

WOODHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL



CHOIR HANDBOOK

2018-2019

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WOODHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL/PATRICK HENRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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WOODHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CALENDAR 2018-2019

Below are listed all the performances of the WBSD music department. Events that are written in bold are required events for choir students. Other events listed below can be attended for extra credit. Please take note of the dates and set them aside now. We arrange the schedule in advance so students can make sure their schedules are cleared. Performance absences will not be tolerated.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Friday October 5th	National Anthem, Homecoming	Meet WHS Choir Room @6:15, Mandatory for 1 st , 4 th , 5 th Hours
Wednesday October 24th	Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal	WHS Auditorium, 4PM-6PM
Thursday October 25th	Fall Choir Concert	WHS Auditorium, 7PM
Tuesday December 4th	Holiday Dress Rehearsal	WHS Auditorium, 4PM-6PM
Thursday December 6th	Holiday Concert	WHS Auditorium, 7PM
Saturday February 2 nd	District S/E Festival	Eastern Michigan University, optional
Monday March 4th	Festival Concert Rehearsal	WHS Auditorium, 4PM-6PM
Tuesday March 5th	Festival Concert	WHS Auditorium, 7PM
Mon-Tues, March 12-13	District Choral Festival	All day, mandatory, during school hours
Fri-Sat, April 20-21	State S/E Festival	Fordson High School, Dearborn
Wed-Sun, April 24-28	Choir and Band New York City Trip	New York City, TBA
Tuesday May 14th	Spring Concert Dress Rehearsal	WHS Auditorium, 4PM-6PM
Thursday May 16th	Spring Concert	WHS Auditorium, 7PM
Monday May 20 th	Choir Banquet	WHS Cafeteria, 6PM
Tuesday June 4th	Commencements	WHS Football Field, TBA

VISION STATEMENT

WOODHAVEN CHOIRS WILL MAKE MUSIC THROUGH MANY SINGING STYLES, HEALTHY VOCAL TECHNIQUES, AN UNDERSTANDING OF MUSIC LITERACY, AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH ENSEMBLE PERFORMING. WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO BRING MUSIC OFF OF THE PAGE AND DELIVER A STORY TO OUR AUDIENCE THROUGH COOPERATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING.

CHOIRS

BELLA VOCE

VARSIY CHORUS

TREBLE TROUBLES

WARRIOR CHORUS

CONCERT CHOIR

Concert Choir: This ensemble is for 8th and 9th grade students who want to sing. They will sing two and three-part music. This group will explore basic ear-training techniques, intonation, tone production and vocal techniques through many different genres. Performing is a required aspect of this course. This ensemble competes at MSVMA Choral Festival in March.

PREREQUISITE: NONE

Treble Troubles: This advanced middle school ensemble is for 8th and 9th grade ladies who want to sing. We will continue to further our ear-training, intonation and vocal techniques. They will sing two and three-part music. Performing is a required aspect of this course. This ensemble competes at MSVMA Choral Festival in March.

PREREQUISITE: AUDITION ONLY

Warrior Chorus: This ensemble is for 10th-12th grade students who want to sing. They will sing two and three-part music. This group will explore basic ear-training techniques, intonation, tone production and vocal techniques through many different genres. Performing is a required aspect of this course. This ensemble competes at MSVMA Choral Festival in March.

PREREQUISITE: NONE

Varsity Chorus: This choir is for the intermediate vocalist and is open to 8th-12th grade students. It is a mixed choir for more experienced male and female singers. Three and four part-singing in different languages will be the focus. Ear training, intonation, tone production, and vocal techniques through all types of choir genres will be explored. Performing is a required aspect of this course. This ensemble competes at MSVMA Choral Festival as well as various community events. All PHMS and WHS men enroll in this ensemble, after audition.

PREREQUISITE: AUDITION ONLY.

