

Vocal Music Department Philosophy Statement

The Waukee Vocal Music Program provides instruction and opportunities for students to collaborate with peers, develop age appropriate vocal technique, and build music literacy skills through music inclusive of different historical periods and cultures. It is the goal of the Vocal Music Department to provide students with a comprehensive education full of experiences that promote life-long singing and appreciation.

HS A Cappella / Northwest Singers Description

A Cappella and Northwest Singers are auditioned ensembles in the 10-12 buildings. These ensembles audition each spring; selected students are expected to read music at a high level and perform with a higher level of independence than the non-auditioned choral ensembles. Participation in these ensembles includes extra performances during the school year and weekly sectionals that are student-led and held outside of the school day. Further study of singing techniques and skills, focusing on sound unification, intonation, vocal independence and stage presence will be explored and discussed through a wide variety of literature. Study in solfege and music literacy will continue. These students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day. Students will also be expected to attend voice lessons during the school day throughout the school year.

Students will...

- Develop music literacy skills
- Perform with age appropriate vocal technique
- Learn and perform a diverse set of repertoire
- Respond to and evaluate musical performances using academic language

HS A Cappella / Northwest Singers Course Components

- 1) Vocal warm-up exercises grounded in the fundamentals of vocal pedagogy
- 2) Sight reading in four parts utilizing chromatic and diatonic pitches
- 3) Performance of diverse sets of repertoire appropriate for an auditioned 10-12 high school ensemble in the Waukee Community School District
- 4) Evaluations of performances including but not limited to formal reflections, class discussions, and listening exercises
- 5) Voice lessons, a vital experience for students that centers around individual vocal development

Waukee CSD 10-12 Guiding Principles

- Differentiation of instruction and assessment is necessary for students to grow and progress.
- Multiple data points are used to determine the summative grade.
- Course grades accurately communicate only academic achievement of the standards.
- Independent practice is meaningful, purposeful, and tied to standards
- Students are given multiple opportunities to show proficiency through ongoing assessment