

Waubonsie Valley High School

2025-2026 Music Department Handbook

Dear Warrior Music Families,

Welcome to the Waubonsie Valley Music Department. We are eager to welcome new and returning families as well as Mr. Hairston, our new band director.

Although we know you are inundated with materials to read at the beginning of the school year, we urge you to take time to become familiar with the information in this handbook. Our years of experience have shown us that clear expectations and consistent application of our policies leads to the greatest success and enjoyment for our students. There is a list of action items below to help you focus on the most important parts of this handbook first.

Action items:

1. Please read information from each of these sources:
 - a. Music Department Handbook
 - b. Supplemental Handbook for Band, Choir, or Orchestra.
2. Review the calendar for your area and put all relevant dates on your family calendar.
3. Read the Concert Attendance Policy to understand how you may request an excused absence if absolutely necessary. This will help avoid unfortunate circumstances at stressful times of the year for all involved.
4. Carefully review Concert Attire needs and order through those links or another vendor soon to ensure students have what they need before concerts begin.
5. Read and submit the Music Handbook [Parent Signature Page](#) by Monday, August 25.

Quality communication is a priority for the WVHS Music Department. Please be sure you keep a current email address and phone number in ParentVUE so we can reach you when needed. We encourage you to email or call your director when you have any questions or concerns so we can provide answers and support as quickly as possible.

Thank you for being a part of the WVHS Music family. We are honored to spend four years with your family!

Sincerely,
WVHS Music Staff

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2. [Performance Attendance Policy](#) - Please be sure to read and understand this policy
3. [WVHS Music & Athletics Attendance Policy](#)
4. Supplemental Handbook Information - **Please be sure to review information for the area that pertains to your family.**

[Band Handbook Supplement](#)

[Choir Handbook Supplement](#)

[Orchestra Handbook Supplement](#)

- Supplemental Handbooks will assist in finding area specific information including:
 - Communication Opportunities
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 - [WVHS Music Makeup/Late Work Request Form](#)
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- 5. [Music Handbook Parent Signature Page](#) - Return by August 25, 2025

WVHS MUSIC STAFF

Band

Chris Dandeles - chris_dandeles@ipsd.org - 630-375-3300 x55682

- Courses Taught: Symphonic Band, Symphonic Winds, Concert Band Percussion, and Band Technique Classes
- Co-curriculars: Marching Warriors, Pep Band, Percussion Ensemble, World Beat

Mark Duker - mark_duker@ipsd.org - 630-375-3300 x33721

- Courses Taught: Wind Ensemble
- Co-curriculars: Marching Warriors, Big Band, Musical Pit Orchestra

James Hairston - james_hairston@ipsd.org - 630-375-3271

- Courses Taught: Concert Band, Wind Symphony, Band Technique Classes
- Co-curriculars: Marching Warriors (Director), Pep Band, Jazz Band/Jazz Ensemble

Choir

Axel Hageman - axel_hageman@ipsd.org - 630-375-3300 x 55864

- Courses Taught: Cecillian Singers, Bass Choir (Both sections), Varsity Singers, Music Production, Varsity Chamber small ensembles
- Co-curriculars: Show Choir, Musical

Chelsea King - chelsea_king@ipsd.org - 630-375-3300 x 55727

- Courses Taught: Cecillian Singers, Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Varsity Chamber, AP Music Theory
- Co-curriculars: Mosaic Choir, Mosaic Ensemble, Cloud 9, Pink Notes, Una Voce, Musical

Orchestra

Daniel Beder - daniel_beder@ipsd.org - 630-375-3300 x55665

- Courses Taught: Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Strings, Chamber Strings, Concert Strings/Orchestra Technique Classes

Shawnita Tyus - shawnita_tyus@ipsd.org - 630-375-3282

- Courses Taught: Chamber Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, Concert Strings, Symphonic Orchestra/Strings Technique Classes
- Co-curriculars: Warrior Strings

Department Chair

- Mark Duker - mark_duker@ipsd.org - 630-375-3266

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY

A performance is the culminating experience that results from many weeks of preparation. Attendance at concerts and dress rehearsals is mandatory.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

An absence from a scheduled music performance is considered excused ONLY if pre-approved by a director. To request an excused absence, a parent or guardian should email their child's teacher **at least four weeks before the performance**. If approved as an excused absence, a make-up assignment will be offered for full credit. Potentially excused absences include:

Family

An absence due to a wedding, funeral, or religious holiday may be considered an excused absence as long as the director receives a parent email or phone call four weeks prior to the performance or soon after if it is an emergency.

WVHS-Sponsored State Events

State sports or performance events may be considered an excused absence once the director receives a parent or coach email or phone call prior to the performance. We will follow the WVHS Music and Athletics policy agreed upon by both departments. That policy follows this section of the Music Handbook.

Medical

An absence due to illness will be excused if the student is excused from school through the attendance office on the day of the performance. If the student gets sick in the afternoon of the performance after attending school that day, the absence will be excused with a parent email or phone call.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

The following absences are considered UNEXCUSED (no make-up assignment will be given and performance points will not be earned)

Absence Without Prior Notification

If an absence occurs that falls under one of the categories of EXCUSED absences, but the instructor does not receive an email or phone call a minimum of four weeks prior to the performance, the potentially EXCUSED absence will then be deemed UNEXCUSED. An unexcused absence will result in a zero in the gradebook.

Scheduling

Work conflicts, practices/rehearsals for other activities, forgetting, or missing a concert for any other reason will not be considered excused.

WVHS Music and Athletics Attendance Policy- *Adopted 2013*

The WVHS staff believes:

- WVHS students should be encouraged and allowed to be involved in multiple curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular interests.
- Involvement in multiple organizations is likely to result in unavoidable conflicts.
- Students are responsible for being aware of calendars at the start of each season and informing coaches and directors of conflicts immediately to allow for planning and compromise.
- It is the responsibility of the WVHS staff, not the students, to find resolutions to conflicts.
- Every effort should be made by WVHS staff to avoid scheduling events in conflict with one another. When conflicts do exist, initial attempts will be made to adjust schedules to allow students to participate fully in each organization whenever possible.

Explanation of conflict resolution:

1. Curricular music performance / Varsity Playoff Game – Coach and director will resolve conflict and inform the student of the resolution. Curricular music performances will have priority over non-varsity playoff games.
2. Curricular music performance / Athletic game – Curricular performance has priority
3. Curricular music rehearsal / Athletic game – Athletic game has priority
4. Curricular music rehearsal / Athletic practice – Coach and director will resolve conflict, typically with a 50/50 split of the amount of time a student misses.
5. Co-curricular performance / Athletic game – Coach and director will resolve conflict.
6. Co-curricular performance / Athletic practice – Co-curricular performance has priority.
7. Co-curricular rehearsal / Athletic practice - Coach and director will resolve conflict, typically with a 50/50 split of the amount of time a student misses.

Additional Information:

- Any conflict that evolves due to an altered schedule will give priority to the regularly scheduled event.
- Non-WVHS athletic and music organizations will not be included with this conflict policy
- Playing and performance time will not be affected when a student has a direct conflict between two WVHS organizations that was identified when all calendars became available.
- The Athletic Director and Fine Arts Department Chair will meet twice each year to coordinate calendars and identify concert and game conflicts.

Academic Integrity Statement

We believe that learning best occurs in an atmosphere of academic honesty in which students have developed a high sense of responsibility and exhibit a high standard of integrity. This is accomplished through the cooperative efforts of students, parents/guardians, and teachers. Although there is a priority to excel placed on students by the society in which we live, we will not tolerate nor condone academic dishonesty.

WVHS Band Handbook Supplement

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COMMUNICATION

Quality two-way communication is key to a successful school year. In addition to our website and class email, additional resources are available to assist with communication.

