of inappropriate behavior may result in one or more of the following consequences, depending on the severity of the disruption:

- 1) Verbal warning
- 2) Detention (length determined by director) and loss of participation points
- 3) After school detention with notification to parents and loss of participation points
- 4) Office referral(s) and loss of participation points

ELECTRONICS POLICY

The vocal music department will follow the building-wide electronic device policy. Phones are an issue because they often become a distraction to the learning process. Parents – please respect the process by limiting contact with your student during school hours.

VOCAL MUSIC T-SHIRTS – \$12

Students will be required to wear these t-shirt throughout the school year. Family members are also able to purchase t-shirts to show their support of the vocal music program. **Orders and payments are due when you turn in your contract and emergency medical form.**

WESTLAND VOCAL MUSIC BOOSTERS!

Parental support is a vital part of a good music program. Throughout the year there are many opportunities to help with various activities. Chaperones are always needed for daytime and evening choral activities, as well as social activities. The boosters will also play a key role in successful fundraising. Booster membership is only \$5! You can choose to join anytime by either visiting our website and clicking on the “BOOSTERS” tab, or joining during some of our fall events. If you would like to help at anytime during the year, please contact them at westlandchoirs@gmail.com, and stay tuned for more information!

VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM FUNDRAISING

Running a quality vocal music program is expensive. On a yearly basis, our vocal music program can spend anywhere from \$6,000 to \$8,000. This money pays for music, accompanist fees, bus charges, contest fees, awards, and countless other necessary expenses. We cannot continue carrying out the traditions of the program without the help of every single student. Every student that participates in the Vocal Music Program at Westland is expected to participate in fundraisers and raise a profit of at least \$40.

GRADING POLICY – please see individual class handouts for the detailed grading policies

THE VOCAL MUSIC CALENDAR

Each and every vocal music student receives a vocal music calendar the first day of school. **From that point forward, it is assumed students know about the performance dates, and are required to attend all of their choirs performances.** Students are also responsible for notifying parents of any changes/additions to the calendar. These changes/additions will be handed out as soon as possible. This calendar gives additional rehearsal dates, concert dates, and other very important information. Please take time to transfer the information from this calendar to your family calendar. If a student misses a concert and is granted the chance to complete a makeup assignment (see GRADING POLICY for details), it is the student's responsibility to get the assignment from the director, complete it, and turn it in. If the assignment is not completed for any reason, the student will not received credit for the concert portion of their grade. *Remember, as per the Grading Policy, having to work or not having a ride to the concert are not excused absences.*

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE

Failure to wear the correct concert attire may prohibit the student from performing in a concert.

MEN'S CHORUS

- BLACK dress pants. No jeans.
- BLACK dress socks and shoes. No tennis shoes.
- BLACK long sleeved dress shirt. Solid color tie (no patterns, designs, characters, etc.)

CONCERT WOMEN'S CHOIR & WOMEN'S CHORUS

- BLACK dress pants. No jeans. No skirts. No dresses.
- BLACK long sleeved or $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeved blouse. Sleeve length must be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ length. Cardigans are fine as long as they are solid black, meet the sleeve length requirement, and are worn with a solid black shirt.
- Black closed-toed dress shoes. No larger than 2 inch heels. No tennis shoes.

REQUIRED CONCERT ATTIRE (continued)

SYMPHONIC CHOIR

- Black dress pants. These must be nice dress pants, not jeans.
- Black closed-toed dress shoes. No larger than 2 inch heels.
- Choir Robe – provided by WHS Vocal Music Program

CHORALE

- Women: Uniform black formal dress and black flats
- Men: Uniform black tuxedo, uniform black tuxedo shoes, black socks

GENERAL STUDENT CONDUCT ON AND OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS: Vocal Music students represent the program everywhere they go. If a student participates in any illegal activities on or off school grounds, or participate in actions or activities that reflect poorly upon the program, the director has the right to remove the student from leadership positions, place the student in a different choir, and/or remove the student from the vocal music program. Participation in the Vocal Music program is a privilege.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/FIELD TRIPS

All Vocal Music students will have the opportunity to participate in after school rehearsals, field trips and/or performances that require them to be supervised by SWCS staff members and/or leave school grounds outside of the regular school day. Below are the expectations for these types of activities.

