

Vocal Music Handbook, 2013-14

Wabasha-Kellogg High School

Course: Vocal Music (senior high)
Schedule: 8:35-9:10 a.m. daily (Monday-Friday)
Teacher: Dean Gunnarson
Contact Info: 651-565-3559, ext. 120 (high school)
dgunnarson@wabasha-kellogg.k12.mn.us
FOR UP-TO-DATE COMMUNICATION, FIND US ON FACEBOOK at
“W-K Vocal Music.”

Course Goals

In this course, students will learn the skills for leadership and life success through the medium of vocal music. Technically, students will be challenged to expand their singing and musical capabilities and sensitivity. A wide variety of course activities include group singing, solo and small group singing, voice training, and music reading. In addition, a variety of listening and analysis activities will stimulate a personal understanding of how music works. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of music genres and styles from classical to contemporary. Students will demonstrate learning through individual and group performance and through weekly quizzes, quarter/semester/unit tests, and other writing assignments.

Required Course Materials

- 1 folder (for music and handouts)
- 1 notebook (for notes and writing assignments).
- 1 pencil (for writing notes and reminders in your music – NEVER use a pen for this).
- 1 pen (for taking notes)
- Dress clothes for concerts (see later notes)
- A great attitude (daily)

Grade Expectations

All students begin the quarter with an “A” grade. A student who gives 100% on a daily basis, completes all assignments to the best of their ability, sings all performances, and follows directions/contributes well and responsibly should expect to retain an “A” or “B” grade. Students do not sing to earn a grade. They sing because they need to sing, because they love to sing, and want to get increasingly better. Students will be given end-of-the-week quizzes for ongoing formative learning assessment purposes. Weekly quizzes are not linked to quarter grades. However, unit or end-of-quarter/semester tests will be reflected in the term grade.

Lettering

All high school choir students have the opportunity to earn an All-School Letter in choir by meeting certain qualifications. See the Fine Arts Letter sheet for further information on this.

MSHSL Fine Arts Eligibility Statement

All high school vocal music students need to get (from the HS office), complete, and return a Fine Arts Eligibility Statement ASAP. Part of this involves a MSHSL-mandated orientation. Students who have gone through that orientation this year already because of athletics do not need to re-do it as it is applicable to both.

Concerts

The primary learning activity is studying and learning select choral songs. Students will demonstrate their learning in choir concerts and other performances throughout the school year. Performances are divided into Category A and Category B events. Category A performances are:

1st semester

December 12 (Thursday), 7 p.m. – winter choir concert (Auditorium)

2nd semester

March 4 (Tuesday), 7 p.m. – “Large Group” choir/band concert (Auditorium)

March 11 (Tuesday), school day – “Large Group” contests (Lake City)

May 13 (Tuesday), 7 p.m. – spring choir concert (Auditorium)

ALL students are expected to participate in the FOUR Category A performances. Absences due to significant illness or family funeral are exceptions to this policy. All other performances are Category B performances. Students are expected to perform at Category B performances when it applies. Category B absences need to be approved by the director in advance (excepting illness) and a makeup assignment shall be completed to receive replacement points towards a grade.

Due to the critical importance of these “performance” assignments, an unexcused absence or an “unmade up” excused absence will result in a lower student grade by approximately 2 full grade levels (i.e. A to C, B to D, or C to F). A makeup assignment will likely entail watching an educational video as selected by the director, taking notes on the video, writing a one-page response, and returning all three items to the director for grading.

Concert Dress

Students are expected to dress up for all concerts. When robes are worn, men should wear dark blue or black slacks and dress shoes. Ladies should wear dark blue or black skirts or dress slacks with dress closed-toe shoes. Blue jeans and athletic shoes are discouraged. If robes are not worn, then dress clothes are expected. In the event that other costuming is needed, that will be announced in advance. If you do not have and cannot afford said items, please see the director as I have clothing here that can be used. Parents, if you have good concert clothing or shoes that your student has grown out of, please consider donating them to our wardrobe.

Food/Gum/Beverages

In accordance with school policy, student may not bring food/gum/beverages to class. A waste basket at the door is available for students to remove gum when entering vocal music class.

Electronic Devices

As per school policy; cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices will not be allowed during classes (except when directed by the teacher). Students with visible devices will be required to immediately turn them in to the school administrator or office personnel.

iPad/Schoology

Teachers and 9th grade students this year have iPads to use for classroom learning opportunities. As high school choir has more than 9th grade students, I won't be able to use iPads in class to the extent I would like. However, as the year progresses, I hope to get more learning content, assessments, grades, and other classroom uses up on the Schoology website that students can access through their iPads and other computers. As that happens, I will provide more information.

Website

A new school website is under construction. This new site when fully launched will host lots of critical information for the coming year including class information and forms, gradebook access, lunch payment options, and contact information to reach me and other staff. It will also be a place where students can complete and turn in miscellaneous class assignments. Two quick assignments are on there right now that need to be completed before Monday, August 19. To access those, go to the temporary website <http://www.wabashkellog.portal.rschooltoday.com/>. Go to High School – Academics – Music – Choir – Senior Choir and fill out and submit online the “Student Schedule” and the “Student Questionnaire.”

