

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 Bella Voce / Vox Description

Bella Voce and Vox are non-auditioned, clef specific ensembles in the 10-12 buildings. These ensembles are composed of treble clef singers in 10th grade 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. These students are eligible and encouraged to participate in other musical opportunities outside of the school day. Students in these ensembles will be expected to attend voice lessons during the school day and performances 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 Bella Voce / Vox Course Components

- 1) Vocal warm-up exercises grounded in the fundamentals of vocal pedagogy
- 2) Sight reading in up to four parts utilizing diatonic pitches with chromaticism introduced later in the year
- 3) Performance of diverse sets of repertoire that are appropriate for non-auditioned 10th grade 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 6-12 Guiding Principles

- Responsive instruction and ongoing assessment are necessary for all learners to grow and progress.
- A body of evidence is used to determine proficiency.
- Course grades accurately communicate only academic achievement of the standards.
- Equitable practices and opportunities exist across all classrooms.