

2021
2022

Western High School
C H O R U S
& Vocal Music

HANDBOOK



Brandon R. Monse, MME
Fine Arts Dept. Chair
Choral Music Director

    
@westernchorus

www.westernchorus.com

STUDENT EXECUTIVE BOARD

VISION

Co-Presidents	Mia Kuryel Samantha Scorzza
Executive V.P.	Lily Cring
V.P. Outreach	Franklin Ferrer
Executive Publicist	Jacob Price
Facilities Manager	Emily Perez
Property Supervisor	Estefanie Parra
Recording Secretary	Rebecca Katz
Section Leaders / S	Lily Cring
A	Estefanie Parra
T	Franklin Ferrer
B	Jared Scott

IN SINGING, WE UNITE TO FORM SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ANY ONE OF US. WE ARE ONE VOICE, ONE HEARTBEAT, ONE SOUL. MUSIC IS NOT JUST NOTES ON A STAFF, BUT RATHER A CONNECTIVE RESONANCE FLOWING THROUGH ALL OF US, AND IT IS OUR PRIVILEGE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY ART TO THE WORLD.

**—the officers of Western Chorus
class of 2013**

DAILY TASKS

- *participation* in all activities, rehearsals, and performances; including correct posture; and with all required materials
- *maintenance* of assigned choir folder, student-supplied 1" black matte binder (**no clear plastic covers please**), uniforms
- *contribution* to the ensemble as directed
- *cooperation* with other class members, officers, and director

Objectives for All Singers

1. to be able to perform alone and in a group.
2. to be able to create artistic music
3. to be able to use the vocabulary and notation of music.
4. to be able to perform properly with their voice, and be cognizant of its care.
5. to be able to respond to music aesthetically, intellectually, and emotionally.
6. to be able to continue their musical involvement individually.
7. to become acquainted with a wide variety of musical styles and uses.
8. to develop a feeling of support for community music activities.
9. to develop individual leadership and teamwork characteristics.

Mr. Monse's 5

RULES

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| ① BE prompt | be ready to start rehearsal at the <u>exact start time</u> |
| ② BE prepared | have your music and required equipment accessible, everyday |
| ③ BE respectful | to director, student conductors, each other, facilities, other people, music; do not distract others |
| ④ BE engaged | all singers must be actively participating in all activities |
| ⑤ BE a leader | you do not have to be an "officer" to lead — lead from any chair |

STEPPING INTO A UNIVERSE OF POSSIBILITIES.

The Handbook is a guide for students and parents involved in the Western High School Chorus & Vocal Music programs. Western Chorus has been performing continuously since WHS opened in 1981.

As a member of this organization, you are responsible for maintaining its reputation, by assuming the role of **professional student-musician**; for furthering our mission to develop lifelong musicians... and to achieve an expert understanding of music, musicianship, and **artistry**. I encourage and expect you to use your time effectively, so that your participation in Chorus will be fun and enjoyable for you and your peers. Members of Western Chorus realize their commitment to the organization, and do their part for our **TEAM**, by attending all rehearsals and performances, so that our next forty years may be even more exciting and successful than the first.

Chorus has earned Music Performance Assessment ratings from “Excellent” to “Superior with Distinction”, at county- and state-level evaluations. The elite **Western Singers** have earned Superior ratings on many performances, and have toured throughout Florida, the South, and the Atlantic coast. Select ensembles have been chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall, and other venues, in New York City. In 2011, singers traveled to New York to perform as invited guests of the renowned Festival Singers of Florida. The Western Leatos *a cappella* ensemble opened for the Yale University Spizzwinks, the oldest underclass *a cappella* ensemble in the nation, in addition to performing for Broward's Congressional delegation. Recently, the Western High School **Concert Chorus** appeared on stage in New York City at **Carnegie Hall in 2019**, as part of the National Concert Chorus. You may know that Western Chorus has performed regularly at the Walt Disney World Candlelight Processional for over **twenty years**.

We reflect on these accomplishments, not in comparison to other choral programs; instead, with pride in our ability to positively affect the lives of students and our community.

Our tradition of travel shall continue as long as the members of the Chorus demonstrate an outstanding knowledge of teamwork, musical technique, pride, and artistry: **It's now your job, as musicians, to provide each other and our community with the highest level of art and musicianship.**

Welcome to our world of musical art, where we shall strive to create beautiful and unique sounds with each other, for our listeners. I'm incredibly eager to step into this “universe of possibilities” with you.

Brandon R Monse, MME
Choral Music Director & Fine Arts Dept. Chair, Western High School

STUDENT/PARENT CHECKLIST

1 Read The Handbook completely! AVOID SURPRISES

Print and complete personalized Participation Contract, Annual Field Trip Form, and Permission Form for Medical Treatment, and take the Handbook Quiz, when directed. (follow instructions on separate handout). You must earn 80% on the Handbook Quiz to pass. Retake it until you pass or you will earn 0% for the assignment.

3 **Notarize** the Permission Form for Medical Treatment and return all chorus forms by due date

4 Visit **westernchorus.com**. Click **Contact** to subscribe to e-mail list (open to all interested parties)

*Students must access the system at **MTEC.westernchorus.com** with their individual login information in order to access forms, and complete assignments including at-home vocal practice.*

This is separate from Canvas, and does not use the Single Sign-On / Clever login

5 Follow **@westernchorus** across your social media networks.

6 Students: Subscribe to Remind text messages for your specific class (more inside)

7 Keep this Handbook in a handy spot for continued reference

8 (Optional) Read and sign Honors Credit contract.

