

WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL HANDBOOK 2009 - 2010



**CHOIR 9
CONCERT CHOIR
MEN'S ENSEMBLE
TREBLE CHOIR
SOUND ATTRACTION**

**THE HUMAN VOICE IS THE ORGAN OF THE SOUL
LONGFELLOW**

From the Director...

Wow! What a year we had last year! As I start my 25th year here in Williamsburg, I have as much passion for making music as I did my first year. You have given me the inspiration! We did so many neat things last year, from the great tradition of “Christmas in Williamsburg”, to those great performances at concerts.

Being a member of the choir requires dedication and commitment. I, as the director will also be committed to creating a comfortable environment where learning can take place. Each of you possesses special talents that you bring to this group. You must use your talents wisely in order to create a successful choral experience for everyone. Only through cooperation, patience and personal responsibility will the choir experience be a success.

We need to continue to strive for rehearsals that are very exciting. Remember that, every performance reflects what kind of rehearsal we have. We want strong performances.

A program the size of this one at Williamsburg cannot accomplish its goals without guidelines and regulations. It is imperative that each member knows what is expected of her/him. I look forward to working with you in a collective effort to produce outstanding musical performances and to experience the special joys that making music brings.

Expressivo,

Steven Manning

From the associate director...

Welcome! I am excited that you have decided to participate in the vocal music offerings at Williamsburg High School. I know that we will have a great year in choir. A successful choral program requires commitment from each student and director toward a common purpose: creating meaningful musical experiences. I am confident that your collective talents, drive and integrity will help us achieve such a goal. The months ahead will bring many thrilling opportunities for each of us; I cannot wait to get started!

“Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.” ~Victor Hugo

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Ashelin

I. CHORAL ENSEMBLES
CHOIR IS A YEAR LONG COURSE.

A. **Concert Choirs** - These ensembles will consist of students in grades 9 - 12. We will have a 9th Grade Choir and a 10-12 Choir. Performances include major school concerts, state contests and festivals. Additional sectionals or full choir rehearsals may be scheduled on designated dates. These ensembles meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

- B. **Men's Ensemble/Treble Choir** - These ensembles will consist of Concert Choir members. Performances will be the same as Concert Choir. Both ensembles will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- C. **Show Choir (SOUND ATTRACTION)** - This select ensemble will consist of members within the Concert Choir. Rehearsals will be scheduled before and after school. Performances will include school concerts, Spring Dinner Show, participation in State Show Choir Contest, Benton Invitational, Fort Madison Show Choir Invitational, Central Lee Invitational, C.R. Washington Contest and various community performances.
- D. **En Harmony & Sirens** - These select groups of men and women want more performance avenues. They are involved in all aspects of the music program. They perform the Banner at athletic events as well as sing at community events.

II. LESSONS

Lessons will be at least 15 minutes in length during school once weekly. Students will need to attend lessons on a regular basis.. Missed lessons should be made up in a timely manner.

III. STATEMENT OF CHOIR POLICY

- A. In order to help choir members and parents understand their areas of responsibility, a choir policy statement is herein set forth. Becoming familiar with this policy will help each choir member make the most of this fine opportunity to become a better person through an association with music.
- B. A choir members responsibility to the Choral Music Program:
 1. Attend regularly and account for all absences.
 2. Make a real effort to learn and improve daily.
 3. Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of your actions.
 4. Be personally clean and neat and dress appropriately.
 5. Have the proper respect for those in authority.
 6. Follow all classroom school regulations and all travel instructions issued for trips.
 7. Be honest and fair with others concerning music and school life in general.
 8. Cooperate with fellow choir members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are a part of the choral program.
 9. Contribute positively to personal music education and that of others by complete utilization of talents.
 10. Read and sing music with insight and expression.

IV. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- A. Promptness - Be on time and be ready to sing.
- B. Self Discipline - No talking when your section is not singing.
- C. Respect and Courtesy - No talking when the director is talking.
- D. Rehearsal Schedule - Before the rehearsal begins, be in your proper place with your folder and music ready to start.
- E. Posture - When you sing use correct posture. Stand and sit tall.

- F. NO CHOIR IS BETTER THAN ITS REHEARSALS!!!!!! Rehearse as if it were a concert.
- G. Any discrepancies or discussions with the director concerning disciplinary action must take place after rehearsals.
- H. All rehearsals will be conducted in a professional work atmosphere with emphasis on improvement.
- I. Failure to follow rehearsal guidelines will result in:
 1. Director/Student conference
 2. Behavior Referral Form - Detention
 3. Parent Conference

V. EXTRA REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

It may become necessary to schedule additional choir rehearsals and sectionals. These will be posted well in advance to allow students adequate time to adjust their schedules. Extra rehearsals are required and may be held before or after school hours. If a student has a conflict and cannot attend an extra rehearsal or sectional, they must notify the director BEFORE THE REHEARSAL.

VI. PERFORMANCES

- A. Attendance - Public performances are school requirements just like tests, however they cannot be made up. The choir director must be given notice five days prior to the performance to be missed. **A green pre-excuse form signed by parents is a must!!** The only exceptions are if the student is absent that day, or an emergency situation appears. Free days, family business, doctor appointments or college days are not excusable on performance days.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE TO A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A LETTER GRADE DROP

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE TO A SECOND PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE AND EXPULSION FROM CHOIR!