WVHS Band **Website:** <http://www.wvhsmusic.org/band.html>

WVHS Band **Twitter:** @waubonsieband

WVHS Band **Instagram:** @waubonsieband

To join **Remind** (texting), please text the code provided below to 81010

Parents will need to use their student's account to access **Google Classroom**

Ensembles taught by Chris Dandeleo		
<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Google Classroom Code</u>	<u>Remind Code</u>
Symphonic Band	auto-enroll	@wvsb1
Symphonic Winds	auto-enroll	@wvsw1
Concert Band Percussion	tjbk2k8	@cbperc1
Pep Band	N/A	@WVPepBand
Percussion Ensemble	tskuw4	@wvpe1
World Beat	N/A	@wvwb1

Ensembles taught by Mark Duker		
<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Google Classroom Code</u>	<u>Remind Code</u>
Wind Ensemble	auto-enroll	@we202425
Honors Wind Ensemble	auto-enroll	@we202425
Big Band	tjx2e3	@wvbig

Ensembles taught by James Hairston		
<u>Ensemble</u>	<u>Google Classroom Code</u>	<u>Remind Code</u>
Concert Band	Auto-Enroll	@wvcb25
Wind Symphony	Auto-Enroll	@wvws1
Marching Warriors	slbo298	@wvmarch
Pep Band	N/A	@WVPepBand
Jazz Ensemble		@wvjazz25
Symphonic Band & Symphonic Winds Percussion Classes	N/A	N/A

MUSIC CALENDARS

The WVHS Music Department provides many important performance opportunities each year. Here are calendar resources that should keep you informed and help avoid any schedule conflicts.

- You may access our full Google Calendar on the main page of our website.
- We also have a link on our website next to the Google Calendar that will provide a “refrigerator ready” quick reference listing of concert events.
- [Please click here for a detailed calendar of band events.](#)

GRADING

WVHS utilizes an online grade book program that allows students and parents to check grades at any time from your computer at home. While this system provides a valuable tool for tracking student progress, there are some things to be aware of concerning the way it presents band grades. The following items should provide some clarification about how to interpret your child’s band grade.

There are 6 weighted categories in the semester band grade as listed in the music handbook. The first five categories will factor together as 90% of a final semester grade plus 10% from the final exam.

1. **20% for Class Work:** Our time together is valuable, and student grades will reflect the great work we will be doing during our class sessions. The “class work” component of the grade will include music making, discussions, and activities that are done during our class sessions. Students are expected to be “in” rehearsal: engaged, participating and responding through reflections.

2. **20% for Performances:** Live musical performances will be the culminating product of several weeks of work. The performances are the final product and important points of closure after weeks of refinement.
3. **15% for Assignments:** Students will be responsible for completing a variety of assignments to be assessed and track progress. Assignments may include recorded submissions of music, video responses, written worksheets, and written reflections.
4. **25% for Technique/Sectional Reports:** Students will have assignments designed to help them develop as individual musicians. These assignments ensure that students are developing the skills necessary for successful music-making in high school and beyond. Technique will occur weekly, and consist of exercises, etudes, and solos that develop students' technical control of their instruments and musical understanding.
5. **10% for Concert Review & Reflection:** Listening and reflecting is an invaluable element in a student's musical development. Each semester, students are expected to attend two live performances (ideally high school, college, or professional) and provide a selfie and short written impression.
6. **10% for Semester Final:** The semester final will be a final project that reflects a semester's worth of learning and musical development.

Two of these categories, Concert Attendance and Concert Review, will not be fully factored into a student's grade until the last week of the quarter. The reason is because our concerts typically do not occur until very close to the end of the quarter, and the concert review can be turned in for full credit until the deadline near the end of the quarter. This means that 30% of your student's quarterly grade will not be shown until that final week of the quarter. Whether or not students complete those assignments successfully can make a significant difference in a final grade.

One of the most important things for parents to look at is the number of Technique Classes or Sectionals your student has attended. Each student is required to attend Technique Class every week, or Sectionals for Wind Ensemble members. If you see a "z" in a technique column, this means that your child has not attended that technique class and will be receiving a zero until that class is made-up. [Please see the Reassessment Policy for information on late work.](#) Even if a student has an excused absence from school they should contact their technique teacher within one week to schedule a make-up time. An "X" in the gradebook means that your student was excused from technique that week and their grade is not impacted (i.e. - there was no school on their technique day). An "X" does not require that work is made up. Please continue to check your child's technique attendance and help to remind them to come every week.

Online grades are updated by different teachers at different intervals. The band staff typically updates grades a minimum of every two weeks. Please keep in mind that your child's band director may not be their technique teacher. If a student's technique scores have not been posted within two weeks of their attendance, please contact their band director.

Hopefully this will provide some clarification on how online grading reflects the band grade. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's band director.

REASSESSMENT POLICY

The music department is committed to providing students with opportunities to demonstrate growth through reassessment. Students who seek to demonstrate greater content mastery may contact their instructor to learn about reassessment opportunities. Students will be asked to complete [this form](#) as part of the reassessment process.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are the best way to support your child's music education. Having weekly contact with a specialist on their instrument gives students an enormous advantage and dramatically increases the likelihood of success. [Please click here to go to the private lesson page on our website for lists of teachers.](#)

CONCERT ATTIRE

To maintain a quality appearance at concerts, students are required to purchase Concert Attire for concert performances. We have made an effort to keep this simple and cost effective.

The Wind Ensemble requires black suits or black dresses.

For all other bands, concert attire is all black, with the option for a black button-down dress shirt or a black cowl-neck blouse on top. On the bottom, students should wear black dress pants or a black T-length skirt with black shoes and socks/stockings.

Please click on the appropriate link to view your Concert Attire options and access links to purchase online. **We will not be having a professional company come to the building this year to measure students and take orders.**

Concert attire should be obtained by families before October 1.

[Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Winds & Wind Symphony Concert Attire Form](#)

[Wind Ensemble Concert Attire Form](#)

DAILY REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Class begins when the bell rings. The warm-up will begin two minutes after the bell rings, so be quick about getting your materials ready for rehearsal. Students arriving after the bell should bring their pass immediately to the director. If you are late and do not have a pass, please go back and get one from the last period's teacher or you will receive a tardy.

Be prepared for a successful rehearsal. Students should come to rehearsal prepared with their instrument, music, pencil, and any other necessary materials. Please communicate any issues with the director before the rehearsal starts. If an instrument is out for repair, students are expected to get a loaner from the repair store. Students should never be in class without an instrument.

Keep our band room a clean place to make music and learn. No food, beverage, or gum will be allowed in the band room.

Class ends with the bell. Rehearsals will conclude with two minutes remaining for students to put away instruments, music, etc. Please wait until the bell to leave the band room.

Students that play eligible instruments may be able to use a school-owned instrument (i.e. tubas, French horns, euphoniums, tenor/bari saxophones, bass clarinets, etc.). Students who fail to properly care for school-owned instruments may lose the privilege to use one.

Technique Class is a scheduled class. Please be at class on time with your materials so that we can get the most out of the time. Unless you are out of the building for a school activity or excused absence, you are expected to attend your technique class. All Technique Class absences are expected to be made-up unless it was canceled by your director. Any unexcused technique absence is considered truant and may be referred to a class house.

A WV ID with a technique sticker is required to leave the lunch area to travel to weekly technique classes. Students are allowed to spend lunch in the music area only on the days during which they have a rehearsal or technique class. Students may not leave the music area until the end of the period.

Cell Phones - At Waubonsie Valley, our expectation is that cell phones will not interfere with the learning process. In the band room, that looks like phones in cell

phone pockets unless specifically requested in class that day.

REDIRECTION POLICY

The music department will follow these steps to support appropriate behavior:

- Private conversation with student
- Communication with parent
- Support from class house
- Tardies will result in a referral

MUSIC & FOLDERS

Each band member is issued his/her own folder and folder slot. All music issued is the responsibility of the student.

