

2021-2022



HANDBOOK

Website

westlandvocalmusic.com



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



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



[Westland Vocal Music](https://www.facebook.com/WestlandVocalMusic)

OUR STAFF

Mr. Jeffrey Rone, Director of Choirs
Mrs. Mollie Quick, Asst. Director of Choirs, PVMS Director
Mr. Nathan Hamm, Staff Accompanist
Ms. Teresa Gray, Vocal Coach

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(614)851-7042

OUR PROGRAM

Most placement auditions take place in the spring of the preceding school year. The directors have 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 SSA – Open to grades 9-12, by recommendation or audition

Symphonic Choir – 7th period

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

Chorale – 8th period

Advanced SSAA 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 not an option.

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 directors) 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

***NEW* VOCAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE POLO**

ALL Vocal Music students need a WHS Vocal Music Polo. Students will be required to wear these polos to every concert throughout the school year. Family members are not able to purchase the performance polos, but can choose to purchase t-shirts if you would like to show your support. Hoodies will go on sale after the Fall Concert. **Orders and payments are due when you turn in your contract and emergency medical form.**

***NEW* CELL PHONE POLICY**

Phones are an issue because they quickly become a distraction to the learning process, and send the message that the student does not care about anything going on around them. This is simply not acceptable. Students have the following options for their cell phones during class:

1. **In their bag on silent (not vibrate)**
2. **In a provided Phone Shield** - A velcro bag that safely places the phone on airplane mode. When removed from the bag, all messages and notifications will be received
3. **In the folder cabinet placed in their folder slot** - Each student will have a folder number and corresponding slot in the cabinet where it is stored.

→ If a student needs an exception for the day (emergency going on at home, etc.) they simply need to tell Mr. Rone or Mrs. Quick BEFORE class begins.

→ If a student fails to abide by the policy, parents will be contacted and appropriate school disciplinary actions will be taken.

VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM COSTS

Every student that participates in the Vocal Music Program at Westland is responsible to raise a minimum of \$60 for their program costs. Students and families will be given several opportunities to raise this money. You may choose to participate in fundraisers, donation drives, or donate as a family - there are plenty of ways to do it without spending anything out-of-pocket. This money pays for music, accompanist fees, bus charges, contest fees, awards, rewards, and countless other expenses. Our booster yearly budget ranges from \$6,000-\$10,000 per year with EVERY CENT benefitting the students in the program.

***** WESTLAND CHOIR & DRAMA BOOSTERS *****

We've joined forces with the Drama Department to build up an even stronger performing arts department at Westland! As you know, 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 and drama activities, as well as social activities. The boosters will also play a key role in successful fundraising. Booster membership is only \$5 for an individual membership and \$10 for families up to 6 people. Not only will you be helping the program, but with your membership you will get into Spring Sing 2022 for FREE (a value of \$5 per person!) JOIN NOW BY FILLING OUT THE BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP FORM THAT IS ATTACHED WITH YOUR PAYMENT!

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 directors, complete it, and turn it in. If the assignment is not completed for any reason, the student will not receive 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.

CONCERT CHOIR, WOMEN'S CHORUS, MEN'S CHORUS

- BLACK dress pants. No jeans. No skirts. No dresses.
- Black closed-toed dress shoes. No larger than 2 inch heels. No tennis shoes.
- WHS Vocal Music Performance Polo - PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER ASAP

SYMPHONIC CHOIR & CHORALE

- Black dress pants. These must be nice dress pants, not jeans.
- Black closed-toed dress shoes. No larger than 2 inch heels.
- WHS Vocal Music Performance Polo - PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDER ASAP
- Choir Robe (specific to group) – provided by the Vocal Music Program

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 directors have 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 directors 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 2021-2022 VOCAL MUSIC CONTRACT

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

CHOIR: (circle ALL that apply)

STUDENTS NAME

Chorale (8th)

Symphonic (7th)

Concert (1st)

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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 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

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** (highly recommended) 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
- _____ Helping with fundraising projects
- _____ Soliciting individual (door-to-door) donations
- _____ Soliciting corporate donations
- _____ Sewing/hemming pants, fixing robe zippers, etc.
- _____ Chaperoning events
- _____ Making scripted phone calls
- _____ Assisting during the school day with simple clerical work
- _____ Graphic Design (Flyers, etc.)
- _____ Other (other skills that could benefit the vocal music program): _____

→ **TURN IN THIS FORM WITH YOUR MED. FORM & SHIRT ORDER FORM/MONEY**

INSERT BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP FORM HERE