- Written parental permission is required for all activities off school grounds.
- All members must have a current Emergency Medical Form on file with the vocal music director and the school office.
- When off school grounds, we are representing Westland High School, ALL school rules apply at all times. This includes bus-riding procedures.
- Stay with the group. In the event of a change of plans, you must be with everyone else.
- Be where you are to be, when you are to be there, with everything you need.
- Conduct yourself in a manner that conveys respect, pride, and professionalism at all times. Remember, you are representing yourselves as well as the school.
- The use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, hallucinogens, or other mind-altering substances at or before any choir function is absolutely forbidden. The use or evidence of use will result in the student being sent home immediately at the parent/guardian's expense. The student may also be removed from choir, and the school administration will be informed for further action. There will be absolutely no tolerance of such behavior.
- The director holds the right to send a student home, at the parent/guardian's expense, *if the student's behavior is severe enough for such actions.*

WHS 2019-2020 VOCAL MUSIC CONTRACT

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS FORM WITHIN ONE WEEK OF RECEIVING IT

CHOIR: (circle ALL that apply)

_____ Chorale (7th) Symphonic (8th) Concert Women's (1st)
STUDENTS NAME Men's Ch. (4th/5th) Women's Ch. (4th/5th)

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I (the student) have read and understand the Vocal Music handbook. I understand the commitment I have made for the 2019-2020 school year. I know that my attendance at performances is required, and that choir is a privilege to be a part of. I will do everything I can to make my choir experience at Westland High School a positive one by my presence, my attitude, and my hard work.

Student Signature

Date

PARENT AGREEMENT

I (the parent) have read and understand the Vocal Music handbook. I understand the commitment we are making for the 2019-2020 school year. I am aware that attendance at performances is required, and will be a large portion of my child's grade in choir. I will do everything I can to support my student and their choir(s).

Parent Signature

Date

→ **THERE IS MORE ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM!** ←

WHS VOCAL MUSIC PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

You know the phrase "raising a child takes a village?" That phrase is also true for raising a strong vocal music program! It truly takes a little bit of work from many people to make our vocal music program run smoothly. Parents, please give us some of your contact information so that we can get in contact with you if we need a little bit of help.

Parent(s) Name _____

Your Student's Name(s) _____

Parent(s) E-mail _____

Do you check this email regularly? YES or NO

Parent Cell Phone _____ Do you text message? YES or NO

Would you like to opt in to receive Remind text message notifications from Mr. Rone about important dates and concerts? YES or NO

Remind (formerly Remind101) is a free and easy way for teachers to share information and reminders to students and parents without anyone having to share personal phone numbers. To learn more, visit www.remind.com and/or download the Remind app. Remind does not charge any fees. However, standard messaging rates apply depending on your individual cellular contract.

Parent Home Phone _____ Parent Work Phone _____

Can you be contacted at work? YES NO

Are you on Facebook regularly? YES or NO

Have you "liked" the **Westland Vocal Music Facebook** page yet? YES or NO

Westland Vocal Music Facebook page is another great way to get information and concert reminders! PLEASE "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK!

I (we) can assist in the following ways (check ALL that apply):

- _____ During the school day activities (8:00-3:30pm)
- _____ After school activities
- _____ Sewing/hemming pants, etc. **(WE NEED PEOPLE!)*****
- _____ Chaperoning events
- _____ Making scripted phone calls
- _____ Helping with fundraising projects
- _____ Assisting during the school day with simple clerical work
- _____ Graphic Design (Flyers, etc.)
- _____ Soliciting corporate donations, etc.
- _____ I would like to but I do not have the time
- _____ Other (other skills that could benefit the vocal music program): _____

→ **PLEASE TURN IN THESE ITEMS WITH THIS FORM**

1) EMERGENCY MED. FORM 2) VOCAL MUSIC T-SHIRT ORDER FORM & MONEY