*Only students enrolled in Chorus 5 Honors, Chorus 6 Honors, Chorus H/L 4 Honors, Vocal Techniques 4 Honors, Vocal Ensemble 4 Honors qualify, with prior director approval. **These sections have extra assignments to receive Honors Credit.***

The extra assignments count toward student grade.

Participation Contract  / Notarized Permission Form for Medical Treatment  / Annual Field Trip Form / Online Handbook Quiz

all due when indicated by the Director

— **complete forms & have notarized now to avoid losing points** ; there are notaries public available at WHS, banks, shipping stores, etc.

— **grade points will be partially withheld for forms received late. No make-up is available.**

PRACTICES IN OUR UNIVERSE

“IT’S ALL INVENTED”

“The frames our minds create define—and confine—what we perceive to be possible.”

Can you join all nine dots with four straight lines, without taking pencil off of paper?



*“What assumption am I making,
That I’m not aware I’m making,
That gives me what I see?”*

*What might I now invent,
That I haven’t yet invented,
That would give me other choices?*

“BE A CONTRIBUTION”

Every day that you are a contribution to the Chorus, you will make a difference in the quality of the Chorus. Sometimes you may not realize how, or understand why, so dedicate yourself to *being a contribution* and *assume* that you will be one. You may be surprised...

“GIVING WAY TO PASSION”

Music & the arts create powerful aesthetic experiences for those creating music, and for those listening to it. We hope that during your time in Chorus, you will learn to allow yourself to share emotions freely, paint musical pictures, and give way to musical passion.

“LEADING FROM ANY CHAIR”

In Chorus you will share the stage with students from every grade, from freshmen to seniors — sometimes even our Western chorus alumni! Whether your class neighbor is a famous pop artist (we have at least two alums who are), or someone who has never performed before, assume that everyone has the ability to lead, even if they are just now discovering it. Whether you are new or a four-year senior; or whether you are an officer or a brand new recruit; be a leader from wherever you sit. Everyone is a key person and everyone is needed very much.

“LIGHT A SPARK”

Come prepared daily with an open mind and an open voice. Be ready to participate, and be willing to be moved and inspired by music — and to **move and inspire others** with music. You have the power to light a spark in yourself and others!

“CREATE FRAMEWORKS FOR POSSIBILITY”

Rather than set *limits* for yourself, set *goals* that align with our combined Chorus vision. You may be surprised to find you like a new or different kind of music than before, or that you are able to achieve musically at a higher level than you thought.

...A LITTLE STORY

Some students invariably ask “What is the big deal if I miss rehearsal? I am just one person...they can do without me.” “I’ve never missed a rehearsal before.” Or this old classic: “I already know my part.” To students (and parents) that would ask such questions, we present the following story:

On Being a “Kxy Pxrsn”

Xvxn though my computxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxcxpt for onx kxy. Thxrx arx 119 othxr kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx. Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that a musical group is somxwhat likx my computxr: Not all thx kxys arx always working propxrlly. You may say, “Wxll, I am only onx pxrsn; it won’t makx much of a diffxrxncx.” But you sxx, thx chorus, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry pxrsn. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrsn, and that your xffort is not nxxdxd, rxmxmbxr my computxr and rxalizx this:

You arx a kxy pxrsn, and you arx nxxdxd vxry much.

WEB SITE, E-MAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, TEXTS

The official Chorus website is www.westernchorus.com. You can follow @westernchorus on Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, and SoundCloud.

Use the Remind app to subscribe to announcements for your class. These announcements will be in addition to Canvas announcements and you are required to receive them. @choruswhs (Beginning Chorus), @treble-whs (SSA Treble Chorus) or @singerswhs (Western Singers only). This is a free service. You must resubscribe each year. Using the app is highly preferred over the SMS option.



@westernchorus

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CENTER REQUIRED WEBSITES AND LABORATORY

In addition to Canvas, mtec.westernchorus.com (MTEC Cloud) hosts one of the online components of the choral curriculum. Students are required to print forms, complete assignments and vocal practice, and create online audio recordings on MTEC and Canvas. All students have personal accounts and passwords and may not share their account or use someone else's credentials. A modern browser is required. Some assignments will require visiting the MTEC Lab (Rm. 428), in order to be completed on specialized music software.

OFFICIAL CALENDAR

The official Calendar is located on the Chorus Website and supersedes ANY other calendar information. Grading is partially based on participation at events listed in this official Calendar, so please check it often. The Calendar is not static. **Events on the Calendar will change as performances are scheduled. Chorus students/parents are responsible to schedule appointments to not miss rehearsals & performances.** The Calendar will always be the master location of chorus events. It supersedes any other information, such as social media posts. **We highly recommend subscribing to Calendar push notifications via Google Calendar / Calendar.app on your phone.**

"KNOW WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO DO"

RETREAT

The annual Chorus Retreat is usually held on a Friday in September at WHS. Students will rehearse, participate in group bonding games and activities, and dinner will be served. Retreat usually ends at 10:00 PM. **Participation in retreat is mandatory for all students in all periods of chorus, and is a graded +Rehearsal.** Date/time TBD.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS & OBLIGATIONS

"Accounts" are provided to members of the Program in order to facilitate the payment of trip fees, ensemble fees, etc. Certain fundraising activities distribute a portion/percentage of profits into accounts. Students who do not participate in fundraising cannot enjoy the benefits of the student account system. The Director reserves the right to debit student accounts for any money owed. Money collected in the name of the Program remains in the Program — it is not a bank. Remaining fees and fundraising monies are property of the Program and do not rollover.