Replacements for damaged or lost materials: Music: \$5 per original copy

Books: current replacement cost of the book

Folders: current replacement cost of the folder

LOCKERS

Lockers are for instrument storage only. You may be asked to share a locker. You will need to provide a combination lock and register the combination with your director. Students are expected to keep their instruments locked in their locker whenever not in use. WVHS Bands are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

SEATING

Part assignments are made by each band director. While rotating parts for players is a consideration, other considerations include attendance consistency, daily preparation, and appropriate playing ranges.

CLASS MATERIALS

Materials Utilized by Everyone

Your instrument

Instruments should be in good working order at all times. Students who use school-owned instruments are required to purchase their own mouthpiece.

Pencil

Students are required to keep a pencil with an eraser in their school music folder for daily rehearsals. No permanent marks should be made on any music.

Technique Class Materials (some will be provided digitally)

Winds:

Concert Band

Symphonic Band & Winds

Tradition of Excellence: Technique & Musicianship

Embouchure Boot Camp

Rubank Intermediate & Rubank Advanced Vol 1

Wind Symphony

Rubank Advanced Method Vol. I

Rubank Advanced Method Vol. II (after Vol. 1)

Percussion:

The Compleat Percussionist

Digital copies and classroom sets are provided.

Required band method books

Students will have access to digital copies of the technique materials. Students that would prefer hard-copies for reading and practicing may purchase the books from a music vendor.

INSTRUMENT SPECIFIC MATERIALS

WOODWINDS

Minimum of four (4) reeds (in perfect playing condition); cleaning cloth.

**Vandoren Reeds are recommended for Saxophone and Clarinet.

BRASS

Valve oil/slide cream; cleaning cloth; straight, cup, and harmon mutes as required by the literature being performed.

PERCUSSION

Percussionists are required to play a wide variety of instruments in a number of settings and genres. While instruments will be provided for use, percussion students at Waubonsie Valley are required to own a basic “arsenal” of sticks and mallets. Listed below are the basic required materials and some suggested models. It is common for percussionists to add new sticks and/or mallets each year throughout their high school career as their skills continue to improve.

**Each student is expected to own a basic setup, including:
one stick bag, one pair of concert-style drum sticks, one pair of drumset-style drumsticks, one pair of general timpani mallets, one pitch pipe or Tonal Energy Phone App, and two pairs of matching marimba mallets (matching set of 4).**

Below is a list of suggested models that have proven to work for our instruments and ensembles. Please do not choose something that is not on this list without first consulting Mr. Dandele. Sticks and mallets have a SIGNIFICANT impact on each player’s tone and technique, so please choose wisely.

SUGGESTED MODELS FOR ALL STUDENTS (preferred models are marked with *)

Concert Snare Drum Sticks (1 pair)

*Vic Firth Tim Genis STG

(Alternatives may include: Innovative Percussion CL-1, IP-JC, or Vic Firth American Custom SD1)

Timpani Mallets (1 pair)

*Vic Firth VFT3

(Alternatives may include: Innovative Percussion CT3)

Pitch Pipe (1)

*Kratt Chromatic Tuner, Tuning Fork or Tonal Energy App (for phone)

Marimba Mallets (2 pair – set of 4)

Students should have a set of 4 (2 pair) matched marimba mallets.

*Malletech Concerto CN14, Vic Firth Robert Van Sice M114, Vic Firth M213 Virtuoso, Malletech MBe 13

Drumset Sticks

Vic Firth 7A or Innovative Percussion Ed Soph 1

Stick/Mallet Bag: Any model large enough to accommodate a full complement of sticks and mallets.

Think ahead, you will acquire more sticks and mallets as you progress as a musician. A bigger bag will last longer.

Liberty I (Steve Weiss) is a great basic bag at a great price.

All Personal Materials Must Be Labeled: Color coded or inscribed with your name or initials.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Advanced percussionists will need to play a much wider variety of instruments and styles, requiring more variety in mallets. Consider adding to your arsenal, particularly vibraphone mallets, xylophone mallets, and different sounding timpani and marimba mallets.

For any questions, please contact Mr. Dandele: chris_dandele@ipsd.org, (630) 375-3276

STRUCTURE OF ENSEMBLES & AUDITION PROCEDURES

Curricular Ensembles (Rehearse daily during school)

Each WVHS ensemble focuses on the study and performance of various styles of instrumental music. An emphasis is placed on the development of ensemble skills, individual musicianship, critical listening, and analysis. Each class strives to produce authentic musical experiences as they relate to the social, cultural, and historical contexts from which they were created. The ensembles serve as the vehicles to not only create aesthetic experiences for students, but also to provide students with the skills necessary to become independent, thoughtful, and creative musicians.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Students will develop musicianship through listening, analysis and performance.
2. Students will study and perform significant repertoire for winds and percussion.
3. Students will recognize and demonstrate the aesthetic qualities of music.
4. Students will pursue a standard of excellence for individual performance and performing organizations.
5. Students will develop techniques for analysis through critical listening.
6. Students will demonstrate cooperation and flexibility by working with others

toward common goals.

Wind Ensemble - The Wind Ensemble offers the most advanced instrumental experience through study and performance of masterworks for winds and percussion. Due to the soloistic nature of part assignments, there is a strong emphasis on individual preparation and performance. The Wind Ensemble performs on seasonal concerts and participates in state and district festivals and contests. Membership is determined by audition.

Director: Mr. Duker

Wind Symphony - This ensemble provides sophisticated instrumental experiences through study and performance of masterworks for winds and percussion. Members are expected to advance their musicianship through completion of technique classes. The Wind Symphony performs seasonal concerts and participates in state and district festivals. Membership is determined by audition.

Director: Mr. Hairston

Symphonic Winds - This ensemble includes band members grades 9-12, and concentrates on challenging and appropriate repertoire for symphonic band. Members are expected to advance their musicianship through completion of technique classes. The Symphonic Winds ensemble performs on quarterly concerts. Membership in Symphonic Winds requires placement by benchmark performance.

Director: Mr. Dandeles

Symphonic Band - This ensemble includes band members grades 10-12, and concentrates on challenging and appropriate repertoire for symphonic band. Members are expected to advance their musicianship through completion of technique classes. The Symphonic Band performs on quarterly concerts. Membership in Symphonic Band does NOT require an audition. Any student who has experience playing an instrument is encouraged to join this outstanding ensemble.

Director: Mr. Dandeles

Concert Band - This ensemble is composed entirely of freshmen and performs core repertoire for winds and percussion. Students will have formative experiences in analysis and expressive performance. Members are expected to advance their musicianship through completion of technique classes. This band performs at all quarterly concerts. Membership in Concert Band does NOT require an audition for any student who successfully completed 8th grade band.

Director: Mr. Hairston and Mr. Dandeles

AUDITIONS

Any student who completed middle school band is eligible to be placed into a band at WVHS without an audition. Those who choose to may audition for more advanced bands. Audition materials and information are made available on the website around Thanksgiving each year. Auditions take place at the end of January. The music is very challenging. We encourage anyone auditioning to seek help from a private teacher.

