



**Choral Department**  
**Woodson HS 2023-2024**  
**Course Syllabus/Procedures/Handbook**



<b>Teacher Information:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Phone Number:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
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**Our Vision:**

Woodson High School is a community that embraces diversity in a culture of improvement and success that promotes academic curiosity and individual mental and physical growth.

**Our Mission:**

Woodson High School's mission is to empower our community to reach their individual potential by creating a healthy environment of mutual respect, responsibility, equity, and inclusion.

**Our Commitment:**

Our department is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where everyone is respected and valued. Inappropriate comments towards another student or staff member in the virtual or traditional face-to-face setting will not be tolerated.

**Course Information:**

This course will cover topics listed in the Fairfax County Program of Studies for Choral Music. This includes a comprehensive choral education in music literacy, aural skills, various language pronunciation, vocal mechanism, ensemble performance, historical context, professional applications, and performance practice.

This course supports the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate through reinforcement of the following attributes for success in the workforce as an adult:

- Communicator: Students learn performance skills necessary for successful presentation including discussion in various viewpoints.
- Collaboration: Students work together to develop their skills as both an individual and an ensemble. Effective teamwork and conflict resolution strategies are explored through performance practice.
- Ethical and Global Citizen: Music, history, and customs of people throughout the globe is studied throughout the year. Singing in multiple languages is reinforced. Emphasis is placed on understanding and appreciating culture through respectful performance of literature from various time periods, styles, and regions.
- Creative and Critical Thinker: Students express thoughts, ideas and emotions through music. Interpretation of music develops creativity and problem solving skills. Fostering creativity translates into higher executive functioning in the workforce.
- Goal-Directed and Resilient: Students develop personalized achievement goals to progress individually. Students work to develop performance practices and refinement skills for both short term and long term goals.

**Course Materials:**

[www.sightreadingfactory.com/login](http://www.sightreadingfactory.com/login)

Students will find digital copies of music and practice tracks in Schoology

### **Classroom Environment and Procedures:**

- Students must put away their cell phones / smartwatches during the entire class period.
- Students must store earbuds and headphones in a backpack or locker.
- Students are expected to follow SRR.
- Students are responsible for having e-hallpass for leaving the classroom. E-hall pass will be used instead of paper passes this school year. There is a water fountain in the classroom. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle and refill before and after class.
- Students are expected to bring a fully charged laptop to each class to be able to fully participate in class with a specific location to store it in the classroom. Students are welcome to bring their chorus folder home to practice their music. They are expected to have the folder and a pencil at all rehearsals as part of their rehearsal strategy grade.
- Students are expected to treat all peers and adults with respect as part of the development of collaborative and productive music ensembles.
- Food, gum and beverages other than water are not permitted in chorus rehearsals.

### **FCPS Grading Scale**

The Fairfax County grading scale is in effect as follows:

A	93 – 100% = 4.0	C	73 – 76% = 2.0
A-	90 – 92% = 3.7	C-	70 – 72% = 1.7
B+	87 – 89% = 3.3	D+	67 – 69% = 1.3
B	83 – 86% = 3.0	D	64 – 66% = 1.0
B-	80 – 82% = 2.7		
C+	77 – 79% = 2.3	F	Below 64% = 0.0

**New FCPS grading policy for 23-24:** Teachers may now give zeroes for assignments that are not turned in. For assignments where students make a reasonable attempt to complete the assignment, a minimum grade of 50 will be entered. A reasonable attempt is defined as a mostly completed assignment (>50%) that uses appropriate academic language and shows an attempt to logically complete the assignment even if the answers are incorrect. In order to minimize the disproportionate impact of a zero on the final mark, the minimum quarter grade for teachers using a traditional gradebook will be 50%.

### **Course Grading Procedures**

Chorus has two grading categories within the gradebook. Each is worth 50% of the total quarter grade.

- Assessments: 50%
  - Concerts & Co-Curricular Rehearsals
  - Skills Assessments
  - Literacy Assessments
- Rehearsal Strategies: 50%
  - Individual Performance Skills
  - Ensemble Performance Skills
  - Class Engagement & Collaboration

### **SIS codes: These are set codes from the county**

**Not Turned In (NTI)** – After the late work deadline has passed, a NOT TURNED IN will be recorded indicating a student has not turned in an assignment after being given reasonable guidelines in which to complete the work.