Students will be held financially liable for any loss of department materials including musical scores, folders, uniforms, etc. Obligations will be issued for any liability, which may preclude students from participating in field trips, homecoming, prom, and even from graduating.

CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC ACTIVITIES

Florida School Music Association (FSMA)

"Some activities are co-curricular, meaning the activity is an extension of the classroom curriculum, as defined in lesson plans for a state approved academic course/elective. Band, orchestra, and chorus classes are "performance" classes in which the performance is an important portion of the assessment for the "unit" taught. (The performance is equivalent to a unit test.) Therefore, it is fully appropriate for students who are members of bands, orchestras, and choruses to study musical selections, rehearse them ...for a period of time, have individual assessments, and then a culminating performance as a part of the evaluation of the student, as well as the progress of the class.

As the Evaluation/Festivals, sanctioned by the FSMA, are the culminating activities in the state for marching band, concert band - orchestra - chorus, where students spend a number of weeks in preparation; as the Evaluation/Festivals are not competitions, but are evaluations of music organizations; and as the preparation for participation in the evaluation/festival does include and support curriculum as defined in the Curriculum Framework for the Arts, the performance at these specific events should be considered co-curricular."

Florida course narrative notice:

"Special Note: This course requires students to participate in extra rehearsals and performances beyond the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom."

FACE COVERING POLICY

Broward County Public Schools Policy 2170 sets forth requirements for face coverings to be used while at or inside a school campus:

[excerpt] *...Musical and Theatrical Performances: A face covering will be required for all individuals while playing a musical instrument or performing or rehearsing for a choral or theatrical performance. This includes the singing of the National Anthem, school alma maters, or other songs...*

Policy 2170 will be strictly enforced at all times during choral activities both during and outside school hours. **Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the side of the face with no gaps.** Per BCPS Policy 2170, the following face coverings are not in compliance and **ARE PROHIBITED:**

- Face masks that are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example vinyl
- Face masks that have inhale/exhalation valves or vents
- Gaiters

Depending on availability, students may be provided a specialty "singer's mask" to be used during choral activities. Students are responsible for keeping the mask clean and sanitary between uses.

PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

Students may choose to utilize a personal **tablet** for the reading and marking of sheet music scores. If doing so, students must use purpose-built **music reading** apps which allow fast marking, page turns, and reference points; the built-in PDF reader is not sufficient because it does not have these features. We require ForScore (iOS) or MobileSheetsPro (Android); these apps are not free and any student choosing to use this method shall incur the cost. **Phones and computers may not be used for this purpose. Off-task tablet use may result in a 0% and device confiscation. School staff will not be responsible for loss or damage to personal electronics.**



Unauthorized use of phones/devices in the rehearsal room will result in a zero (0%) class rehearsal grade for that day.

Reminder: Be a contribution

The Code Of Student Conduct (SBBC Policy 5.8) permits confiscation of phones by School Board staff, to be returned only to parent. SCHOOL BOARD STAFF WILL NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES THAT ARE LOST, STOLEN, OR CONFISCATED.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Students are assigned to perform in different attire throughout the year. Students are required to supply specific items; others will be loaned. Students are financially liable for any school-owned property that is loaned to them. Failure to return in the required condition will result in financial obligations to the school.

Formal uniform: Assigned chorus dress, closed-toe black dress shoes with no heels. Assigned pearl set if directed. Men: Black long-sleeved dress shirt with black buttons, black dress pants, black socks, black shoes, black belt. Tie will be provided. No other jewelry.

T-Shirt uniform: Assigned chorus t-shirt (purchased by student at the E-Store). Dark blue jeans with no visible holes, tears, or distressing. Closed-toed shoes with socks.

Western Singers polo uniform: Assigned Western Singers chorus polo shirt (purchased by Singers at the E-Store). Dark blue jeans with no visible holes, tears, or distressing. Closed-toed shoes with socks.

WESTERN CHORUS BOOSTER CLUB

Get involved!

WCBC is a 501(c)3 corporation of parents, guardians, and members of the community who desire to help Western Chorus raise funds and promote the program. Boosters meet throughout the year. Individuals interested in supporting the choral program as a Booster, or who have innovative fundraising ideas, should contact WCBC at the address below.

President: Carolyn Lass westernchorusboosters@gmail.com

Stay tuned for information about upcoming Booster events!

"FAIR SHARE"

All students must remit their "Fair Share" by the given deadline. Students will not be precluded from participation due to a financial burden, but must make alternative arrangements with the director **before** the due date. Students who do not remit their "Fair Share" in a timely manner or make arrangement will receive an obligation.

! ATTENDANCE

“How will I **“be a contribution”** today?”