Co-Curricular Ensembles (Rehearse outside of the school day)

Marching Warriors - The Marching Warriors is a precision marching band combining winds, percussion, and color guard. The Marching Warriors perform at home football games, competitions, parades, and other special events. The season begins in August with a camp of intensive rehearsals and concludes in late October. Membership is voluntary, but requires a full commitment to the rehearsal and performance schedule. Members must also participate in one of the above curricular bands. Director: Mr. Hairston

Jazz Bands - The WVHS Jazz program consists of tiered jazz bands: *Jazz Ensemble*, *Jazz Band*, and *Big Band*. The Jazz Ensemble offers the most advanced jazz experience to the most capable players. Both the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Band perform seasonal concerts and travel to festivals in Illinois and other states. There will also be opportunities for interested students to participate in a **Jazz Combo** setting. Placement in Jazz Combos is determined by auditions in mid-September. Jazz bands have placement auditions in early October. Directors: Mr. Hairston and Mr. Duker

Warrior Pep Band - The Warrior Pep Band provides school spirit for winter athletics including boy's and girl's basketball games. Playing about twelve events each winter, the Warrior Pep Band plays an important role in cheering our winter-season athletes on to victory. Directors: Mr. Hairston & Mr. Dandele

Percussion Ensembles - The WVHS percussion program consists of **World Beat** and **Percussion Ensemble**. Participation in World Beat is open to all music students with director approval. Participation in percussion ensemble is limited to students that complete a successful audition. World Beat also offers students the opportunity to enroll in steelband classes with tuition. Coordinator: Mr. Dandele

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- **ILMEA District & State** - Students may audition each October for selection to the Illinois Music Educators Association District 9 Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band. Any interested student not enrolled in the Wind Ensemble should contact Mr. Duker.

- **S&E Festival** - All WVHS music students are encouraged to participate in the D204 Solo & Ensemble Festival in February. Information will be made available around Thanksgiving so students can register and begin preparing.
- **Musical** - Each year, the WVHS Fine Arts Department holds its Spring Musical. These productions provide an opportunity for select musicians to perform in the Pit Orchestra. Personnel are typically selected in conjunction with curricular audition results. Information is available in February. Space is very limited for this opportunity.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **The Marching Warriors** provide valuable leadership opportunities for Section Leaders and Drum Majors. Auditions are held each April to determine the Student Leadership Team are open to any member of the Marching Warriors.
- **TRI-M** is a student-run organization sponsored by the National Association for Music Education. Tri-M is open to any WVHS music student in grades 10-12 with a recommendation from their respective ensemble director. The purpose of Tri-M is to honor our very best music students as well as afford them an opportunity to enhance our music department through service projects and various activities.

AWARDS

The WVHS Band program offers numerous co-curricular performance opportunities for band members. The awards are intended to recognize students for their service, participation, and achievement in these ensembles and activities during a given year. Please note that awards will only be given to students who successfully complete the entire season of an activity and meet all of the requirements as dictated by each activity sponsor.

There are four class awards, each consisting of a specific chenille letter or medal.

<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
Music Note	JV Letter	Varsity Letter	WVHS Bands Pen

Level One Awards

Students who participate in any 1 of these activities will automatically earn their class award:

Marching Band

Pep Band

Level Two Awards

Students who participate in any combination of 2 of these activities automatically earn their class award:

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Band

Big Band
Percussion Ensemble
World Beat

Solo & Ensemble
Pit Orchestra

Level Three Awards

Students who participate in any combination of 3 of these activities OR any 2 of these activities plus any level two activity automatically earn their class award:

Jazz Combo
Tri-M
Orchestra Winds

ILMEA District or All-State Festival

Students will have an opportunity to purchase chenille bar arm patches for co-curricular ensembles. Award winners will be recognized at the Spring Awards Concert. Patches and awards will be available in class the next day.

BAND BOOSTERS

All WV band parents are automatically a part of the WVHS Band Boosters Association. We provide support to our band students and to the band program through our various committees and fundraising efforts. Our booster association is governed by an executive board with elected officers and committee chairs. If you are interested in becoming more involved by joining a committee, have questions, or wish to be added to our email services, please contact any board member via their contact information below. [You may also find additional information on the website here.](#)

We thank you in advance for your participation and support!

WVHS Band Boosters 2025-2026 Executive Board

Mike Kreger, President - mkreger@gmail.com
Kelly Talaga, Vice-President - kellytalaga222@gmail.com
Julie Kukla, Secretary - juliekukla@yahoo.com
Phil & Shana Switt, Treasurer - babotreasurer@gmail.com

Band Booster Committees

Marching Band Season: Flags, Props, Pit Crew/Transportation, Sewing, Uniforms, 8th Grade Night

All Year: Library, Hospitality, Jazz, Publicity/Newsletter, Percussion, Fundraisers

One Time Event: PRISM Concert (December), Meet the Artist Concert (January), Schlagzeugfest (January), District 204 Solo/Ensemble Festival (February), Fine Arts Festival (May), Spring Awards Concert (May)

FUNDRAISING PROCEDURES

The WVHS Band Booster Association shares some of its funds from its fundraising events with students who participate on a voluntary basis in the fundraising events for specified music/band/color guard related uses. Not all fundraising events will earn money for the student accounts. These funds belong to the WVHS Band Boosters and are held for use at the request of the student's parents or legal guardian to pay for the following types of purchases:

- School-sanctioned Music Department Trips
- The purchase of musical instruments, sheet music, supplies
- WVHS extracurricular payments, such as marching band, color guard, jazz or percussion participation fees
- Private music lessons
- Music/color guard camps or clinics

Any member of a WVHS Band is eligible (but not required) to participate in fundraising activities sponsored by the WVHS Band Boosters Association. Any funds that a student collects from the sale of products or items should be turned into the treasurer of the fundraising activity in checks made out to the WVHS Band Boosters. Cash will not be accepted. Students should place checks in an envelope with their name, date, and the total amount enclosed written on the envelope.

Any questions or requests related to student accounts should be made to the band treasurer at babotreasurer@gmail.com. To access a Student Account for approved purposes the parent or legal guardian must request payment to a specific payee (i.e. the travel company, private teacher, music/color guard camp, etc.) at least two weeks prior to the due date. Checks will not be made directly to the student or family. The WVHS Band Booster Executive Board must approve exceptions to this policy.

WVHS Band Boosters reserves the right to allocate funds from a Student Account to reconcile debts owed by that student to the Band Boosters if the family fails to make required payments by the due date. If such a situation arises, the family will be informed of the reconciliation. Any funds not used for approved purposes will be returned to the WVHS Band Booster general fund after graduation or June 30 of the student's senior year unless the student and/or parent request the funds be transferred to a sibling who is or will be a WVHS choir, band or orchestra member or a member of Color guard. Once again, parents may make this request by contacting the treasurer. If that sibling does not enroll in either a choir, band, or orchestra course or participate in color guard at WVHS in the freshman year, the funds will be forfeited back to the WVHS Band Booster general fund.

Thank you for reviewing the WVHS Band Handbook Supplement
Please remember to submit the [Parent Signature Page](#)

WVHS Choir Handbook Supplement

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COMMUNICATION

Quality two-way communication is key to a successful school year. In addition to our website and class email, additional resources are available to assist with communication. Teacher emails will be sent through Synergy, please be sure to check your Parent/Student VUE email for updates and information.

