

WEST SPRINGFIELD CHORAL ARTS



{hand}book 2018-2019

Mr. Dustin Brandt, director
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www.spartanchoir.com

Welcome

Dear Students and Parents:

I am so excited to welcome you to the West Springfield Choral Arts Department. My goal for each student in the choral department is to have a positive experience making music and to develop a strong sense of self by providing engaging, creative, and challenging opportunities through an atmosphere that demands self-respect, a positive community, and hard work.

I have provided a handbook for you and your student to read over. It is devised as a reference for the director, parents, and students. The information contained in the book will answer many of your questions and help to alleviate any misunderstandings later in the year. Please read over the information with your student and sign the back page of the booklet.

I encourage students and parents to contact me at any point during the year should you have questions or concerns. E-mail is usually the easiest way to reach me, as I am not usually near the phone during the school day. I am looking forward to making beautiful music together.

Please return the last page of the handbook by

Friday, September 14th, 2018.

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at dtbrandt@fcps.edu.

Sincerely,

Mr. Dustin Brandt
Choral Arts Director
West Springfield High School

Policies and Procedures

All students are expected to have read and comply with the following expectations:

1. Respect others. Respect yourself. Respect property. Respect performances.
2. Students will be assigned a black binder and pencil for chorus. In this binder, students are to keep all course materials distributed by the director and a sharpened pencil. Students must always use a pencil when marking music or when working on written assignments. This may be taken home, but you are responsible to bring it back to class the next day!
3. Gum chewing nor food or drink should be consumed in the choral classroom without Mr. Brandt's direct permission. **Only water is permitted.** Students are encouraged to have a water bottle with them every day.
5. Students are expected to arrive for class on time and prepared. When the bell rings, students need to be ready for the warm-up activity. Students who abuse the school attendance policy will be referred to their administrator for disciplinary action.
6. Unnecessary talking and disruptions will not be tolerated in the rehearsal setting. Student grades will reflect rehearsal technique and class performance assessments.
7. **Cell Phones** - Students are not allowed to have cell phones or gaming devices during class time, performances, or rehearsals. All phone volumes must be OFF during all rehearsals. Your phone will be confiscated and placed in the phone jail if it is seen out. Students who wish to do so may freely charge their phones in the phone jail, but they may not have access to their phone until the end of class. Students must place their phones in the phone jail before class starts. In addition parents who have cell phones out or on during performances may be subjected to the evil eye, uncomfortably long stares, aggravated whispering or awkward silences while we wait for your phone to stop ringing, or other forms of passive-aggressive forms of public humiliation.
8. **Choral students are required to attend all choral concerts in which their ensemble is performing.** Call times are published on the choral arts calendar, attached in this handbook and online at www.spartanchoir.com. Students will only be excused from a concert with a valid medical excuse. **Birthdays, family functions, lack of transportation, vacations, etc. are not valid excuses for missing a concert.** Please plan ahead. Please read the handbook sections regarding performance and rehearsal requirements.
9. All policies outlined for students of West Springfield High School are to be upheld, both on and off campus, as a member of the Choral Department.

Rehearsal Requirements

Afterschool rehearsals are a required part of the music department at West Springfield. In order for students in various choral classes to practice together, afterschool rehearsals are necessary. Dates will be announced at least two weeks in advance of any afterschool rehearsals not already scheduled on the annual calendar. There will always be at least one required afterschool rehearsal before a concert. Please check the attached calendar, **as well as the postings in the classroom** to confirm these rehearsals and times. Missing an after school rehearsal can be very costly to one's grade!

Students who do not pre-arrange an absence or conflict at least 2 weeks in advance will not be excused from rehearsals.

Performance Requirements

Performances are an extremely important part of music education. **Thus, students are required to perform in each of the main choral department performances this year.** Plan ahead! **As previously stated, students will only be excused from a concert with valid medical excuse.** Birthdays, family functions, lack of transportation, vacations, etc. are not valid excuses for missing a concert. **Unexcused absences from performance or rehearsal assessments cannot be made up.** **Retake performance assessments for students with valid excuses, made in advance, will be determined by the director if necessary.**

Students are expected to be fully dressed for every concert in order to participate. Students who are not dressed correctly will not perform and will receive no points towards their performance grade. **Students are to wear no jewelry and hair should be pinned back away from the face and be off the shoulders.**

The official choral calendar is available both in the classroom and at www.spartanchoir.com. Please take a moment to note all performances that are required and plan accordingly. The calendar is not set in stone, and any changes will be announced as soon as possible. As performance dates are added throughout the year, students will be notified within a reasonable amount of time to make necessary arrangements. Unique cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Grading Policies

1. In every course, students will receive a Visible Learning Guide that lists every objective students are expected to master. All Visible Learning Guide will be communicated and available to all students and parents via Google Classroom.
2. Students will receive feedback from their teachers for every objective listed in the Visible Learning Guide.
3. In every course, there will be a teacher designed system that allows students to track mastery by objective.
4. Level of mastery for all standards will be clearly communicated throughout the instructional continuum.

Students will be graded on a year-long grade book. The final grade will be the accumulated grades all four quarters. The final exam grade will be averaged into their fourth quarter grade as an exam grade. Our focus is to enhance student achievement by using standards- based grading to assess student learning. This will help students, the teacher, and parents understand which specific skills students are proficient in and which need improvement.

The *grading scale* for each term is set according to the FCPS/WSHS Grading Scale; the *number of points* will vary upon the numbers of tests, performances, etc. Students are expected to participate fully in daily rehearsals in the classroom, as they are informally assessed DAILY. Should a student be unable to sing due to illness they expected to observe the rehearsal and take notes in their music. Students who are sick will not be allowed to just sit and listen. If you are truly that ill, you will be excused to the clinic. Students will not receive full class work points if they do not have their music, do not have their pencil, or are not prepared for class in any way.