All students must attend all daily rehearsals, including those during school hours **and** those outside school hours (which are graded assignments, pursuant to School Board Policy 6306.1). Performing in any music ensemble requires **combined, team** effort so therefore, skipping class, and skipping co-curricular music activities, will be considered poor musicianship. Students have the opportunity to earn 20 class rehearsal points daily. Any unexcused absence from a daily class rehearsal will result in 20 points withheld from the student's weekly rehearsal grade; any unexcused tardy will result in 15 points withheld. Due to the “one-time” nature of choral rehearsals, any excusable tardy or absence will result in the withholding of 5 points from the weekly participation grade.

Summary: if you are not in rehearsal, you have not been a contribution, and so have not earned points.

Remember **Mr. Monse's 5** and **Be prompt**. While it may seem harmless to show up to events 2–3 minutes late, in the “real world,” people can be fired for being even one minute late. Work on punctuality now, and you will never have to worry about it in the future. Always plan to arrive five minutes earlier than necessary, so you will not be late.

***“Early is on time, on time is late,
late is unthinkable”***

You are a kxy pxrson and you have an effect on your peers. Affect them positively: be punctual.

All students are required to attend each Main Concert, as well as district and state Music Performance Assessments (MPAs) sanctioned by FSMA. An **Inexcusable** absence from a Main Concert or MPA will result in course failure for that term. Students who miss concert(s) may not be allowed to attend Chorus trips.

The annual District MPA, held at a local school, provides an opportunity for the Chorus to receive an outside, professional adjudication of our performance. For this reason, all students must participate in the District MPA, and, if their Chorus ensembles qualify, the State MPA.

Excusable absences from rehearsals and performances, including those outside school hours, include **only**: extreme illness on the student's part (doctor's note required, and **please e-mail the Chorus Office to let us know why you will be missing rehearsal**), a death in the immediate family (documented), a religious obligation (note from religious official required), wedding/family event, receiving a Pulitzer Prize for Music, receiving an Oscar for Best Musical Score. In cases of extreme illness, please contact the Chorus Office as soon as possible. A

student seeking excusability for illness must present a doctor letter to the Chorus Office — no exceptions.

Students must be picked up promptly at the end of rehearsal and shouldn't be waiting in front of the school. **Parents, please don't wait for a phone call or text, before coming to school to pick up a student. If any student is waiting 15 minutes after an event concludes, Davie Police Department will have to be called to pick up the abandoned student. Along the same lines, STUDENTS WILL NOT BE DISMISSED EARLY FROM REHEARSALS, EVEN IF PARENTS/GUARDIANS ARE WAITING OUTSIDE. This is a safety concern, and no exceptions are made. This is effectively wandering off, and students may not wander off from scheduled events.**

Inexcusable absences from rehearsals & performances, **including those outside school hours**, comprise, for example: work, transportation problems, babysitting for family or others, doctor or dental appointment, sports practice, detentions, homework/ studying for a test, club meetings, driving exam, family trip/ vacation, unexcused absence from school. Inexcusable absences from performances will result in letter-grade deductions or failure and the possibility that students will not be allowed to participate in any or all future choral events. Understand that unlike club meetings and sports, **Chorus events are academic assignments. They are not extracurricular activities,** and you will be graded on your participation and musicianship. **You may not miss or be tardy to Chorus events for extracurricular club meetings.**

Students: post your Chorus schedule at work so that they do not schedule you; employers are not allowed to interfere with schoolwork. The director will contact any job supervisor, to clarify this point, upon request.

*Since Chorus events often take place after school, conflicts such as doctor appointments, which would be excused during the school day, are **not** excusable when they result in missing an after-school choral event. Arrange your appointments around Chorus events. If you accidentally schedule a **conflicting** appointment, re-schedule it. Everyone will appreciate it.*



*** Remember, the word “excused” is deceptive. There are no “EXCUSED” absences; that is, there are *no absences where you are “excused” from completing make-up work*.** If you miss an event and believe your absence is excusable in accordance with this page, see the Director for make-up work and complete it within the allotted timeframe, to earn your points. It is never the director's responsibility to find you and present you with make-up work. Make-up work must be completed within District make-up time allotment, or a grade of “0” will be entered, as you earned 0 points. Significantly delayed make-up work won't be graded.

! EVALUATION

①	+Performances/+Rehearsal (on- or off-campus, during and/or after school) & Tests	weighted 0.41
②	Class Rehearsal (weekly rubric) including punctuality, proper supplies including water, folder, singer's Posture Levels, attitude, musicianship. etc.	weighted 0.34
③	Quizzes, Music Theory, Homework (written & other), Music Knowledge Evaluations, Sectional Rehearsals (productivity, behaviors, respect)	weighted 0.25

Events marked with a "+" symbol on the Calendar a graded in category ①.

If, during a term, there are no assignments in one particular category, the remaining categories will have weights adjusted to 0.51 and 0.49; or 1.00, as determined by the Director.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in 2015, reinforced the role of music as a core subject in the well-rounded education of students. WHS' Fine Arts Department Faculty believes in the importance of accountability, and we hold ourselves to the same high standards to which other core subjects are held.