Axel Hageman - axel_hageman@ipsd.org Phone: (630) 375-3300 x 55864

Chelsea King - chelsea_king@ipsd.org Phone: (630) 375-3300 x 55727

WVHS Choir **Website:** <http://www.wvhsmusic.org/choir.html>

WVHS Choir **Instagram:** @wvhs_choirs

2025-2026 Detailed WV Choir Calendar

Key: CS Cecilian Singers (9th grade treble singers), GoB Gold Bass Chorus (9th grade bass singers), GrB Green Bass Chorus (10th-12th grade bass singers), CC Concert Choir, TC Treble Choir, VS Varsity Singers, VC Varsity Chamber,

M Mosaic, ME Mosaic Ensemble, SC Sound Check, RES Resonance, UV UnaVoce, C9 Cloud 9, PN Pink Notes

Date	Time	Location	Event	Group
August 2025				
Tuesday 8/26	3-4:30pm	Choir Room	UnaVoce Auditions	
Wednesday 8/27	3-4:30pm	Choir Room	UnaVoce Auditions	
Thursday 8/28	3-4:30pm	Choir Room	UnaVoce Callbacks	

Friday 8/29	2:30-3:30pm	Choir Room	Mosaic Pre-Audition Meeting	
September 2025				
Wednesday 9/3	3:30-7:30pm	Choir Room	Mosaic Auditions	
Thursday 9/4	3-5pm	Choir Room	Mosaic Ensemble Callbacks	
Friday 9/5	11:59 PM	Online	Noteable Virtual Auditions Due	
Tuesday 9/9	7:00 PM	Cafeteria	CPA (Choir Parent Association) Kickoff Meeting	C9, PN
Thursday 9/11	3-5 PM	Choir Room	Noteable Callbacks	
Saturday 9/13	10am-5pm	WV Cafeteria	Mattress Fundraiser	
Saturday 9/13	9am-4pm	Front of WV	Show Choir Car Wash!	RES, SC
October 2025				
Wednesday 10/1	11:59 PM	VIRTUAL	ILMEA Auditions Due	
Thursday 10/2	6-9pm	Cafeteria	Homecoming Variety Show	RES, SC
Tuesday 10/7	3:30-6:30 PM	NVHS Auditorium	Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal	VC, VS, TC, CC, GrB, GoB, CS, UV, M, ME, SC, RES
Tuesday 10/7	7:00 PM	NVHS Auditorium	Fall Collage Choral Concert	VC, VS, TC, CC, GrB, GoB, CS, UV, M, ME, SC, RES
Thursday 10/9	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Tuesday 10/14	5-7:30pm	WV Cafeteria	Honors Sing & Share	VC, VS
November 2025				
Saturday 11/1	All Day	NVHS	ILMEA District IX Jazz Festival	District Selectees
Sunday 11/2	11:59 PM	Online	PRISM Small Group Submissions Due	
Thursday 11/6	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Saturday 11/8	All Day		ILMEA District IX Music Festival	District Selectees
Monday 11/10	9:00 AM	Gymnasium	Veterans Day Assembly	VC, VS
Wednesday 11/12	5-7:30pm	Cafeteria	Bass & Treble Choir Festival	CS, GoB
Monday 11/17	5-9pm	NVHS Auditorium	Choir Organizational Festival	VC, VS, TC
December 2025				
Thursday 12/4	6:00–9:00p m	WV Auditorium/Cafeteria	Prism Dress Rehearsal (Mandatory for all performers)	VC, VS, TC, CC, GrB, UV, M, ME, SC, RES
Friday 12/5	6:00pm & 8:15pm	WV Auditorium/Cafeteria	Prism 2025	VC, VS, TC, CC, GrB, UV, M, ME, SC, RES

Saturday 12/6	6:00pm & 8:15pm	WV Auditorium/Cafeteria	Prism 2025	VC, VS, TC, CC, GrB, UV, M, ME, SC, RES
Monday 12/8	11:59:00 PM	Online	Senior Concerto preliminary video/audio deadline	Seniors
Tuesday 12/9	5:30-8pm	WV Auditorium	Winter Choral Invitational	C9, PN, ME, UV
Wednesday 12/10	6:00-9:00pm	WV Auditorium	Meet the Artist Dress Rehearsal	CS, GoB
Thursday 12/11	7:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Meet the Artist Concert	CS, GoB
January 2026				
Solo & Ensemble coaching sessions scheduled throughout the month				
Thursday 1/8	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Tuesday 1/13	3:30-6:00pm	Choir Room	Senior Concerto Auditions	
Wednesday-Saturday 1/28-1/31		Peoria, IL	ILMEA All-State Conference	All-State Selectees
February 2026				
Solo & Ensemble coaching sessions scheduled throughout the month				
Thursday 2/5	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Monday 2/9	3:00-8:00 PM	Orchestra Room	Musical Auditions (Dance Audition)	
Tuesday 2/10	3:00-8:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Musical Auditions (Vocals & Acting)	
Thursday 2/12	3:00-8:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Musical Callbacks	
Friday 2/20	4:00-9:00 PM	Baker Memorial Church	Varsity Choirs Saint Chairs Singers Concert	VC, VS
Saturday 2/21	8:00am-5:00 pm	Metea Valley	D204 Solo & Ensemble Festival	D204 S&E Participants
Saturday 2/21	7:00 PM	Metea Valley	D204 Solo & Ensemble Honors Recital	D204 S&E Participants
March 2026				
Tuesday 3/3	7:30 PM	Crimi Auditorium	Capstone Concert Music in Our Schools Month	VC, VS
Thursday 3/5	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Thursday 3/12	7:00 PM	WV Auditorium	MIOSM Choir Concert	CS, GoB, TC, CC, GrB, UV, M, ME, SC, RES
Tuesday 3/17	5:00-9:00pm	WV Auditorium	Mosaic & World Beat Dress Reh AND CONCERT	M, ME
April 2026				

Tuesday 4/7	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Thursday 4/9	5-9pm	WV Auditorium	Vocal Pops Dress Rehearsal	SC, RES
Friday 4/10 & Saturday 4/11	7:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Vocal Pops Concerts	SC, RES
Monday 4/13	6:00-9:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Senior Concerto Dress Rehearsal	
Tuesday 4/14	7:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Senior Concerto Concert	
May 2026				
Thursday 5/7	7-8pm	Choir Room or 221	CPA Meeting	
Thursday-Saturday 4/30-5/2	7:00-10pm	WV Auditorium	Spring Musical	
Friday 5/8	11:59:00 PM	Online	A Cappella Virtual Auditions DUE	
Tuesday 5/12	7:00 PM	WV Auditorium	Spring Choral Concert	VC, VS, TC, CC, GrB, GoB, CS
Thursday 5/14	3:30-7:00 PM	Choir Room	A Cappella Callbacks	

GRADING

Gradebooks will be updated weekly to reflect student progress.

There are 6 weighted categories in the semester choir grade as listed in the music handbook. The first five categories will factor together as 90% of a final semester grade plus 10% from the final exam.

Choir grades will be organized in the following ways:

<u>Category</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>What does it measure?</u>	<u>Gradebook</u> <i>(but not limited to this list)</i>
Daily Classwork & Participation	15%	Classwork includes any activity, whether individual or in groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Work • Discussion Posts • Entry Slips • Exit Slips • Written Assessments
Assignments	20%	Activities that are completed outside of the class time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets • Google Forms • Reflections • Music Theory

Performances	25%	Student's contribution to final performance pieces, and culminating experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert Performance • Final Recordings • Presentations
Technique	20%	Technique will include all vocal assignments and recordings completed throughout the semester.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording Assignments • Sight Reading • Voice Hearing • Performance Assessments
Concert Review	10%	Students will be required to watch 2 concert performances throughout the semester and fill out a concert review document (found in google classroom).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert Reviews (2 per semester)
Final Exam	10%	The course final exam will consist of a performance component, as well as a reflective piece.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording • Reflection

Two of these categories, Performances and Concert Review, may not be fully factored into a student's grade until the last week of the quarter. The reason is because our concerts typically do not occur until very close to the end of the quarter, and the concert review can be turned in for full credit until the deadline near the end of the quarter. This means that 30% of your student's quarterly grade will not be shown until that final week of the quarter. Whether or not students complete those assignments successfully can make a significant difference in a final grade.

Online grades are updated by different teachers at different intervals. The choir staff typically updates grades a minimum of every two weeks.

Hopefully this provides some clarification on how online grading reflects the choir grade. If you have any further questions, please contact your student's choir director.