A “0” will be assigned with this comment and averaged in the grade. This will be used to communicate with parents a pattern of work not being turned in. If a student does not turn in an assignment / assessment, the grade will remain a 0

**Late Assignment (LA)** – Carries no more than a 10% penalty and has a two week window to make it up.

**To Make Up (TMU)** – Can be recorded if a student has work to make up. A “0” will serve as a temporary placeholder until the work is submitted or the deadline has passed. Will be changed to either NTI or LA by the time quarter grades are submitted. Parents are encouraged to monitor progress reports to ensure that all make up work has been submitted prior to assigned deadlines.

**Grade Raised (GR)** – carries a weight of 50% and will be used if a student scored below a 50% on anything in the grade book (assignments and assessments).

**Excused (EA)** - When a teacher has decided to excuse an assignment, EXCUSED will be recorded and will have no impact on the averaged student grade.

### **Midterm/Final Exams:**

Midterm Exam: This class does not have a midterm exam.

Final Exam: There is no final exam. Students will complete a final sight singing quiz at the end of the school year. This will be included in the fourth quarter grade.

Final grades will be calculated as listed below:

1st quarter: 25%

2nd quarter: 25%

3rd period: 25%

4th period: 25%

### **Retake Policy:**

If a student receives a 80% or below on a quiz or test, they are able to retake with the highest grade of the two counted. A student’s grade within a collaborative assessment such as a concert is not eligible for a retake. Retakes must be completed within the given quarter of the assignment. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for a retake time and submit the required materials.

**Late Work:** If a student misses an assignment, “TO MAKE UP” will be used as a placeholder and factor as 0%. It will be changed to “NOT TURNED IN” after two weeks. Late work will receive a penalty of 10% off the grade. Students have two weeks or the end of the quarter to complete late work, whichever comes first. Late work will not be accepted after the quarter ends.

### **Attendance Policy:**

The excused and unexcused absence policy is defined in the FCPS Board Regulations [2234](#) and [2232.4](#). There is no make-up assignment for the students with **unexcused** absences from rehearsals and performances. The grade assigned in this circumstance is 0%. Students with pre-arranged absences must communicate the absence a minimum of four weeks in advance to receive a make-up assignment, otherwise the missed assignment grade is a 0%.

Excused absences include student illness, funerals, religious observances, and pre-approved absences by the director. Pre-approval must occur at least four weeks prior to the rehearsal or concert. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to forgetfulness, lack of transportation, family travel that is not pre-approved as excused at least four weeks prior to the rehearsal or concert, non-VHSL athletic & activities, sports participation that is not communicated in advance of the performance or rehearsal, and/or student jobs.

### **Make Up Work for Excused Absences:**

- This is a performing arts class. It is expected that students perform at least once a quarter for an authentic Project Based Learning (PBL) assignment. Extenuating circumstances sometimes occur. Students may be excused from concert performances with the opportunity for full credit on a make-up assignment (*see TMU*).

- Make up work for missed quizzes, tests, and collaborative strategy grades will be the completion of the specific missed learning activity.
- Student athletes must communicate with the director at least three weeks in advance if they will miss a performance due to a scheduled game/tourney/match. The exception to this would be playoff sporting events at the end of the season in which three weeks advance notice is not possible. Practices for athletic teams are not considered excused absences. Student athletes are expected to communicate rehearsal and concert dates with coaches at the start of the season.

**Learning Seminar Periods: Students will follow the return schedule as posted.**

- New graded course material may not be presented. Most chorus Learning Seminar classes will be a review of a choral material.
- Students are to still follow the SRR regarding no cell phones or ear buds
- Students may be pulled from returns to attend intervention, specific lessons from student services or grade level presentations
- The library will not be available during returns
- Advisory will occur during the 3rd Return - this will be used for SEL presentations and POGPOL

**Honor Code:**

Woodson High School strives to produce students who act, at all times, in a manner that demonstrates honor and integrity. Any suspected incidents of cheating, plagiarism, or fraud will be referred to the Honor Council. Students found in violation will be subject to the consequences as outlined in the Honor Code. For more information, please refer to the Honor Code and Honor Council Procedures on Woodson’s website.

All work to include homework, in all classes is individual unless a teacher specifically notes that collaboration is expected and allowed. Collaboration is a POG skill, and will be worked on throughout the year as it pertains to each content area.

**Communication:**

The best way to contact your teacher with questions is via email. Every effort will be made to ensure that responses are given within 48 hours. Parents are encouraged to access the SIS gradebook often in order to stay current with their student’s progress.

Students and parents are encouraged to join Remind 101 for the ensemble. Directions for how to join are on Schoology.

You can follow us online:

[www.woodsonchorus.org](http://www.woodsonchorus.org)

Instagram @wtwchorus

Twitter @wtwchorus

[www.youtube.com/c/woodsonchorus](http://www.youtube.com/c/woodsonchorus)

This course adheres to FCPS School Board Regulations including the following.