If you are absent from a performance or rehearsal, provided the absence is excusable, you will have earned 0 points, and so, you must make up the work or time missed in order to earn points. *Imagine: If "Suzy Singer" was sick, and absent from school on the day of an English test, the English teacher would not simply give her 100% upon her return, even if her absence was "excused." Suzy would still have to make up the test... The same concept applies to Chorus events. If an absence is excusable you will have time to make up your missed work. If inexcusable or unexcused, work may not be made up. It is **your** responsibility to seek make up work.*

You are here to work hard, and you will have fun, and many **rewards**. Treating music and the arts like they are unimportant is one reason many school music programs are in serious jeopardy. Activities for suggested make-up work include:

- ▶ Perform all of your music independently for the Director. (for missed rehearsals only)
- ▶ Perform a mentorship at a feeder middle school chorus, with approval from **both** directors. (time allotment to be determined)
- ▶ Miscellaneous musical projects – Director approval is needed beforehand
- ▶ A Make-up Essay; format, length, and subject area provided by the Director

Make-up assignments are selected at Director's discretion.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Chorus classes are elective; therefore, students are not placed in a Chorus if they have not elected to take the course. Because of this, schedule changes will not be authorized for any reason other than a pre-existing academic conflict.

SECURITY/STUDENT ID CARDS/BARCODES !

Never prop open any doors in the music suite; if you determine a door is unlocked, notify the director immediately. Your student ID card must be worn and visible at all times on the WHS campus; this includes during chorus events both during and after school, such as Retreat. Barcodes will be scanned for event attendance, uniform checkout, etc. Failure to have your ID card causes significant delays — our events often involve well over 100 people, for whom we must scan IDs and take attendance — so points may be withheld every time ID is missing.

PRIVATE LESSONS

One-to-one lessons are vital to success for a young musician. Students who study privately with a professional show rapid improvement in individual musicianship. As that student improves, their contribution to their Chorus becomes stronger and greater. (The first of the hidden answers on the handbook quiz is Lowell Mason.) The director can assist you in locating a private voice teacher.

TRAVEL

Chorus may take local & overnight trips, provided student participation is sufficient for a successful performance. Trip dates will be announced in advance, and monies paid will become nonrefundable after a specified date. When on trips, all program, school, and district rules apply. Students who do not obey rules or exhibit unacceptable attitude or behavior will be sent home at parents' expense; such behaviors result in disciplinary actions upon return. **Always try to fulfill the Chorus Vision on page 1.**

FACILITIES & OFFICE

Gum, food, and drink are NEVER allowed in music facilities. The only exception is water in a spill-proof bottle. **Bring water to rehearsal**, as water breaks are disruptive and won't be permitted.

The Director's Office is a private office, not part of the choral student universe. Students should never be in the office without permission of the director. Additionally, students must never occupy any music practice rooms or use the MTEC Lab without music faculty authorization.

FLORIDA ALL-STATE CHOIRS

PRESENTED BY FLORIDA MUSIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION &
FLORIDA VOCAL ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2022

This is an auditioned group of the finest high school singer-musicians in the state. In order to audition, students first need to pass a written musicianship exam and a sight reading test. Then each will learn his/her respective part on all All-State selected pieces. The student then must pass a vocal audition. Those singers with the highest scores throughout the state will be eligible to sing in one of several choruses which will assemble in Tampa in January for the Florida Music Education Association Conference. To be chosen a member of an All-State Chorus is one of the highest honors and one of the greatest experiences any high school singer can achieve. After-school practices will be held throughout August and September. (~\$20 registration fee for audition, appreciable additional expenses \$200–300+ if accepted to attend All-State in Tampa). Participation requires director approval and regular attendance at after-school practice sessions.

ALL-COUNTY HONOR CHORUS

PRESENTED BY BROWARD MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

JAN–FEB 2022

The Broward All-County Honor Choir is another opportunity for highly-motivated choral students. Students may sign up, learn the assigned music, and audition for the directors of Broward County. Singers are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and concerts. Rehearsals are held at various schools around the county. Concerts are generally at one of the performing arts centers in Broward County. In the event of high interest, the director will select eligible students based on class & chorus seniority, musicianship and commitment. (Participation fee applies. Requires approval.)

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

STATE, REGION & NATIONAL HONOR CHOIRS

AT ACDA STATE/REGION CONFERENCES

STATE: OCT 2021, DAYTONA BEACH, FL

REGIONAL: FEB 2022, RALEIGH, NC

These highly-select choirs are formed of the best auditioned singers in the Southern Division of ACDA and/or the whole country, in alternating years. Singers are required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and concerts as well as stay in pre-designated hotels at the division and/or national conference of ACDA. To be selected for an Honor Choir is a grand honor and one of the most memorable and greatest experiences any singer can achieve. Students are financially liable for their own participation, must provide a parent chaperone, and are permitted to audition at the discretion of the Director. (Participation fee applies. Requires approval.)

WALT DISNEY WORLD

CANDLELIGHT PROCESSIONAL

TENTATIVE: NOV/DEC 2021

(singers are expected to perform if the Chorus is accepted) Held every holiday season at Epcot, the Candlelight Processional includes a massed choir, 50-piece live orchestra, and a celebrity narrator. An American Sign Language interpreter is also on stage. The Chorus generally applies for this event each year based on availability. (Candlelight could be postponed due to Covid.)

STUDENT OFFICERS

Choral students may apply to be a chorus officer for the 2022–23 school year. Applications will be available from the Director during the final quarter. Officers meet every two weeks after school for 30–45 minutes. If at any time an officer does not perform his/her duties, the Executive Board has the right to petition for a new appointment. This may be done only when 51% of Executive Board members agree in writing and present their petition with signatures to the director. All Officers serve at the pleasure of the Director.