REASSESSMENT POLICY

The music department is committed to providing students with opportunities to demonstrate growth through reassessment. Students who seek to demonstrate greater content mastery may contact their instructor to learn about reassessment opportunities.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are the best way to support your child's music education. Having weekly contact with a specialist on their instrument gives students an enormous advantage and dramatically increases the likelihood of success. [Please click here to go to the private lesson page on our website for lists of teachers.](#)

CONCERT ATTIRE

All Curricular Ensembles

During the 2025-2026 school year, all curricular choir ensembles will be required to wear a formal dress or suit that is purchased through the WVHS Choir Department. **The dress will cost \$70 and the suit will cost a total of \$105.** Students in dresses will be required to supply black flats. Students in suits will need to supply black shoes, black socks, and a black belt. Suit prices are higher due to more pieces being involved in the performance attire. Students do not need to purchase concert attire if they have attire from a previous year.

Please let us know if there is a financial hardship as we can explore other options and payment plans. Students can pay using their student fundraising account, or by check made out to WVHS CPA, or Zelle with note "Concert Attire & Student Name".

DAILY REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Class begins when the bell rings. The warm-up will begin once the bell rings, so be quick about getting your materials ready for rehearsal. Students arriving after the bell should bring their pass immediately to the director. If you are late and do not have a pass, you will be marked tardy. Excessive tardies will result in a referral.

Be prepared for a successful rehearsal. Students should come to rehearsal properly prepared with their **folder, pencil**, and any other necessary materials. Please communicate any issues with the director before the rehearsal starts.

Keep our choir room a clean place to make music and learn. No food, beverage, or gum will be allowed in the choir room. Water is allowed and highly recommended. Please feel free to fill your water-bottle or use the drinking fountain in class, but wait for an appropriate time. Do not disrupt the rehearsal.

Digital Citizenship refers to appropriate use of technology. Students are encouraged to use phones and/or chromebooks when approved by a director and it aids in classroom performance. All technology is expected to be silenced and out of sight during class unless usage is requested by a teacher. Unapproved cell phone use during rehearsal will not be tolerated, and excessive use will result in a referral.

REDIRECTION POLICY

The music department will follow these steps to support appropriate behavior:

- Private conversation with student
- Communication with parent
- Support from class house
- Continued inappropriate behavior will result in a referral.

MUSIC & FOLDERS

Each choir member is issued his/her/their own folder and folder slot. All music issued is the responsibility of the singer.

Replacements for damaged or lost materials: Music: \$5 per original copy
Folders: \$15

STRUCTURE OF ENSEMBLES & AUDITION PROCEDURES

Curricular Ensembles (Rehearse daily during school)

Each WVHS ensemble focuses on the study and performance of various styles of choral music. An emphasis is placed on the development of ensemble skills, individual musicianship, critical listening, and analysis. Each class strives to produce authentic musical experiences as they relate to the social, cultural, and historical contexts from which they were created. The ensembles serve as the vehicles to not only create aesthetic experiences for students, but also to provide students with the skills necessary to become independent, thoughtful, and creative musicians.

Learner Outcomes:

1. The student will develop musicianship through listening, analysis and performance.
2. The student will study and perform significant repertoire for choirs.
3. The student will recognize and demonstrate the aesthetic qualities of music.

4. The student will pursue a standard of excellence for individual performance and performing organizations.
5. The student will develop techniques for analysis through critical listening.
6. The student will demonstrate cooperation and flexibility by working with others toward common goals.

AUDITIONS

Ability Level	Ensemble
Most Advanced	Varsity Chamber (Grades 10-12 SATB)
Advanced	Varsity Singers (Grades 10-12 SATB) Treble Choir (Grades 10-12 SA)
Intermediate (<i>non-auditioned</i>)	Concert Choir (Grades 10-12 SA) Cecillian Singers (Grade 9 SA) Green Bass Chorus (Grades 10-12 TB) Gold Bass Chorus (Grade 9 TB)

Any student is eligible to be placed into a choir at WVHS without an audition. Those who choose to, may audition for a more advanced choir. Audition materials and information are made available on the website in December each year. Auditions will take place during January. Students will go over audition materials throughout the first semester in their curricular class. If you are not currently enrolled in a curricular choir, please email one of the directors for audition information.

Co-Curricular Ensembles (Rehearse outside of the school day)

Mosaic and Mosaic Ensemble (extra-curricular) - A mosaic is a unique form of art created by bringing many differently shaped and colored pieces of the same material together to ultimately create a single work of beauty. In the choral ensemble **Mosaic**, the diverse students of Waubonsie Valley experience a sense of unity through the expressive qualities of multicultural music. The choir is open to all students of WVHS regardless of enrollment in a curricular choir. Conducted by Mrs. King, **Mosaic** rehearses on Wednesdays from 3:05 - 4:00 PM in the Choir Room (121). Auditions will be held September 3rd. **Mosaic Ensemble** is a chamber group within the larger choir that will perform additional repertoire in a small ensemble setting.

UnaVoce (co-curricular) - **UnaVoce** is a select treble chamber choir that is comprised of 12-20 freshman and sophomore students. UnaVoce, directed by Mrs. King, performs

a variety of chamber repertoire including madrigals, modern works, jazz, pop, and folk arrangements. The ensemble participates in musical exchanges with other vocal groups, represents WVHS at community events, and invests itself back into the District 204 program through performances at all grade levels. Auditions will be held August 26th and 27th. Rehearsals will take place after school on Tuesdays and some Thursdays.

Show Choir (Mixed and Treble) (co-curricular) - The show choirs are ensembles of singer-dancers that perform pop, contemporary, and show tunes in costume with choreography. They rehearse weekly and perform in choral concerts, show choir festivals and clinics, and community performances throughout the year. **Sound Check** (advanced level mixed choir), directed by Ms. O'Neill & Mr. Hageman, rehearses on Monday evenings from 6:00 - 9:00 PM, and **Resonance** (intermediate level treble choir), co-directed by Mr. Hageman & Ms. O'Neill, rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Auditions are held in May of the previous school year.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- **ILMEA District & State** - Students from Varsity Chamber (as well as other curricular ensembles) will have the opportunity to audition each October for selection to the Illinois Music Educators Association District 9 Choir.
- **S&E Festival** - All WVHS music students are encouraged to participate in the D204 Solo & Ensemble Festival in February. Information will be made available in November so students can register and begin preparing. If students use an accompanist for solo & ensemble there is a small fee to reimburse accompanists for their time and preparation.
- **District 204 Organizational Clinic** - On Monday, November 17th, the auditioned curricular choirs from Metea, Neuqua, and Waubonsie Valley come together for the Organizational Clinic. This event gives our students the opportunity to share their music with their peers from the rest of the district and also with a guest conductor/clinician. This conductor will share their feedback on our students' performance and will also rehearse them for a short period. It is always a great experience to work with different conductors that bring their own unique insights to the musical process! **This is a required performance for Varsity Chamber, Varsity Singers, and Treble Choir.**
- **Musical** - In February, auditions will determine the cast of this year's musical, which will culminate in performances in early May in our Auditorium. Audition packets with full information will be available in February, two weeks prior to the auditions. Rehearsals begin in March. Auditions are open to all WVHS students, and rehearsals take place after school, evenings, and Saturdays.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **TRI-M** is a student-run organization sponsored by the National Association for Music Education. Tri-M is open to any WVHS music student in grades 10-12 with a recommendation from their respective ensemble director. The purpose of Tri-M is to honor our very best music students as well as afford them an opportunity to enhance our music department through service projects and various activities.

AWARDS

The WVHS Choir program offers numerous co-curricular performance opportunities for choir members. The awards are intended to recognize students for their service, participation, and achievement in these ensembles and activities during a given year. Please note that awards will only be given to students who successfully complete the entire season of an activity and meet all of the requirements as dictated by each activity sponsor.

There are four class awards, each consisting of a specific chenille letter or medal.

