

The W.T. Woodson High School Choral Program

WHERE EVERYONE HAS A VOICE!

The W.T. Woodson High School Choral Department currently embodies 150 students in grades 9 through 12. The department offers 7 different ensembles, which include *The Treble Makers*, *Chorale*, *Cavalier Choir*, *The Singing Cavaliers*, *Bella Voce*, *Unaccompanied Minors*, and *Vocal Ensemble*. All students in the choral department receive training in music theory, music history, vocal technique and sight-singing skills. The ensembles sing music of all periods, styles and cultures to ensure well-rounded musicians. The choral department has distinguished itself as one of the finest programs in the state and the nation, performing on stages across the country over the years.

Intermediate Soprano Alto Chorus (The Treble Makers) - Course Number 928516

This ensemble is for all treble singers in grade 9 who participated in chorus in 8th grade. It is also for singers in grades 10 through 12 with basic music skills, basic sight-reading skills and some choral singing experience. This is an intermediate level ensemble.

Advanced Mixed Chorus (Chorale) - Course Number 928915

This ensemble is a mixed choir representing grades 10 through 12. This is an advanced level ensemble. Entrance to the chorale is by placement from the director, which may include a knowledge assessment of basic music skills and sight-singing skills. Students who completed a full year of Intermediate Soprano Alto Chorus need not audition and will be placed in Chorale based on work in their current ensemble. **For students in 10th-12th grade who have not sung in Woodson Chorus before, an evaluative assessment with Mrs. Moir is required for entrance to this ensemble to ensure the student is being placed in the appropriate level ensemble.**

Tenor Bass Chorus (The common name among students is Cavalier Choir) - Course Number 926017

This ensemble is for all 9th grade tenors and basses along with any 10th - 12th grade tenors and basses new to Woodson Chorus. This ensemble will combine with The Singing Cavaliers and will sing as the tenor and bass sections for the Chorale. Music for both ensembles is learned during the Tenor Bass Chorus class. No formal audition is necessary for this ensemble and all tenors and basses are welcome.

Advanced Tenor Bass Chorus (The common name among students is The Singing Cavaliers) - Course Number 928917 -

This is an advanced ensemble and is only open to tenors and basses in 10th through 12th grade. This ensemble also performs as the tenor and bass sections for the Chorale. Music for both ensembles is learned during the Advanced Tenor Bass Chorus class. Students who completed a full year in Tenor Bass Chorus need not audition and will be placed in the next level based on work in their current ensemble. Students who are new to Woodson, but have high school chorus experience will need to audition for one of the directors.

Advanced Soprano Alto Chorus (The common name among students is Bella Voce) - Course Number 928916

This is an advanced ensemble and is only open to treble singers in grades 10 through 12. Entrance to this ensemble is by audition, which includes a prepared piece, sight-reading, music skills test and work ethic based on the student's work ethic. For students not currently in the choral program who choose to audition for Bella Voce, a brief letter of reference from the student's former choral director and or music teacher must be provided.

Vocal Ensemble (no course number)

This is an extra-curricular ensemble open to singers in grades 10 - 12 who are enrolled in a chorus during the school day. The ensemble rehearses outside of school hours. Entrance is by audition, which includes a prepared piece, sight-reading and work ethic based on the student's current ensemble.

Unaccompanied Minors A Cappella Group (no course number)

This is an extra-curricular ensemble open to singers in grades 9 - 12 who are enrolled in a chorus during the school day. The ensemble rehearses outside of the school day from 7 - 8 am once a week. Entrance is by audition in the fall. The group is mostly student run.

CHORAL DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Honors Choir (November).....Seniors Only (Optional activity)
Auditions take place in October at Longwood University

Pyramid Concert (October) All Ensembles

Winter Concert (December)..... All Ensembles

Dessert on Broadway (January).....Our annual Broadway Revue (optional activity)

District Chorus (February).....Selected by Audition in November (optional activity)

State Choral Assessment (March)..... This is the SOL for all performing ensembles

Spring Trip (March or April).....optional activity, but participation is highly encouraged

2017 New York City

2018 Orlando

2019 Philadelphia

2022 Virginia Beach/Busch Gardens

2023 Disney World

All Virginia Honor Chorus (April)Selected by Audition in February (optional activity)

Spring Concert (May).....All Ensembles

Social activities organized by the student officers take place throughout the year.

A European tour, sponsored by the choral boosters, takes place every 3 years. The next tour will take place in summer 2025. Information will be available in November of 2023.

The choral department represents the range of the student body at Woodson. Many students in the choral program are also active in sports, dance team, cheerleading, drama and other activities. Several choral students are also active members in the band and orchestra programs.

**Students without singing experience are welcome in the choral department.
EVERYONE CAN LEARN HOW TO BE A BETTER SINGER!**

In addition to learning how to sing and read music, you will create lasting friendships and become a part of a very welcoming family. Singing is a collaborative activity that is good for your mental and physical health.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Amy Moir: almoir@fcps.edu

For more information about the W.T. Woodson Choral Department, please visit www.woodsonchorus.org