Bella Voce (Beautiful Voice): This group is for the intermediate to advanced female singers by audition only. Prior vocal experience is required. The students will continue to perfect their skills with ear training, tone production, intonation and vocal techniques through various genres. They will sing three and four-part music of all styles and languages such as; English, Latin, French, German. Emphasis is placed on vocal styles, good literature, and lots of music for special out of school performances. This group also attends MSVMA choir festivals and outside community events. Performing is a required aspect of this course.
PREREQUISITE: AUDITION ONLY

CHORAL CURRICULUM

PERFORMANCE: Students will identify and perform music, using proper vocal production, and intonation, that is put together in many different forms within diverse genres and cultures. Students will learn to sing simple melodies, along with two, three, and four part harmonies.

EAR TRAINING: Students will learn the difference between major, minor, diminished, and augmented chords. They will also learn the sound of major and minor scales. Students will gain a better understanding of rhythmic figures through Rhythm dictation exercises. This is a big part of exams and quizzes.

LISTENING: Students will listen to a wide variety of music; such as professional and university orchestras and choirs, barbershop groups, a cappella groups etc. Students will also listen to recordings of themselves and past choirs.



CLASS REQUIREMENTS

- Come to class prepared to learn everyday.
- Make sure you have your **black** three-ring binder with music and a pencil.
- Prepare your music at home. School is for rehearsal; home is for practice.
- Have the required uniform for all performances.
- Give 100% attention and effort in rehearsal!
- Be flexible!

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

- Pencil - All class periods!
- Black three ring binder

UNIFORM

All choirs are required to wear their choir uniform for performances. For men black pants, a white tuxedo shirt, cummerbund and bow tie will be provided. Men must provide their own black dress shoes and socks. Ladies will wear the black choir dresses. Varsity Chorus women will also be given a purple ribbon for their dress, Bella Voce will be given a red ribbon. Additionally, black dress shoes are required.

Ladies are allowed to wear simple earrings (nothing dangling) and simple necklaces. Large jewelry will be asked to be removed for the performance to not cause distractions. Nothing is to be worn around the wrist- including hair ties.

Failure to show up in proper concert attire could result on a lowered performance grade. Our first concert isn't for a few months- please don't wait until the last minute to put your concert outfit together!

WOODHAVEN CHOIR PROGRAM UNIFORM POLICY

The Woodhaven Choir Program now has uniforms! In an attempt to keep costs down, the uniforms will function as rentals which will be **returned after the time in the program is completed in exchange for a refund**, provided the dress/tux is in good condition.

Cost Breakdown

Refundable Deposit: \$60

Cleaning Fee: \$10

Total Cost: \$70

Each student pays \$70 when they enter the program. **This is a one-time cost that will be returned to you. It is not an annual fee.** Additionally, students may use their personal choir account to pay for their dresses. If this method is used students will not be given a refund at the end of their time in the program.

Whether your student stays in the program for a semester or five years, when they leave the program they will return the dress so it can be used by other students. If the dress is in good condition and is reusable, we will give you back \$60. Refunds will be given **the following September**. We need the incoming 7th graders to essentially buy your student's uniform from them. When they pay at the beginning of the next school year, we will send out refunds to the graduated students.

The extra \$10 will be used to dry clean all returned uniforms so that new students are assured clean and crisp dresses and tuxes.

"Good condition" includes the following:

-No tears or holes in the fabric

-All pieces returned (dress/ribbon for the women, pants/bow tie/shirt/cummerbund for men)

Why are we getting uniforms?

The Woodhaven Choir Program has been growing and thriving over the past few years. Our students perform at many high profile events- Music in the Parks, MSVMA District and State Choral Festivals, community events and of course our concerts throughout the year. As the program grows and succeeds, it's important that our students look as good as they sound. In a perfect world, they would only be judged on their beautiful singing and the music they're making, but alas this isn't the way. We are a family and a team, and we want to look like one as well!

\$70 Uniform Cost is due Friday September 21st.