Certain officers may be further designated as *Student Conductors*. In this role, they lead the class on the conductor's podium. Chorus students are required to treat any conductor with the same respect as the Director or any other staff; inappropriate behavior during a student-led rehearsal, sectional, or performance is considered exceptionally poor form, and will result in academic & disciplinary intervention.

All officers must be in attendance at all Chorus activities, including extra- and co-curricular events. Officers who exhibit absenteeism may forfeit their position.

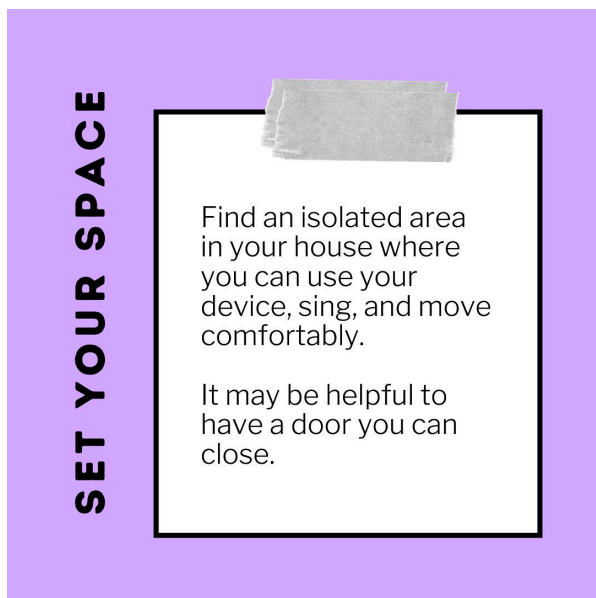
FRIENDLY MISCELLANEOUS REMINDERS

- ▶ Loud & boisterous behavior is inappropriate in the chorus room and damaging to the vocal instrument. This type of behavior is never acceptable. Students should speak at appropriate volume. You only get one voice — ***please take care of your voice.***
- ▶ **Phones must remain out of sight at all times, including “transitional” periods of rehearsals, unless directed by school staff. BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOLS AUTHORIZE THE CONFISCATION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES BY SCHOOL STAFF, TO BE RETURNED ONLY TO PARENT — SEE DISTRICT CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY 6.8.**
- ▶ Leaving a musical rehearsal for personal reasons is rarely acceptable. **Use the restroom between classes only. Passes will not be issued.**
- ▶ **Class and other events will be dismissed by the DIRECTOR ONLY. STUDENTS WILL NOT BE DISMISSED FROM EVENTS EARLY BECAUSE “SOMEONE IS WAITING OUTSIDE.” THIS IS A SERIOUS SAFETY CONCERN. STUDENTS LEAVING BEFORE BEING DISMISSED BY THE DIRECTOR WILL EARN 0% for that activity. NO EXCEPTIONS**

In the event eLearning is resumed

TEAMS MEETINGS

You must join the daily class rehearsal on Teams by the appointed start time. Chorus is a live, synchronous class; students are required to participate **during the period**. After a reasonable amount of time to allow students to be acquainted with the software, tardiness may be tracked. **You must respond when called upon**. Simply being “present” in the class meeting, or completing preassigned Canvas tasks without active participation, is insufficient to meet course standards. Students who are non-responsive when prompted during the meeting will receive reduced class rehearsal grades.



REHEARSAL SPACE

You will sing aloud during their Chorus period, and at other times, such as after-school practice, sectional rehearsals, or when completing online assignments. The following are recommended:

- An isolated space at home for class and/or recording projects, where the singer can sing, use their device(s), and move comfortably.
- If possible, you should be on camera during vocalization segments of the class to develop and assess healthy, age-appropriate singing technique.

SOFTWARE & TECHNOLOGY

You are required to submit work using the Canvas platform, as well as other on platforms as assigned. Recordings will be collected and evaluated to support the development of a healthy, age-appropriate singing technique. Your assignments will include recorded audio and/or video submissions. You are expected to have access to functional audio/video recording capability. Computers with working audiovisual features are available at WHS for checkout to any students who need them. Contact the school for information on checking out a computer to ensure you can meet all course requirements. Per BCPS, “students should use their cameras as directed by their teachers.” (This includes video singing submissions.)

(See: browardschools.com/learningnevercloses)

ENSEMBLE SINGING

Performing in a chorus is a group activity, fostered by an environment of community and interaction. By its very nature, eLearning creates difficulties maintaining the positive, welcoming music community that we curate constantly. You are expected to enable your video stream (**not microphone**) during singing so that singing technique can be assessed. This will greatly help to mitigate the reduced **community aspect** of choral singing during eLearning, and may earn additional credit. **You are required to enable camera & microphone when asked, whether to respond verbally or musically.**

Sign up for important updates for Western Singers

Get information for **Western High School** right on your phone—not on handouts.

