

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 Concert Choir Description

Concert Choir is a non-auditioned ensemble open to any singer in grades 11-12 or grade 10 with instructor approval in the 10-12 buildings. 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. Concert Choir 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 and performances throughout the school year.

Note: In 2023-24, this course will be open only to grades 11-12.

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 Concert Choir Units

- 1) Vocal warm-up exercises grounded in the fundamentals of vocal pedagogy
- 2) Sight reading in up to four parts utilizing chromatic and diatonic pitches
- 3) Performance of diverse sets of repertoire that are appropriate for non-auditioned 10-12 high school singers 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.