Concessions

The W-K Choir has been greatly blessed by the W-K School Booster Club. This has allowed us to be able to attend the MN Opera, Dorian Music Festival, and do other neat things. However, to be able to access that financial support, choir students and parents are needed to run concessions at one or more athletic events throughout the year. This is a fun but critical activity. Information will be forthcoming about when we will be expected to work concessions.

W-K Hosting Conference and Subsection Events – ALL NEEDED

The Wabasha-Kellogg Music Department will be hosting TWO special events this year: the 3 Rivers Honor Band/Choir Festival on Monday, November 4 (all day) and the Subsection Solo/Ensemble Contests on Tuesday, April 8 from 4-10 p.m. ALL choir and band students and parents will be requested and expected to help us effectively discharge these responsibilities in at least one if not both of these events. This will involve making and serving food, managing the office area and responsibilities, hosting individual adjudication rooms, setting up and tearing down, and many other items. Ms. Scheibe and I will be providing more information and recruiting students/parents to specific tasks as we get closer.

The Opera

The WK Senior Choir will be traveling to the Minnesota Opera to attend Mozart’s highly popular opera “The Magic Flute” on Friday, April 1. This is an amazing event to attend and tickets for this event normally range from \$35 to \$200. [There are no athletic meets scheduled that day but it will be the day of state speech contests]. The bus will be leaving at 8 a.m. and returning by 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$10/person (students and chaperones). Students need to submit \$10 and a parental permission slip to Mr. G by Tuesday, August 27 so that I can submit a ticket order later that week. We will also be able to take 3 chaperones, the first 3 to contact the director.

Voice Lessons

Voice lessons will be provided to all HS choir students at no cost. [These lessons would normally cost \$30/lesson outside of school.] A regular lesson schedule will be set up during the school day on a 2-3 week rotating basis. Students are required to attend at least 3 lessons/quarter. Students working on solos and ensembles will want to sign up for weekly lessons (as time is available). If a student is absent from school and misses their lesson, they will need to make that up by the end of the following week. Ongoing singing assessment will be conducted during student lessons.

Solo Performing Opportunities

One of the most powerful means of growing as a singer is through performing. W-K students will have the opportunity to perform in a variety of vocal performances and recitals throughout the year. In addition, students are encouraged to sing at various venues in the community as frequently as possible (i.e. at church, singing the national anthem at games, for honor choirs, etc.). When performing, music should always be memorized and students should begin rehearsal at least 1.5 to 2 months before the performance date. Here are some of the possible solo opportunities.

October 14 (Monday), 7 p.m. – Musical Theatre recital

January or February – possible Jazz recital

April 4 (Friday), 7 & 8 p.m. – Solo/Ensemble recital

April 8 (Tuesday), 4-10 p.m. – Solo/Ensemble contests here)

May 20 (Tuesday) – Pop recital

National Anthem

Mr. Stewart has asked that choir students start each of the local athletic events by singing the National Anthem. This is a neat opportunity to practice singing in front of people and getting used to the normal performance jitters. A sign-up schedule will be posted in the choir room for choir students to sign up on. Students can also earn letter points by doing this.

When You are Absent from Choir

Absence of 1 or 2 days

Check with teacher when you return as to whether there were any assignments or assessments that need to be made up. Otherwise, don't worry about it.

Absence of 3 or more days

Students shall check out and watch one or more music videos of their choosing from a specific collection as indicated by teacher. While watching, student will take notes on the video(s). After watching the video, the student shall write a 1 page personal response responding to what they saw/learned. The a) notes and b) personal response may be hand written or typed. The personal response shall be written using complete sentences and with proper writing style. It is not necessary to edit or write additional drafts of one's response however. The total length of video time to be watched shall be as follows:

3-4 days – ca. 60 minutes

5-6 days – ca. 90 minutes

7-8 days – ca. 2 hours

9-10 days – ca. 2.5 hours

Please see Mr. Gunnarson for a Makeup Work form with all the details. Upon completion, the following items will be submitted.

- video(s)
- notes
- personal response(s)
- VCR or VCR/TV (if borrowed)

Failure to complete the assignment will result in an incomplete grade for the respective quarter, which will convert to a lower quarter grade if not completed within the allowable school time for making up an assignment.

Kwik Trip Gas Cards Fundraiser

Last year, the W-K Music Department participated in an excellent fundraising opportunity that brought in much needed funds to purchase instruments and supplies for music classes and financially supported our other activities. With school budgets around the country being as they are, the money that is raised through this is extremely helpful. Information and order forms will be available in later November and December. The essence of the drive is as follows.

**Do you Buy Gas or Groceries
at Kwik Trip?**

IF SO

Buy Kwik Trip Gas/Gift Cards from Us!

**10% of every purchase goes directly to support
MUSIC in the Wabasha-Kellogg Schools.**

<u>Kwik Trip Gas Card Purchase</u>	<u>Music Program Receives</u>
\$10	\$1
\$25	\$2.50
\$50	\$5
\$100	\$10
\$500	\$50
\$1000	\$100

**Makes a great “stocking stuffer” or present for
kids, parents, associates, employees, friends!**

***Gas/Gift Cards come in denominations of \$10, \$25, and \$50.
Buy one! Buy 10! Buy for yourself! Buy for friends!***