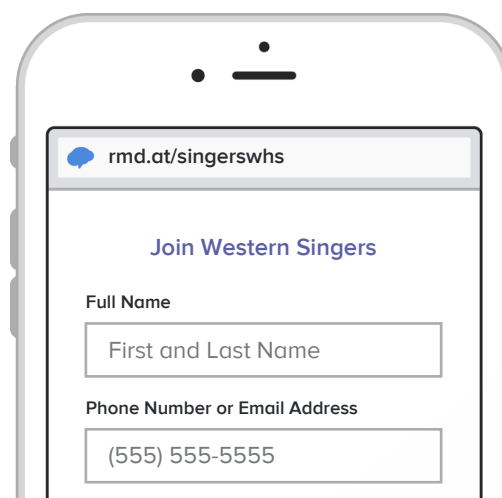
Pick a way to receive messages for **Western Singers**:

- A** If you have a smartphone,
get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone,
open your web browser and go to
the following link:

rmd.at/singerswhs

Follow the instructions to sign up
for Remind. You'll be prompted to
download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone,
get text notifications.

Text the message [@singerswhs](https://t.me/singerswhs) to the
number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try
texting [@singerswhs](https://t.me/singerswhs) to **(978) 212-3450**.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/singerswhs on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Sign up for important updates for Beginning Chorus

Get information for **Western High School** right on your phone—not on handouts.

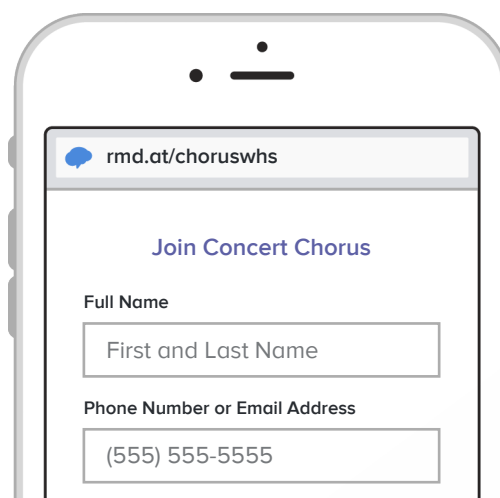
Pick a way to receive messages for **Concert Chorus**:

- A** If you have a smartphone,
get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone,
open your web browser and go to
the following link:

rmd.at/choruswhs

Follow the instructions to sign up
for Remind. You'll be prompted to
download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone,
get text notifications.

Text the message [@choruswhs](#) to the
number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try
texting [@choruswhs](#) to **(978) 212-3450**.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/choruswhs on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

Sign up for important updates for SSA Treble Choir

Get information for **Western High School** right on your phone—not on handouts.

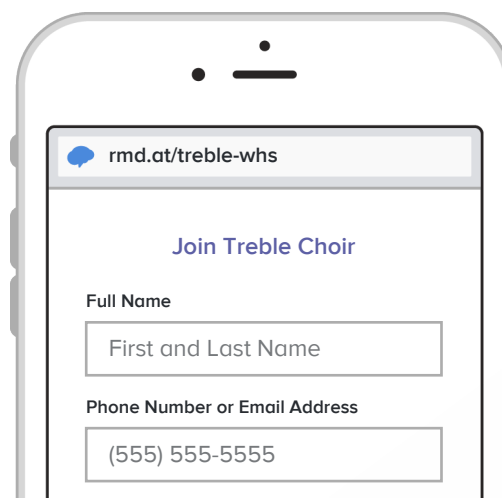
Pick a way to receive messages for **Treble Choir**:

A If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/treble-whs

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



B If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message **@treble-whs** to the number **81010**.

If you're having trouble with **81010**, try texting **@treble-whs** to **(978) 212-3450**.

* Standard text message rates apply.



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/treble-whs on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.

...Be a Contribution

THE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS 2021–22 PARTICIPATION CONTRACT & MEDIA RELEASE

I have read and retained a copy of the Chorus Handbook, and I understand all the information that the Chorus Handbook contains. I hereby **elect** to be a participating member of the Western High School Chorus and will abide by the rules governing rehearsals, concerts, scheduling, schedule changes, after-school events, retreat, trips, uniforms, and “Fair Share”. **I understand how grades will be assessed.** I also understand that in order to participate in any extracurricular activities including sports, students must maintain a grade no lower than “C” in **Chorus, which is not an extracurricular activity.**

As a parent of a student in Broward County Public Schools and the Western High School Chorus, I understand that my child may be photographed, videotaped or interviewed by the news media or by the School District for informational and/or promotional purposes. I understand that pictures and interviews may be used on the District’s website, in School District publications, external publications and electronic media as indicated below. By signing below, I affirm that **I WILL** permit my child to be photographed, videotaped, and/or interviewed for school publications, such as school yearbooks, school newspapers, class pictures, school and/or District websites, social media, BECON TV, or for other communication tools by Broward County Public Schools or its approved vendors. I understand the District may be required to release this information if requested by the media or other members of the public (i.e., public records requests). Note: Your home address, phone number, email address, child’s name, teacher’s name and room number may be released in order to facilitate school-based publications.

Refusal to sign does not excuse students or parents from the requirements in the Handbook, which serves as the course syllabus.

Return this form by the second meeting of your chorus class to receive full credit.

 Parent/Guardian

Print name

Date

Signature

E-mail address (please PRINT clearly)

Cell phone with area code

 Parent/Guardian

Print name

Date

Signature

E-mail address (please PRINT clearly)

Cell phone with area code

 Student

Print name

Student number

Date

Grade

Pd.

