

# WEST SPRINGFIELD CHORAL ARTS



## {hand}book 2019-2020

Mr. Dustin Brandt, director  
email: dtbrandt@fcps.edu  
phone: 703.913.3932 - room: 2119  
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 13th, 2019.**

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at [dtbrandt@fcps.edu](mailto: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 and performers.
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. During class, all cell phones are to be placed in students' backpacks and backpacks are to be placed at the front of the room.
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 in blackboard, in the google classroom, attached in this handbook and online at [www.spartanchoir.com](http://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 and are considered UNEXCUSED. Unexcused absences will result in a zero grade for the performance assessment.** 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.

### FCPSOn Students Responsible Use Guidelines

1. Students are expected to bring their fully-charged laptops to class daily. The device should be powered off completely, one time per day.
2. All files should be saved in Blackboard or Google Apps for Education, not on the computer hard drive

## Rehearsal Requirements

After school rehearsals are a required part of the music department at West Springfield. In order for students in various choral classes to practice together, after school rehearsals are necessary. Dates will be announced at least two weeks in advance of any after school 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 google classroom** to confirm these rehearsals and times.

**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.** **Make-up 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 google classroom and at [www.spartanchoir.com](http://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 for all four quarters. 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%	3.6
Emerging (E)	64-75%	3.2
Not Demonstrated (N)	Below 63%	2.8
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.

9/13	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Deposit \$100 and <b>All FORMS DUE</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
9/13	6:15 PM	Home game	Mads^
9/27	6:15 PM	Home game	Mads^
10/04	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Deposit \$300	
10/11	6:15 PM	Home game	Mads^
10/12	ALL DAY	Honors Choir Auditions – Longwood University	Seniors Only
10/18	6:15 PM	Home game with Pyramid Choirs	Mads^
<b>10/29</b>	<b>3:00-6:30 PM</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal at WSHS</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
<b>10/30</b>	<b>6:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>Fall Concert at WSHS/Choir Parent Meeting</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
11/01	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Payment Due - \$300	
11/08	6:15 PM	Home game – Senior Night	Mads^
11/09	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	District Choir Auditions - Centreville	
12/06	\$\$\$ Due	Spring Trip Final Payment - \$200+/- Balance	
12/13	3:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Breakfast with Santa Setup	All Choirs
12/14	8:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Breakfast with Santa	All Choirs
<b>12/16</b>	<b>3:30-5:30 PM</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal at WSHS</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>6:00 - 9:00 PM*</b>	<b>Winter Concert at WSHS</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
1/25-1/28		Disney Trip, Orlando Florida	
<b>2/03</b>	<b>6:00 - 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Pyramid Concert</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
2/13	5-9 PM	All VA Choir Auditions - WSHS	Audition
2/13-2/15	5-9 Th, 10-6 Fri, 9-2 Sat	District Choir - WSHS	Audition
3/14	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Rehearsal with City Choir of Washington	Mads Only
3/15	2:00 – 5:30 PM	City Choir of Washington Performance	Mads Only
<b>3/17</b>	<b>6:00-9:00 PM*</b>	<b>Choir Pre-Assessment Concert- WSHS</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
<b>3/20-21</b>	<b>Friday-Saturday</b>	<b>Choir Assessment – Lake Braddock</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
4/23-4/25		All-VA Choir – Richmond VA	Audition
<b>5/11</b>	3:00-5:00 PM	Rehearsal – Spring Concert	All Choirs
<b>5/12</b>	3:00-5:00 PM	Rehearsal – Spring Concert	All Choirs
<b>5/13</b>	<b>3:00-5:00 PM</b>	<b>Rehearsal – Spring Concert</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
<b>5/14</b>	<b>6:00-10:00 PM</b>	<b>Spring Concert at WSHS</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>
6/1	6-9:30 PM	Choir Banquet	
6/2	8:00 AM	Graduation – GMU	Mads

**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](http://www.spartanchoir.com/calendar) calendar updates and to download this calendar to your ical or google calendar**

**SIGNATURE FORM (TURN IN) DUE SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Please sign the statement below and return this and ALL OTHER FORMS to the chorus office by Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 2019.**

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** 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 \$30 choir fee via MySchoolBucks by September 13<sup>th</sup> 2019**
- 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 MySchoolBucks
- 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