The Director and High School Principal will determine an unexcused absence.

TRIPS-Students will be allowed to go home with their parents with a written note and acknowledgment from the parent.

- B. Concert Dress -
 - Concert Choir - Robes
 - Men - Black pants, tie, black dress shoes and black socks
White dress shirt

Ladies - Dress Skirt - NO SHORTS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Black Full dress shoes
nude hose
No earrings, jewelry or hair pins

You will not be allowed to perform without correct concert apparel. It will be an unexcused performance. 1st unexcused - Letter Grade drop; 2nd unexcused - Failing Grade and expulsion from choir.

VII. GRADING GUIDELINES

- A - is alert and actively contributes at all times
No talking
Always has excellent posture when singing
Attends all lessons
- B - is alert and contributes at all times
No talking
Always has excellent posture when singing
Attends all lessons
- C - contributes willingly
Minor or no talking
Most of the time has good posture
Attends all lessons
- D - low level of concentration
Occasional talking
Fifty percent or less of the time has good posture
Attends all lessons or misses a few
- F - lack of contribution
Constant talking
Rarely has good posture
Attends lessons only occasionally or never

II. CHOIR COUNCIL

- A. Choir Council members are an important part of the choir. They are a source of spirit and pride to the ensemble, and they perform valuable functions for the total program.

PRESIDENT –

Student representative of the choir
Conducts all choir council meetings
Sees that council meetings are held periodically

Appoints committees for social events, publicity, and special events
Promotes choir activities - social, educational and special events
Coordinates all student officers of the choir
Reports any problems or suggestions for improvement of the choir program to the director

VICE PRESIDENT –

Assumes all duties of the choir president when necessary
Assists choir president whenever possible
Is in charge of publicity for all public performances

SECRETARY –

Takes minutes of all meetings
Assists all officers whenever possible
Takes daily attendance
Helps with choir correspondence and letters for the director

LIBRARIAN –

Helps with filing, sorting and passing out music
In charge of care and maintenance of robes
Help choir Secretary with miscellaneous jobs

REPRESENTATIVE - SECTION LEADERS

SOPRANO -

ALTO -

TENOR -

BASS -

IX. AWARDS

MYRTLE O'DONNELL MEMORIAL CHORAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is presented to a qualified senior at Senior Awards Night. Applications can be picked up from the choir director. The award winner is judged from a selection committee based on their application and accomplishments in the choral department.

***OUTSTANDING CHORAL MUSICIAN AWARD**

Presented to the senior choir member who has demonstrated the most effective leadership and dedication to the Williamsburg High School Concert Choir throughout the year.

***NATHAN WIEBOLD OUTSTANDING SHOW CHOIR PERFORMER MEMORIAL AWARD**

Presented to the member who has shown the most leadership and dedication in Show Choir throughout the year.

***OUTSTANDING FRESHMAN**

Male/Female

***OUTSTANDING SOPHOMORE**

Male/Female

***OUTSTANDING JUNIOR**

Male/Female

*These awards will be determined by an objective vote of the students. The director has the option to accept or reject the decision.

**Quality is Never an Accident;
It is Always the Result of High Intention,
Sincere Effort, Intelligent Direction,
And Skillful Execution;
It Represents the Wise Choice of Many Alternatives**

Willa A. Foster

Williamsburg High School CHORAL MUSIC SCHEDULE 2009-2010

2009

October 13	Simpson College Honor Choir
October 20	Fall Choral Concert (9-12) 7:30 p.m.-Messer
November 10	WAMAC Choral Festival – Vinton-Shellsburg
December 7	Junior High Music Concert 7:00p.m. - Messer
December 5	Christmas in Williamsburg Rehearsal 2:00 p.m.
December 6	Christmas in Williamsburg Grand Concert 3 & 5:30 p.m. High School Gymnasium

2010

January 10-11	Dorian Vocal Festival – Luther College
February 1	State Show Choir Festival
February 13	Benton Show Choir Invitational
February 27	Central Lee Show Choir Invitational
March 4	Choirs In Concert” (9-12) 7:30 p.m. - Messer
March 6	Ft. Madison Show Choir Competition
March 9	Jr. High Music Concert 7:00 p.m. - Messer
March 13	C. R. Washington “ Mo Show”
March 27	State Music Festival, Solos and Ensembles
April 10	Dinner Show - H. S. Gym 2 & 6:30 p.m.
May 4	Spring Concert (9–12 Band/Choral) 7:30p.m. - Messer
May 7	State Music Large Group Contest
May 19	Senior Awards Night 7:00p.m.
May 23	Graduation

MUSIC ASSOCIATION - 7:00 p.m.

High School Music Room
First Thursday of Each Month

September 3
October 1
November 5

December 3
January 7
February 4

March 2 (Tues.)
April 8
May 6

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I HAVE READ THE CONCERT CHOIR HANDBOOK AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES AND REHEARSAL PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATING IN CHOIR

STUDENTS SIGNATURE

I HAVE ALSO READ THE HANDBOOK AND WILL HELP MY SON/DAUGHTER TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS SO THAT MY SON/DAUGHTER CAN HAVE THE BEST LEARNING EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