Signature

E-mail address (please PRINT clearly)

Cell phone with area code

THE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS PERMISSION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

I, the undersigned, hereby grant StudentName (student name) permission to participate in all scheduled activities (see calendar) as a member of the WHS Choral Department.

Students should be properly insured. Western High School teachers and chaperones will not be held liable for accidents occurring during choral activities. Parents are reminded that the "at-school" Student Accident Insurance available does NOT cover overnight trips under any circumstances. Parents should have "24 hour" or "around the clock" insurance coverage available through the school or family agent to ensure coverage on overnight trips.

I, the undersigned, being the parent, legal next of kin, or legal guardian of StudentName (student name) hereby authorize any necessary medical treatment, to include the administration of any medication, as prescribed by the attending doctor for this student while on a trip with Western High School Chorus. I also guarantee payment of all charges incurred during any medical treatment.

This form MUST be notarized

✍ Parent Contact Information

PARENT(S) NAME	Signature (made in witness of Notary)
Type/print	
ADDRESS	
Number & street	City ZIP
PHONE	
Home	Business
Cellular	Emergency or Neighbor Contact
ALTERNATE CONTACT	
Name Relationship	Phone

✍ Medical Information

	YES	NO	Describe
Does student have any allergies to food, medications, etc?	_____	_____	
Does student have special medical problems?	_____	_____	
Is the student on continuing medication? (If YES, state and describe dosage)	_____	_____	_____
			Name/dosage
Date of last tetanus shot			_____
Date(s) of Covid-19 inoculations, if any			_____
Family Physician			
Name			Office phone
Number & Street			City
<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance company & policy number (or clip copy of insurance card - DO NOT STAPLE) OR			
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not have insurance, however I will pay any and all medical bills for my child.			

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, A. D. 20_____.

(please initial)



Notary Public
State of Florida at Large

My commission expires _____

THE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS 2021–22 PARTICIPATION CONTRACT & MEDIA RELEASE

I have read and retained a copy of the Chorus Handbook, and I understand all the information that the Chorus Handbook contains. I hereby **elect** to be a participating member of the Western High School Chorus and will abide by the rules governing rehearsals, concerts, scheduling, schedule changes, after-school events, retreat, trips, uniforms, and “Fair Share”. **I understand how grades will be assessed.** I also understand that in order to participate in any extracurricular activities including sports, students must maintain a grade no lower than “C” in **Chorus, which is not an extracurricular activity.**

As a parent of a student in Broward County Public Schools and the Western High School Chorus, I understand that my child may be photographed, videotaped or interviewed by the news media or by the School District for informational and/or promotional purposes. I understand that pictures and interviews may be used on the District’s website, in School District publications, external publications and electronic media as indicated below. By signing below, I affirm that **I WILL** permit my child to be photographed, videotaped, and/or interviewed for school publications, such as school yearbooks, school newspapers, class pictures, school and/or District websites, social media, BECON TV, or for other communication tools by Broward County Public Schools or its approved vendors. I understand the District may be required to release this information if requested by the media or other members of the public (i.e., public records requests). Note: Your home address, phone number, email address, child’s name, teacher’s name and room number may be released in order to facilitate school-based publications.

Refusal to sign does not excuse students or parents from the requirements in the Handbook, which serves as the course syllabus.

Return this form immediately to receive full credit.

 Parent/Guardian

Print name

Date

Signature

E-mail address (please PRINT clearly)

Cell phone with area code

 Parent/Guardian

Print name

Date

Signature

E-mail address (please PRINT clearly)

Cell phone with area code

 Student

Print name

Student number

Date

Grade

Pd.

Signature

E-mail address (please PRINT clearly)

Cell phone with area code

THE WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS PERMISSION FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

I, the undersigned, hereby grant _____ (student name) permission to participate in all scheduled activities (see calendar) as a member of the WHS Choral Department.

Students should be properly insured. Western High School teachers and chaperones will not be held liable for accidents occurring during choral activities. Parents are reminded that the "at-school" Student Accident Insurance available does NOT cover overnight trips under any circumstances. Parents should have "24 hour" or "around the clock" insurance coverage available through the school or family agent to ensure coverage on overnight trips.

I, the undersigned, being the parent, legal next of kin, or legal guardian of _____ (student name) hereby authorize any necessary medical treatment, to include the administration of any medication, as prescribed by the attending doctor for this student while on a trip with Western High School Chorus. I also guarantee payment of all charges incurred during any medical treatment.

This form MUST be notarized

✍ Parent Contact Information

PARENT(S) NAME		Signature (made in witness of Notary)
	Type/print	
ADDRESS		
	Number & street	City ZIP
PHONE		
	Home	Business
	Cellular	Emergency or Neighbor Contact
ALTERNATE CONTACT		
	Name Relationship	Phone

✍ Medical Information

	YES	NO	Describe
Does student have any allergies to food, medications, etc?	_____	_____	
Does student have special medical problems?	_____	_____	
Is the student on continuing medication? (If YES, state and describe dosage)	_____	_____	
			Name/dosage

Date of last tetanus shot _____

Family Physician

Name	Office phone
Number & Street	City

☐ **Insurance company & policy number**
(or clip copy of insurance card - **DO NOT STAPLE**) _____
OR

☐ **I do not have insurance, however I will pay any and all medical bills for my child.** _____
(please initial)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

Notary Public
State of Florida at Large

My commission expires _____