

WFHS CHOIR 2023-2024



Mr. Brady Ritland – Director

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The goal of the Music Department at West Fargo High School is to develop **Independent Musicians** and **Informed Consumers** who can perform and appreciate music to its fullest. To assist students in reaching these goals, our choral curriculum emphasizes the development of skills and understanding in **Music Literacy, Healthy Vocal Production, Musical Expression, Critical Listening, Music History, and Music Theory**. In choir, students will act as a team and be able to describe how their voice contributes to the choir as a whole. Literature will be sung from a variety of musical eras and styles.

Important WFHS Choir Dates/Performances:

(Performances in red are REQUIRED for all choir students)

*Sunday, October 1, 2:00 PM	NDSU Choral Fest Concert	NDSU
Thursday, October 5, 7:30 PM	Fall Choir Concert	WFHS Theater
*Wednesday October 11, All Day	EDC Choir Festival	Fargo Davies High School
Thursday, December 7, 7:30 PM	Holiday Choir Concert	WFHS Theater
Thursday, February 29, 7:30 PM	Spring Choir Concert	WFHS Theater
Thur-Sat, March 21-23, All Day	All-State Music Festival	Bismarck Civic Center
Friday, April 5, All Day	EDC Vocal Music Contest	Fargo, Hope Church South
Friday, April 26, All Day	State Vocal Music Contest	Valley City State University
Thursday, May 16, 7:30 PM	Choir Awards Concert	WFHS Theater
*Sunday, May 19, 2:00 PM	Joint WFPS Choir Concert	Horace High School

* = Required for Concert Choir only

Choir Rules

- A. Work hard, be kind.
- B. Use common sense.
- C. Come to class prepared and on time.
- D. When warm-up begins, start singing and get right to your seat.
- E. When others are talking/singing, listen and don't be a distraction.
- F. No non-choir activities are allowed during choir rehearsal (reading, homework, texting, etc.)
- G. Absolutely no phones out in rehearsal unless you are given permission by Mr. Ritland. (See **WFHS Cell Phone Policy**) *1st offence – Warning. 2nd offence – It's mine. 3rd offence – It's the office's.*
- H. No food or drinks other than water during rehearsal. This **ESPECIALLY** includes gum.
- I. Take care of the piano!!! (No food or drinks on top, keep hands out of piano body, only move with 3 people or more, keep plugged in, ask for permission to play.)

Grading Procedures

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Approximate weight:</i>
Participation in Class	50%
Concert Performances	25%
Lessons	15%
Octet Days	10%

A. Participation in Class

1. Students will earn a maximum of 10 points per week (2 points per day) by participating in the following elements:
 - a. Vocal Warm-up
 - b. Good Posture
 - c. Sight-singing
 - d. Use of your pencil throughout the rehearsal
 - e. Attentiveness and Focus
 - f. Effort and Attitude
 - g. Preparedness for class (i.e., having your folder, pencil, and other required materials)
2. Students who are ill and unable to sing can still earn full credit if they:
 - Receive Mr. Ritland's permission to sit in "Sick Bay" at the beginning of rehearsal.
 - Follow along and be engaged in rehearsal (elements d-g above).
 - This option is available up to a maximum of 7 days per semester, after which a student will only be able to earn ½ points in a rehearsal.
 - **Sick Bay should ONLY be used if you are sick. Do not abuse it or you will all lose it.**
3. Attendance:
 - a. **Excused** absences do not have to be made up. If it is excused by the school, it is excused by me.
 - b. An **unexcused** absence (UV) from rehearsal will result in the loss of that week's total participation points (10 points) and cannot be made up. If a student skips **two** rehearsals, that student is subject to **removal from the roster**.
 - 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** in choir will be given out to anyone that is not in the choir room by the time warm-ups begin. (Approximately 5 minutes after the bell.)

B. Concert Performances

1. Students will earn a maximum of 50 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, slip (for static cling), black dress flats
You will need to provide the tights, the slip, 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. Ritland **as soon as possible**.
 - b. A 50-point essay (1000-word minimum) must be completed within 2 weeks of the concert for anyone missing the performance. See Mr. Ritland for the specifics of the assignment.
 - a. Use of A.I. of any kind on this assignment (or any writing assignment in this class) is prohibited and will result in a zero.
 - c. An **unexcused absence** from a required performance will result in a 50-point loss and is grounds for **removal from the roster**.
 - d. **ELIGIBILITY:** If you are ineligible because of failing classes or detentions, you will not be able to perform in the concert which will result in a 50-point loss.

C. Octet Days

1. Students will participate in one octet day each quarter for a maximum of 20 points. Octet days consist of two people per voice part singing a small section of a piece of music from the choir folder selected by Mr. Ritland.
2. Students not actively singing in an octet will write constructive feedback for each octet’s performance, which will be turned in for 10 of the 20 total points.

D. Lessons

1. Every choir student is required to attend **two** 20-minute voice lessons each quarter for a maximum of 30 points (15 points per lesson). During the lesson, the student will work on breathing and tone production, with the possibility of working on solo literature that can be used for solo/ensemble contest days, or various auditions.
 - a. Students may utilize their WIN session time to sign up for lessons.
2. Students must sign up for lessons at least one day in advance if not utilizing WIN sessions. Lesson sign-up sheets will be posted outside Mr. Ritland’s office every Monday.

Fund Raising

If they wish, students may participate in department-wide fund-raising drives for future choir 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 15th.

(15 points)

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 concerts/performances listed on this syllabus.

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Name

Student Signature

Date