- R3866.1 [Co-curricular Statement](#)
- P3205 [Homework](#)
- R5922 [Student Fees](#)
- R2234 [Student Absences](#)
- P2232.4 [Student Attendance](#)

# **Chorus Finances**

The course fee this year is \$40. The fee covers the sweatshirt and t-shirt purchase for new choral students. It also covers costs associated with concert program printing, professional accompanists and instrumentalists, clinicians, and end of year awards. Payment for the supply fee can be made via [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). Checks can also be made to Woodson High School and mailed to the address below, or submitted to your child's chorus teacher. Please include your child's name and "chorus fee" in the memo line.

Woodson High School  
% Woodson Choral Department  
9525 Main Street  
Fairfax, VA 22031

Parents/guardians of students with financial needs are encouraged to contact their music instructor for financial assistance.

# **Chorus Concert Attire/Uniforms**

Students have the option to wear either a tuxedo or dress during concerts. Rental and purchase fees are managed through MySchoolBucks. Specific information and forms will be emailed home to families in early September.

There are three concert attire uniform options for all students. You will end up selecting the items in the form based on what option your child prefers to wear. The dress has an option to purchase and an option to rent.

*Option 1:* formal dress (rented or purchased), baby Louis black dress shoe with a 1/4 inch heel (purchased by the student), pearls (purchased by the student)

*Option 2:* Gender neutral Baxter top, Baxter pants, (both part of the rental fee) and black dress shoe (provided by student)

*Option 3:* Black tuxedo pants, black tuxedo jacket, black & gray tie (part of the uniform rental), black dress shoe (provided by student), tuxedo dress shirt (purchase separately)

Please complete [this](#) order form by Friday, September 1st. This form lets us know what items you need and/or don't need. Payment can be made via MySchoolBucks or via check made payable to Woodson High School. Students who need concert attire will need to attend a uniform fitting. They will sign up for a time in advance. Please bring [this](#) form with you to the uniform fitting. It will allow the fitting to go more quickly.

Families with financial need, please contact [almoir@fcps.edu](mailto:almoir@fcps.edu) for confidential assistance.

## 2023 - 2024 Rehearsal and Concert Schedule

Dates listed in bold below are required assessments as part of the choral curriculum. Concert dates are highlighted. Rubrics for each graded event can be found in Schoology and in the Choral Handbook. Any events with an asterisk (\*) are highly encouraged, but not graded or required. A list of optional opportunities as part of an extension of the curriculum are listed in a separate document found on Schoology and in the Choral Handbook.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Weds. Aug. 16	*Ice Cream Social	7:00 - 8:30 PM	Cafeteria A
Fri. Sept. 22	*National Anthem Pyramid Sing	6:15 - 7:15 PM	Meet in Auditorium - Perform on Football Field
Sat, Oct 14	*Tag Day	8 am - 2 pm	Mantua Clubhouse
<b>TBD in Oct.</b>	<b>Tenor/Bass Army Chorus Workshop</b>	<b>1 - 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Mon. Oct. 23</b>	<b>Department rehearsal Chorale Rehearsal</b>	<b>3:15 - 4:00 PM 4:00 - 4:30</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Tues. Oct. 24</b>	<b>Pyramid Concert</b>	<b>5:30 PM Call 7:00 PM Concert</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
Thurs. Nov. 30	Chorale Rehearsal	7-8 PM	Chorus Room
Fri. Dec. 8	Music Showcase Rehearsal - VE & Showcase Ensemble	3:30 - 6:30 PM	Auditorium
Mon. Dec. 11	Combined Choirs Chorale Rehearsal	3:15 - 4:30 PM 4:30- 5:00 PM	Auditorium
<b>Tues. Dec. 12</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>6 PM call time 7 PM concert</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
Weds. Dec. 13	Music Showcase Dress Rehearsal - VE & Showcase Ensemble	3:30 - 6:00 PM	Auditorium
<b>Thur. Dec. 14</b>	<b>Music Showcase Concert - VE &amp; Showcase Ensemble</b>	<b>6:30 PM Call Time 7 PM Concert</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
Mon. Feb. 26	Chorale Rehearsal	3:15 - 4:15	Auditorium
<b>Tues. Feb. 27</b>	<b>Pre-Assessment Concert</b>	<b>6:00 PM Call 7 PM Concert</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Mar. 7 - 8</b>	<b>Choral Assessment</b>	<b>times TBD -</b>	<b>George Mason University</b>
Weds. May 15	Chorale Rehearsal	3:15 - 4:15	Chorus Room

