

**Waverly-Shell Rock High School Vocal Music
Departmental Handbook
2025-2026**



"Striving for excellence through meaningful musical experiences for all."

Teacher: Ms. Greta Nelson

greta.nelson@wsr.k12.ia.us

School Phone: 319-352-2087, ext. 2137

GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODES

Chamber Choir: iaclky36

Concert Choir: k6mxntc6

LINK TO OUR WEBSITE:

<https://sites.google.com/wsr.k12.ia.us/wsr-vocalmusic/waverly-shell-rock-vocal-music>

Waverly-Shell Rock High School Vocal Music Program

Curricular (Graded) Ensembles

- a. 1st Semester Concert Choir or Chamber Choir
- b. 2nd Semester Concert Choir or Chamber Choir

General Vocal Music Program Costs

- Concert Attire: Each singer needs to provide their own **black dress shoes** to wear with their robes. Tenors and Basses also should wear **black dress pants** underneath their robes. Robes are provided by the vocal music department. Please talk to Ms. Nelson if you need any assistance acquiring these items.
- TBD: Honor Choir/All-State Participation: Each event has an individual cost per person involved (i.e. hotel, food, registration fee, etc.). Participation in said events is optional and/or based on acceptance
 - All-State Acceptance: Not to exceed \$50.00 for housing/meals
 - Rittersing: Not to exceed \$35.00
 - Dorian Honor Festival: Not to exceed \$20.00
 - Meistersinger Honor Choir: Not to exceed \$30.00
 - Solo-Small Ensemble (Solo Entry): \$14.00
 - *WSR Schools do cover the cost of All-State Festival Registration, UNI Vocal Arts Festival, and Solo-Small Ensemble - ensemble entries*

Fundraising & Trips

- Participation: Choir members have the opportunity to participate in the annual butterbraid fundraising project that occurs in September. This is the only current fundraiser the choir operates. Participation is highly encouraged but not mandatory.
- Trips: The choir travels every two years. The choir will not travel this school year but will travel during spring break of the '26-'27 school year. Students are not mandated to participate in large choir trips

Good Conduct Policy

All choir members are expected to closely follow every aspect of the W-SR Good Conduct Policy and all policies set forth in the W-SR Student Handbook whether on school campus or off. Good Conduct Policy infractions will occur **ONLY** towards extracurricular activities (non-graded) and will not infringe on curricular activities (graded).

Offices/Practice Room Usage Policy

The music wing is a safe place for many people, yet it is sometimes abused by some wishing to skip class. The music wing is not an alternative to study hall. Ms. Nelson, Mr. Vowels, Mr. Stover, & Mr. McLellan reserve the right to deny usage of any part of the music wing to any student.

Cell Phone Policy

State law and school code does not permit students to use phones during school hours. Other classes will have individual places for students to leave their phones, but due to the size of the vocal music program, **student phones will be placed in their folder slots during rehearsal**. The school's phone policy will be strictly enforced. Any student not adhering to this rule will have their phone confiscated and taken to the main office. Any further action from there will be up to the administration.

Grading Information

I. Large Group Instruction and Performances

- 1) Attendance at all curricular performances is **MANDATORY**.
 - a. Unexcused absences from any scheduled/graded performance will result in the student earning a “D” letter grade from the large group portion of that grading period. Students acquiring two or more unexcused absences from any scheduled/graded performances during any portion of the school year will result in the student being removed from the ensemble.
 - b. All scheduled performances take precedence over extra-curricular activities and work.
 - c. If a student knows they are going to be absent for a performance, it is the responsibility of the student to communicate with Ms. Nelson. In certain cases, excused absences can be granted (i.e. wedding, sibling college graduation, funeral).
- 2) Excessive tardiness may result in the student being assigned to detention and/or loss of credit.
- 3) Students who have excessive absences, excused or unexcused, may be dropped from the course.

II. Voice Lesson Instruction

- 1) Each student will be expected to participate in a minimum of **four lessons per quarter**.
- 2) Regardless of ability, students will earn good marks as long as they attend and positively participate in the required lessons per quarter.
- 3) Any lesson cancellation that occurs due to the fault of the director will receive full credit without having to make up that lesson.
- 4) Students will not be pulled from other classes for a lesson with the exception of the students who are also in band and/or orchestra. The band, orchestra and choir work together when possible to help accommodate lesson participation.
- 5) At the beginning of each week, students will receive a digital schedule that allows them to sign up for a time that works best for them. Student musicians in band or orchestra who do have study halls or open campus can use choir time and vice versa for other music lessons.
- 6) It is the student’s responsibility to get to their lesson AND return back to class in a reasonable amount of time.

Special Note: Do not abuse the lesson schedule for your own gain by telling your teachers you have a lesson when in fact you do not. If this type of action is discovered, Ms. Nelson will instruct the teacher to give the offending student an unexcused absence. Ms. Nelson will not cover for you.

Final Thoughts

This is a year of growing, learning, and discovering what works best for all of us involved in the WSR vocal music program. Let’s work together to make it a great year of transition and excellent music making!

- Ms. Greta Nelson