Freshman

Music Note

Sophomore

JV Letter

Junior

Varsity Letter

Senior

Medal

Level One Awards

Students who participate in any 1 of these activities will automatically earn their class award:

Sound Check

Resonance

Mosaic

Level Two Awards

Students who participate in any combination of 2 of these activities automatically earn their class award:

Mosaic Ensemble

Pink Notes

Cloud 9

Una Voce

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Spring Musical (leading role)

Level Three Awards

Students who participate in any combination of 3 of these activities OR any 2 of these activities plus any level two activity automatically earn their class award:

Tri-M

IMEA District or

All-State

Festival

Spring Musical (featured role or ensemble)

Other music related events with director approval...

Students will have an opportunity to purchase chenille bar arm patches for co-curricular ensembles. Award winners will be recognized at the Spring Awards Concert. Patches and awards will be available in class the next day.

Choir Parents Association

The Waubonsie Valley **Choir Parents Association (CPA)** was created to enlist the aid of the most important people in our children's lives - their parents - to assist in the process of providing these students the BEST education and musical experience possible. This support group provides resources that would otherwise be unavailable--resources which make a dramatic difference in the opportunities offered here.

In order to further that cause, the CPA welcomes EVERY parent to its membership. You are encouraged to be as active as your schedule and energies allow and to help in the process of enriching young lives! Your involvement can help us to share music with more people, and enrich not only our community, but others as well. Parent meetings are held throughout the year beginning with **Kick-Off on Tuesday, September 3rd**. This is tentatively planned as a virtual meeting but more detailed information will be coming before the event. **Every parent is encouraged to participate in the Choir Parents Association.**

Additional information can be found at <http://www.wvhsmusic.org/choir-parents.html>

FUNDRAISING PROCEDURES

The WVHS Choir Parent Association shares some of its funds from its fundraising events with students who participate on a voluntary basis for specified music related uses. Not all fundraising events will earn money for the student accounts. These funds belong to the WVHS Choir Parents Association and are held for use at the request of the student's parents or legal guardian under the following conditions:

Funds allocated to student's accounts may be used only to pay student fees related to:

- School-sanctioned Music Department Trips
- The purchase of musical instruments, sheet music, supplies
- Concert attire
- WVHS extracurricular payments, such as show choir and Mosaic
- Private music lessons
- Music camps or clinics

Please note that donations to and funds raised by the Choir Parents Association are not 501(c)3 eligible.

Thank you for reviewing the WVHS Choir Handbook Supplement
Please remember to complete the [Parent Signature Page](#)

WVHS Orchestra Handbook Supplement

Orchestra Website

Teacher contact information:

Ms. Shawnita Tyus shawnita_tyus@ipsd.org

Chamber Orchestra, Concert Orchestra, Concert Strings, Warrior Strings, Technique for Symphonic Orchestra, Technique for Symphonic Strings

Mr. Daniel Beder daniel_beder@ipsd.org

Chamber Strings, Symphonic Strings, Symphonic Orchestra, Warrior Strings, Technique for Concert Strings, Technique for Concert Orchestra

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ORCHESTRA CALENDARS

It is very important that students and families are aware of important calendar dates. The calendars are all online on the Calendar tab of the Orchestra tab of our website. The following resources are available to students and families:

Detailed Orchestra Calendar [HERE](#)

Music Department Major Dates: <https://www.wvhsmusic.org/calendar.html>

Music Department Printable Page Major Dates: [HERE](#)

ORCHESTRA EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

1. Materials:

- Instrument in good playing condition, with proper maintenance

- Black 1-inch Binder with separators
- Rosin
- Shoulder pad (violin, viola) and rock stop (for home cello and bass)
- Cleaning Cloth in instrument case
- Pencils
- Freshman Students will be required to purchase 1 or 2 method books (ordering information will be given out first week of class)

VIOLIN/VIOLA Locker Storage

Most violin and viola players bring home instruments back and forward to school. Some families choose to rent an extra instrument to leave one at school. All violins and violas will be assigned a locker (possibly shared). **PLEASE LABEL YOUR CASE** with your first and last name.

CELLO/BASS School Instrument Usage

Cello and bass players should have a home instrument for practice. However, cellists and bass players will be required to bring home instruments for concerts due to the number of cellists/bass players in the program. Cello and bass players will be assigned usage of a shared school instrument. Cello and bass families will fill out a **school instrument usage contract**. This will be due back by the end of the first full week of school.

ORCHESTRA STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

In the orchestra room, each student brings their unique talents and personality to the rehearsal space. The following student expectations help to establish a positive, safe, and effective rehearsal environment:

- Students will enter the classroom with the intent of getting their music and instrument ready for rehearsal before the passing bell rings (except Period 2, because of announcements).
- Students will leave backpacks away from the rehearsal space.
- Cell Phones - At Waubonsie Valley, our expectation is that cell phones will not interfere with the learning process. In the orchestra room, that looks like phones in cell phone pockets unless specifically requested in class that day.
- Violin/viola lockers are for instruments - not food or jackets. Cello/bass lockers are shared spaces - please do not keep food or any personal items in these lockers
- Students will treat each other and directors with respect during the rehearsal.
- Students will not bring food or drink into the orchestra room (water ok in a closed container).
- Students should keep fingernails trimmed.

ORCHESTRA - CONCERT ATTIRE

All students will perform in concert black attire, as this looks most professional on our stage with concert lighting. Here are the attire expectations at each group level:

Concert and Symphonic Level

Concert attire is all black, with the option for a black button-down dress shirt or a black cowl-neck blouse on top. On the bottom, students should wear black dress pants or a black T-length skirt with black shoes and socks/stockings.

Chamber Level Outfits

Students at the Chamber level have slightly different options, which include black suits, black dresses, or black top with black pants.

Please click on the appropriate link to view your Concert Attire options and access links to purchase online. **We will not be having a professional company come to the building this year to measure students and take orders.**

Concert attire should be obtained by families before October 1.

[Concert and Symphonic Level Concert Attire](#)

[Chamber Level Concert Attire](#) or [Chamber Level group order](#)

Shoes

Solid black dress shoes, closed toe shoes with heel covered - no boots

No canvas or sport shoes

No heels over 1 inch

Shoes (purchased independently):

Black closed toe shoes with heel covered - no boots please

No heels over 1 inch due to stage anomalies

ORCHESTRA PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Auditions are used to evaluate an individual student's readiness to participate in some of the orchestras at Waubonsie Valley. Like many high schools, the WV orchestra program consists of auditioned and non-auditioned orchestras that together create a "tiered" program. Orchestras are grouped according to ability levels to better serve the needs of all students.

Each year, students must complete an audition if they wish to be considered for the following orchestras: Symphonic Strings, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Strings. Auditions for Symphonic Strings will be part of the technique assignment at the Symphonic and Concert level due in early February. Auditions for the Chamber-level will be via video for experienced outside-of-Waubonsie judges, due by the date in early February. Audition results are not made available until later in March due to collaboration with the Counseling department. Symphonic Orchestra (10-12) does not require an additional audition - just successful completion of the previous semester of orchestra participation.

Currently, the orchestras at Waubonsie are tiered according to the following model:

<u>Ability Level</u>	
Most Advanced	Chamber Strings (9-12) Chamber Orchestra (10-12)

Advanced	Symphonic Strings (10-12) Concert Strings (9)

Intermediate	Symphonic Orchestra (10-12)
Entry-level	Concert Orchestra (9)

The orchestra directors would like to emphasize that the audition process is meant to connect students with the ensemble that most appropriately serves their musical needs for the coming year.

The audition procedure, sign up, excerpt information and process will all be made available online off the Orchestra tab on the Music Department website in late November:
www.wvhsmusic.org

The most important outcome of auditions is that we all continue to make music together!