<b>Weds. May 22</b>	<b>Combined Choirs Rehearsal Chorale Rehearsal</b>	<b>3:15 - 4:45 4:45 - 5:15</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Thurs. May 23</b>	<b>Spring Chorus Concert</b>	<b>6 PM Call 7 PM Concert</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>Tues. May 28</b>	<b>*Choral Awards Banquet</b>	<b>6 PM - 9 PM</b>	<b>Cafeteria A &amp; Auditorium</b>

While much time and energy is spent in creating a calendar with as few conflicts to other school events as possible, conflicts sometimes arise. While this is rare, if it does occur chorus families will be given as much advance notice as possible.

Communicate with your coaches and club sponsors in advance and also when conflicts arise. Many coaches and club sponsors are very supportive of your music activities. Your communication with them in advance of a rehearsal or concert is essential. In addition, sometimes circumstances out of our control can change an event date. Please also communicate with your music director as soon as you know of any conflict. Oftentimes, with enough notice, conflicts can be resolved.

The Music Showcase Concert and Rehearsal schedule is for Vocal Ensemble and a specific Showcase Ensemble. Students will receive information on how they can be part of the Showcase Ensemble in the fall.

(Calendar Published August 15, 2023)

# Optional Opportunities

As part of the W.T. Woodson Choral Department, all singers have the opportunity to participate in optional opportunities as an extension of the curriculum. Each opportunity is highly encouraged, but does not have any grade associated with it. Students can earn Music and Merits Points for participating. Below is a list of the opportunities with dates for each event. Many of them require an audition and have additional financial obligations. Students wishing to audition should check that they are available for both the audition date and the event date before auditioning. More detailed information regarding each event will be distributed when it becomes available.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Short Description</u>
Aug. 16	Chorus Ice Cream Social	Cafeteria A	7-8:30 pm	All choral students, both new and returning, are invited to play games, get to know each other, and celebrate with ice cream.
Aug 16	New Choral Parent Orientation	Chorus Room E146	7 - 8:00 pm	Parents are welcome for a meet & greet, presentation about the program, ice cream, and socialization with returning parents.
Sept 28 - Oct 5	Senior Honors Choir Audition window. Find audition info <a href="#">here</a> .	Virtual audition completed via Opus Events	Student scheduled time.	Auditions are only open to seniors enrolled in chorus.
Tues. Nov 7	District Chorus Auditions	Centreville HS	Prescheduled audition blocks	All chorus students are eligible
Nov 16-18	Senior Honors Choir Rehearsals/Concert	Richmond, VA	All day	Participants selected by audition.
Fri. Jan 19 Mon. Jan 22 Tues. Jan 23 Wed. Jan 24 Thu. Jan 25 Fri. Jan 26 Sat. Jan 27 Sat. Jan 27	DOB Dress Rehearsal DOB Dress Rehearsal DOB Dress Rehearsal DOB Dress Rehearsal DOB Preview Show DOB Show DOB Show DOB Show	Joan C. Bedinger Auditorium	4-7 PM 4-7 PM 4-7 PM 4-7 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	The Dessert on Broadway (DOB) rehearsal schedule will be available with audition information. The party will be directly after the last show in Cafe B.
Thu. Feb 15	All-VA Chorus Auditions District Chorus Rehearsal	West Springfield HS	5-8 PM 6-9 PM	Students who made district chorus are eligible to audition.



Feb 16-17	District Chorus	West Springfield HS	Evening on 2/15 All day 2/16 & 2/17	Students selected by audition in November.
Feb 21 - 24	ACDA Southern Region Honor Choirs	Louisville, KY	All day	Students submit audition recordings in September.
April 11-13	Music Department Spring Trip	New York, NY		Information distributed in the fall.
Apr 18-20	All Virginia Chorus	Richmond, VA	All day	Auditions in February
Apr 26-29 May 3-5	Spring Musical "1776"	Auditorium	Various showtimes	Auditions in January/February

Senior Honors Choir audition information for 2023 is posted at the following website:

<https://www.vmea.com/honors-choir>

ACDA Southern Region Honor Choir information for 2024 will be posted when it is available. Auditions are done through audio recordings in September. The event is associated with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Students new to W.T. Woodson Chorus are encouraged to go to our webpage to read about **Dessert on Broadway (DOB)**. [www.woodsonchorus.org](http://www.woodsonchorus.org)

\*If any dates are altered due to extenuating circumstances, communication will be sent home to chorus families in as timely a manner as possible.