The SIS Parent Account provides up to date parent and guardian access to their child's student information, including attendance, report cards, class schedules, gradebook, course history, discipline, health, and school information. Parents with SIS Parents Accounts will automatically receive regular email progress reports with course grades to date." More information can be found by visiting this site: <https://www.fcps.edu/student-information-system-sis>

Student mastery will graded on the following rubric:

Category of Mastery (grade book abbreviation)	Raw Percentage of Graded Work	Point value earned (of 4)
Mastery (M)	88-100%	4
Consistently Demonstrates (C)	76-87%	3.4
Emerging (E)	64-75%	3
Not Demonstrated (N)	Below 63%	2.5
Refused (R)	Did not complete assignment	0

Homework/Late work/Retake

Homework is assigned via Google classroom. Homework is expected to be submitted on time. Graded late homework will receive a deduction of 10% from your score. Grades will be posted within one week of assessment. Students who are absent from assessments will have two weeks from the date of the assessment to make up their grade. Individual performance assessments can be retaken as many times as a student would like within one quarter and/or before the culminating concert within the quarter.

2018-2019 Calendar

9/11	7:00 PM	Fall Booster and Germany Interest Meeting	
9/14	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Deposit \$100 and All FORMS DUE	All Choirs
9/21	6:15 PM	Home game	Mads^
9/28	6:15 PM	Home game	Mads^
10/3-10/4	3:00-5:00	All That Jazz Auditions	
10/13	ALL DAY	Honors Choir Auditions – Longwood University	Seniors Only
10/13	8:30 AM-1:30 PM	Spartanfest	
10/13	5:15-5:30 PM	Germans Arrive at WSHS	Hosts Only
10/17	7:00-9:00 PM	Germans and Madrigal Rehearsal – Choir Room	Mads/Hosts
10/19	6:15 PM	Home game with Pyramid Choirs	Mads^
10/22	3:00-6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal at WSHS	All Choirs
10/23	6:00-9:00 PM	Fall Concert at WSHS	All Choirs
10/26	6:15 PM	Home game	Mads^
10/26	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Payment Due - \$100	
10/27	3:30-4:00	Take Germans to Dulles Airport	Hosts Only
11/10	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	District Choir Auditions - Centreville	
11/30	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Payment Due - \$200	
12/07	3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Breakfast with Santa Setup	All Choirs
12/08	8:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Breakfast with Santa	All Choirs
12/17	3:30-5:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal at WSHS	All Choirs
12/18	6:00 - 9:00 PM*	Winter Concert at WSHS	All Choirs
1/25	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Final Payment \$150+/- Balance	
1/30	6:00-9:00 PM	Pyramid Concert at WSHS	All Choirs
2/4-2/7	3:00-5:30 PM	All That Jazz Rehearsals	
2/8-2/9	7:00 – 9:00 PM	All That Jazz Performances	
2/14	5-9 PM	All VA Choir Auditions - Fairfax High School	
2/14-2/16	5-9 Th, 10-6 Fri, 9-2 Sat	District Choir - Fairfax High School	
3/12	6:00-9:00 PM*	Choir Pre-Assessment Concert- WSHS	All Choirs
3/21-22	4-9 Fri, 9-9 Sat	Choir Assessment - Woodson	All Choirs
3/28-3/30		Spring Trip to TBD	
4/4-4/6		All-VA Choir – Richmond VA	
5/21	3:30 - 5:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal WSHS Auditorium	All Choirs
5/22	6:00-9:30 PM*	Choir Concert WSHS Auditorium	All Choirs
6/3	6-9:30 PM	Choir Banquet	
5/23-6/20	3:30-5:00 PM	Rehearsals for Germany on Thursdays	
6/22-7/6		Germany	

Events in bold are part of the student's grade. In order to be excused from the events in bold, the director must receive an excuse in writing at least two weeks in advance.

^The Madrigals are expected to participate in every home game and playoff games as well as any caroling events that take place in December. Please give as much advance notice as possible if there is a conflict.

*All Concerts start at 7:00 PM with doors opening around 6:40 PM. 6:00 PM is the call time for all students. All concerts are held in the WSHS Auditorium unless otherwise noted and are open to the general public. Required concerts (events in bold) are free.

Please visit www.spartanchoir.com/calendar calendar updates and to download this calendar to your ical or google calendar

SIGNATURE FORM (TURN IN) DUE SEPTEMBER 14th

Please sign the statement below and return this and ALL OTHER FORMS to the chorus office by Friday, September 14th 2018.

We the Parents/Guardians of ♦ _____ have read the West Springfield High School Choral Arts handbook with our student and understand the policies of the WSHS Choral Arts department. We understand that the handbook outlines the basic curriculum and expectations for our student during their participation in the WSHS Choral Arts department.

(Print Student's name)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

- I have completed the **Choir Survey and Germany Survey** on Google forms – available at Google Classroom.
- I have printed out the emergency care card from Google Classroom and attached it to this form.
- PARENTS – I HAVE read the financial obligation form and **I will submit the \$35 choir fee via MySchoolBucks by September 14th 2018**
- I would like to participate in the **Spring Trip**. My \$100 Deposit is attached.
- I have chosen one of the choir uniform options and have purchased it through www.landsend.com or www.jcpenny.com
- I have read this handbook and understand the obligations that are requested or required of me as a member of Spartan Choir.

♦ _____
Parent/guardian signature Date

♦ _____
Student signature Date