ORCHESTRA GRADING POLICY

Grading

Parents and students are encouraged to use ParentVUE & StudentVUE to stay informed on current grades and class progress. There are 6 weighted categories in the semester music grade:

1. **20% for Class Work:** This component of the grade will include music making, discussions, and activities that are done during class. Students are expected to be engaged and participating in rehearsal, not just present.
2. **20% for Performances:** Performances are required. See [Performance Attendance Policy](#).
3. **15% for Assignments:** Students will be responsible for completing a variety of assignments to be assessed and track progress. Assignments may include recorded submissions of music, written worksheets, entries into a digital portfolio, and written reflections.
4. **25% for Technique/Chamber Music:** Students meet weekly for technique - by instrument at the Symphonic and Concert level and in chamber groups at the Chamber level - and will have assignments designed to help them develop as individual musicians. These assignments ensure that students are developing the skills necessary for successful music-making in high school and beyond. Technique assignments will include components of live instruction, assessment of student progress, and feedback to the student.
5. **10% for Concert Review & Reflection:** Listening and reflecting is an invaluable element in a student's musical development. Students will be required to watch 2 concert performances throughout the semester and fill out a concert reflection.
6. **10% for Semester Final:** The semester final will involve written assessment and live performance (based on what was studied during technique sessions). Students will be well prepared during technique and in class.

Two of these categories, Concert Attendance and Concert Review, will not be fully factored into a student's grade until the last week of the quarter. The reason is because our concerts typically do not occur until very close to the end of the quarter, and the concert review can be turned in for full credit until the deadline near the end of the quarter. This means that 30% of your student's quarterly grade will not be shown until that final week of the quarter. Whether or not students complete those assignments successfully can make a significant difference in a final grade.

ORCHESTRA PRIVATE LESSON TEACHERS

Individual private lessons are the best way for students to progress quickly on their instruments and help them maintain interest in their musical studies. Private teachers help students with everything from Solo and Ensemble pieces to learning more advanced concepts on their instruments. Private lessons are perfect for giving students one-on-one musical attention. It is recommended that students take lessons once each week for 30 minutes. More advanced students may wish to take 45 min or 60 min. lessons. The district price for a 30-minute lesson is \$26.00. Please call the private teacher directly to arrange lesson times.

Private Lesson Teachers approved through the district to teach at WVHS:

Click [HERE](#) for our current private lesson teacher list - these teachers all teach in the WV building (and/or Neuqua Valley too - students can take lessons wherever is most convenient)

For a complete list of private instructors teaching at the D204 high schools, check with your director.

There are, of course, many other private teachers in the area. Check with your director for more information about teachers not on this list above.

ORCHESTRA AWARDS

2025-2026 Orchestra Awards

The WVHS Orchestra program offers a variety of co-curricular performance opportunities for orchestra members. The awards are intended to recognize students for their service, participation, and achievement in these ensembles and activities during a given year. Please note that awards will only be given to students who successfully complete the entire season of an activity and meet all of the requirements as dictated by each activity sponsor.

There are four class awards, each consisting of a specific chenille letter or trophy.

<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
Music Note	JV Letter	Varsity Letter	Plaque/Trophy

Freshman Class Award

Freshmen students who participate in any 1 of these activities will automatically earn their class award:

Warrior Strings

2 events at Solo and Ensemble - 1 solo (Strings and/or Piano), 1 ensemble

Sophomore, Junior, Senior Class Award

Upperclassmen students can automatically earn their class award this way:

Warrior Strings + 1 option from Ala Carte list

2 events at Solo & Ensemble + 1 option from Ala Carte List other than S&E

Ala Carte List

Students who participate in any combination of 3 of these activities automatically earn their class award:

Tri-M membership

1 event at Solo & Ensemble (Strings or Piano, or ensemble)

Jazz Band/Ensemble/Big Band/Combo (Bass or Piano only)

Musical Pit Orchestra (Strings or Piano)

Senior Concerto Finalist
ILMEA District Orchestra
ILMEA All-State Orchestra
Mission Impossible selectee
ILMEA Future Music Educator Seminar
Prism Small Ensemble selected
Other music related events with director approval

ORCHESTRA PARENT ASSOCIATION (OPA)

The Orchestra Parent organization is a vital and active part of the WVHS Orchestra Program. The members of the Orchestra board meet once each month to discuss the needs of the orchestra program. We encourage all parents to become active members in the OPA. Please contact your orchestra director or a board member for more information.

WVHS Orchestra Parents Association Mission Statement

As parents of students in the Orchestra Program at WVHS, our purpose is to provide opportunities and resources relating to the orchestra organizations beyond the District 204 orchestra curriculum. The curriculum and its supporting resources are the responsibility of District 204. We seek to expand the musical and social opportunities that orchestra membership offers our children through financial and volunteer support, in conjunction with input from the Music Department Faculty Members at WVHS.

OPA meeting schedule will be made available on the Parent tab of the website:

www.wvhsmusic.org - Meetings are generally once per month and mostly through Google Meet, so you can join the meeting from anywhere. The schedule will be posted online.

2025-26 Executive Board

PRESIDENT: *Gayle Hummel*

VICE PRESIDENT: *Omar Sanchez*

SECRETARY: *Kelley Brown*

TREASURER: *Colleen Hoepfner*

OPA Email opa.wvhs@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING PROCEDURES

The WVHS Orchestra Parent Boosters (WV OPA) shares some of its funds from its fundraising events with students who participate on a voluntary basis in the fundraising events for specified orchestra/lesson/instrument uses. Not all fundraising events will earn money for the student accounts, however most do. These funds belong to the WV OPA and are held for use at the request of the student's parents or legal guardian to pay for the following types of purchases:

- School-sanctioned Music Department Trips
- The purchase of musical instruments, sheet music, supplies
- WVHS extracurricular payments, such as Warrior Strings supplies

- Private music lessons
- Music camps or clinics
- Accompanist fee for Solo & Ensemble
- Chamber-level required black concert attire

Any member of a WVHS Orchestra is eligible (but not required) to participate in fundraising activities sponsored by the OPA. Any funds that a student collects from the sale of products or items should be turned into the treasurer of the fundraising activity in checks made out to the WV OPA. Cash will not be accepted. Students should place checks in an envelope with their name, date, and the total amount enclosed written on the envelope.

A student's individual account will be credited with the profit earned at the conclusion of the fundraising activity

For fundraising that involves product that goes to the student: Any student who participates in a WVHS Music Department sponsored fundraising activity is responsible for all products and items that are distributed to them. If the total amount due for all products or items distributed to that student is not returned to the treasurer, and/or any unsold items are not returned, the cost for those items distributed but not returned will be deducted from that student's account. All items returned must be in saleable condition. If the fundraising activity involves the sale of nonreturnable products or items, the student is responsible for returning the full cost due for all products or items distributed.

Any questions or requests related to student accounts should be made to the orchestra treasurer - this email can go through the OPA president or your director.. To access a Student Account for approved purposes the parent or legal guardian must request payment by submitting the Orchestra Student Account Reimbursement/Usage (will be updated in Sept. 2022) form.

Funds can not go towards clothing that is optional (like "WV Orchestra Swag") - only school sanctioned clothing like Chamber-level concert attire or Warrior Strings shirts.

Any funds not used for approved purposes will be returned to the WV OPA scholarship fund after graduation or June 30 of the student's senior year unless the student and/or parent request the funds be transferred to a sibling who is or will be a WVHS choir, band or orchestra member or a member of Color guard. Once again, parents may make this request by contacting the treasurer. If that sibling does not enroll in either a choir, band, or orchestra course or participate in color guard at WVHS in the freshman year, the funds will be forfeited back to the OPA Scholarship fund.

Please note that donations to and funds raised by WV OPA are not 501(c)3 eligible.

Thank you for reviewing the WVHS Orchestra Handbook Supplement
Please remember to submit the [Parent Signature Page](#) by Monday, August 25.