Dresses come in EVEN sizes. If you normally wear a 0 get a 2. If you wear a 1 get a 4, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns about our uniform program, please feel free to email me at SeeleyC@wbsdweb.com, call me at 734-783-3333 ext. 2887, or leave me a message on the "Contact Me" section of the website: www.woodhavenchoirs.weebly.com

GRADING POLICY

ASSIGNMENT	PERCENTAGE
Performances	25%
Participation	15%
Aural Skills	20%
Voice Tests	10%
Theory Worksheets	30%
Total:	100%

If your student has to miss a performance a written note must be turned into the teacher **at least 2 weeks before the performance**. Missing a performance without notice will result in a zero for that performance. The reason has to be valid and approved by the teacher. Students who miss multiple concerts per semester and are unapproved are subject to removal from the choir class. If approved, a student may write a concert make-up report. Please keep in mind that our concerts take a lot of work and preparation and are the greatest representation of our musical progress throughout the school year. The concert calendar for the school year is provided far enough in advance that *work is not a valid excuse* for missing a concert. Please take the time to set these dates aside on your calendar now to avoid any problems in the future.

Additionally, a student must be in **good standing** to attend a concert. A student cannot skip class multiple times before a performance and show up at the concert and expect full points; if they have not been showing up for class, they cannot be prepared for such a performance.

100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 or below	E

The music department performs at concerts, festivals, and community functions. Once an event is put on the Music Department Calendar, it is an official performance and participation points are assigned to it.

COMMUNICATION

Please visit our choir website, www.woodhavenchoirs.weebly.com every so often to stay up-to-date on the choir program happenings. There is a button on the home page where parents can sign up for monthly emails with our announcements.

Additionally, for important/emergency updates please join our "REMIND" class by texting "@woodhavenc" to 81010.

I would like to be as accessible as possible to my parents and my kids. Please feel free to contact me through my e-mail at any time if you have a question or a concern, I check it regularly: SeeleyC@wbsdweb.com

Woodhaven High School Choir Office

734-783-3333 ext. 2887

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Cell phones are not permitted in the choir room during rehearsal. If a phone is seen, you will be given a warning. If it is seen again it will be taken for the rest of the day and can be picked up at the end of the school day and you will be given a detention.

Electronic Communications Devices, School Wide Policy

Our school community is very fortunate to have access to many types of technology. This includes chromebooks, desktop computers, and tablets. Electronic Communications Devices, including: cellular phones, pagers, personal laptops, ipads, ipods, or any other type may not be permitted in any instructional area during the school day. An instructional area includes: ALL classrooms, offices (including main office and counseling), gym areas (including locker rooms), and large group instructional areas. These devices should be securely stored in your locker during all class times. If a device is seen or heard in any of these settings the following consequences will be issued:

- 1st offense: warning and reflection
- 2nd offense: one hour detention
- 3rd offense: two hour detention
- 4th offense: referral to office for administrative intervention

A phone is available for student usage during class time with a pass from a teacher. This is located in the counseling office and should be used for contact with a parent/guardian for urgent matters only. Parents/Guardians may contact the main office to get a message to their child during the school day. At no time will the office staff be responsible for searching for lost or misplaced Electronic Communications Devices. If a student chooses to bring one of these devices to school it is at their parent's discretion.

ATTENDANCE

Being in a choral ensemble means an individual's attendance is crucial to the success of the group as a whole. Please try to refrain from missing class for any reason, including scheduled appointments. If a student has missed an unreasonable number of rehearsals before a performance, it is up to the teacher's discretion to allow the student to perform.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVALS

District Solo and Ensemble Festival 2019: Saturday February 2nd

Make sure the judge's copy has all measures numbered in pencil.

Solo rules: Students should be taking private lessons to properly prepare for festival. Students need to have two contrasting songs (different languages and/or different styles or tempos). Students must have two original copies of each piece. One selection must be from one of the required books. See Mrs. Seeley and/or your private lesson teacher for help. You must have your music memorized.

Ensemble rules: No show tunes. Students must have two original copies for the judges. Two contrasting selections are required for festival. There are no required lists, check with your director to see if the selections are acceptable. You can use music (must be originals) or memorize.

Get a piano player early! Get them the music and start rehearsing at least one month before.

Solo/ensemble practice is the student's responsibility. The director will try to get some practice time for small ensembles when possible. Solos can be practiced at home or with a private teacher.

Registration Deadline: **Friday December 14th**

**New for 17/18 school year: Students must be able to perform one piece per event from memory in order to register. This is to show that they are taking the time to prepare for this prestigious event.

If you are interested in private lessons, please see Mrs. Seeley!

Lesson Rates:

\$20/half hour (standard)