

West Canada Valley Junior-Senior High School
Vocal Music Department
2019-2020 Chorus Handbook



Mr. Duffer, director
aduffer@westcanada.org
(315) 845-6800 ext. 3367

WELCOME!

By participating in chorus, you will learn how to improve your singing voice and be educated in a variety of musical styles through performance of various types of pieces. Participation in chorus allows you to belong to a team where everyone is important. Chorus can provide you with many other long-term rewards and benefits that can affect you for the rest of your life. The discipline and individual practice time necessary to be successful in a large performing group will help each student be more successful in other academic areas and group situations. Therefore, the main goal of the choral music department is to use music as a vehicle that will help better prepare you for a productive, enjoyable, and successful future.

Performance Attendance Policy:

The most educationally fulfilling aspect of enrolling in a music performing group is participation in various performances throughout the year. As a result, the music department enforces the following policy with regard to performance and attendance:

- ❖ Students are required to attend rehearsals.
- ❖ In accordance with school policy, students must be in attendance at the beginning of the school day in order to be eligible to perform in a concert. Illness, oversleeping, illegal absence, and truancy exclude a student from performing in the concert. Examples of acceptable excuses include dental/doctor appointments, funerals, etc.
- ❖ Students who are absent from a performance, and unexcused by the director, will receive a zero for the concert participation portion of their grade for the marking period in which the performance occurred.
- ❖ Excuses which are unavoidable, legitimate conflicts, will be considered by the director, *no later than two weeks prior to the performance.*

All excuses must be written and signed by a parent. Excuses for unseen emergencies will be considered at any time. It is the responsibility of each student and their parents to be aware of the performance schedule and provide excuses that are necessary in a timely fashion.

Performance Etiquette and Attire:

- ❖ Plan to dress nicely for concerts. Do not wear t-shirts, jeans, sneakers, boots, sandals. Ideally, for gentlemen, please wear a button up shirt, tie, long dress pants, and dark “dressy” shoes. For women, please wear a nice dress, dress pants, or skirt/blouse that covers the shoulders. If it’s not appropriate for the regular school day, it’s not appropriate for the concert. You want to look as good as you sound!

Grading System:

Rehearsal Participation: (40%)

Before Class:

- ❖ Be on time and come prepared to concentrate and work hard.
- ❖ Get your assigned folder and **pencil** from the folder cabinet that **you** are responsible for.
- ❖ No gum, no food.

During Class:

- ❖ *Active* participation is crucial to our success as a team. This includes being prepared with an open mind, a pencil and a willingness to try new things.
- ❖ **Absolutely no cell phones on the risers! Phones and other devices will be kept in an auditorium seat with your belongings. If there are concerns about losing or misplacing your device, you will need to leave it in your locker. If found out, they will be confiscated and held to the end of the period for the 1st offense. Any further offense will result in them being sent to the principal's office.**
- ❖ Good, responsible behavior.

Ending Class:

- ❖ Put your folder and pencil away in the folder cabinet.
- ❖ Do not leave belongings in the auditorium.

Concert Attendance and Participation: (35%)

- ❖ Students are **required** to attend ALL required performances. If a student cannot attend a performance due to illness or an emergency, the parent should write the teacher as per the Performance Attendance Policy (page 2).
- ❖ Concert participation is considered a final exam grade.

Performance Assessments (Rubrics) and Written Evaluations/Assignments: (25%)

- ❖ Voice Tests: Quartets or solos, singing a section of the assigned music.
- ❖ Rubrics will be used to evaluate singing posture, behavior, breathing, tone, sight-reading and other music elements.
- ❖ Written evaluations or “Concert Critiques” after each concert.
- ❖ Quizzes and study guides may be used to assess students’ knowledge of musical concepts.

Points	Rehearsal Participation Expectations
90-100	Student is always attentive, on-task, shows good behavior, prepared, on time, good effort, active participation.
80-89	Student is usually attentive, sometimes forgets materials, participates most of the time, puts forth acceptable effort.
70-79	Student needs repeated reminders to pay attention, disrupts rehearsal, rarely participates, often late, could improve effort.
60-69	Student is off-task most of the time, disrupts class and has a negative effect on others, displays little effort, parent-teachers meeting is recommended.

***Students and parents/guardians will be able to access Student/Parent Portal on Schootool to access grades on any assignments throughout the school year.**

Junior/Senior Chorus Calendar of Events

2019-2020

Event	Date	Time	Location	Mandatory?	Notes
Elem. & Senior High All-County	November 1/2nd	Friday - Saturday -concert 3pm	West Canada Valley	No	Great opportunity sing challenging music and make new friends in other schools
Area All-State	November 22-23	All day	SUNY Oneonta	No	Friday-rehearsal Saturday-rehearsal/concert
French Fries and Bow Ties	TBD	TBD	Room 24	No	There's nothing better in life...than a french fry
Winter Concert II	December 10th	7:00pm	WCV Auditorium	Yes	Concert Attire: Dress Clothes
(HS Concert Snowdate)	December 18th	7:00pm	WCV Auditorium		
MIOSM Concert	March 17th	7:00pm	WCV Auditorium	Yes	Concert Attire: Dress Clothes
Junior High All-County	March 20/21st	Saturday - concert 3pm	Richfield Springs HS	No	Great opportunity sing challenging music and make new friends in other schools
NYSSMA Solo Festival Levels 1-4	May 1/2nd	All day	Westmoreland HS	No	Prepare a solo and sight-reading
Spring Concert IV	May 12th	7:00pm	WCV Auditorium	Yes	Concert Attire: Dress Clothes
NYSSMA Solo Festival Levels 5-6	May 15/16th	All day	Central Valley Academy	No	Prepare a solo and sight-reading
Song Fest	June 3rd	7:00pm	WCV Auditorium	No	West Canadians Polos

(return this page)

I, (parent/guardian) _____ have read the choral handbook and understand the policies of the vocal music department at West Canada Valley Junior-Senior High School. **I have noted any concert dates on the calendar.**

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

I, (student) _____ have read the choral handbook and understand the policies of the vocal music department at West Canada Valley Junior-Senior High School. I agree to cooperate with my music teacher and school authorities in their enforcement.

Student Musician Signature

Date

Please complete this portion once you have read the handbook and return it by Sept. 13th.