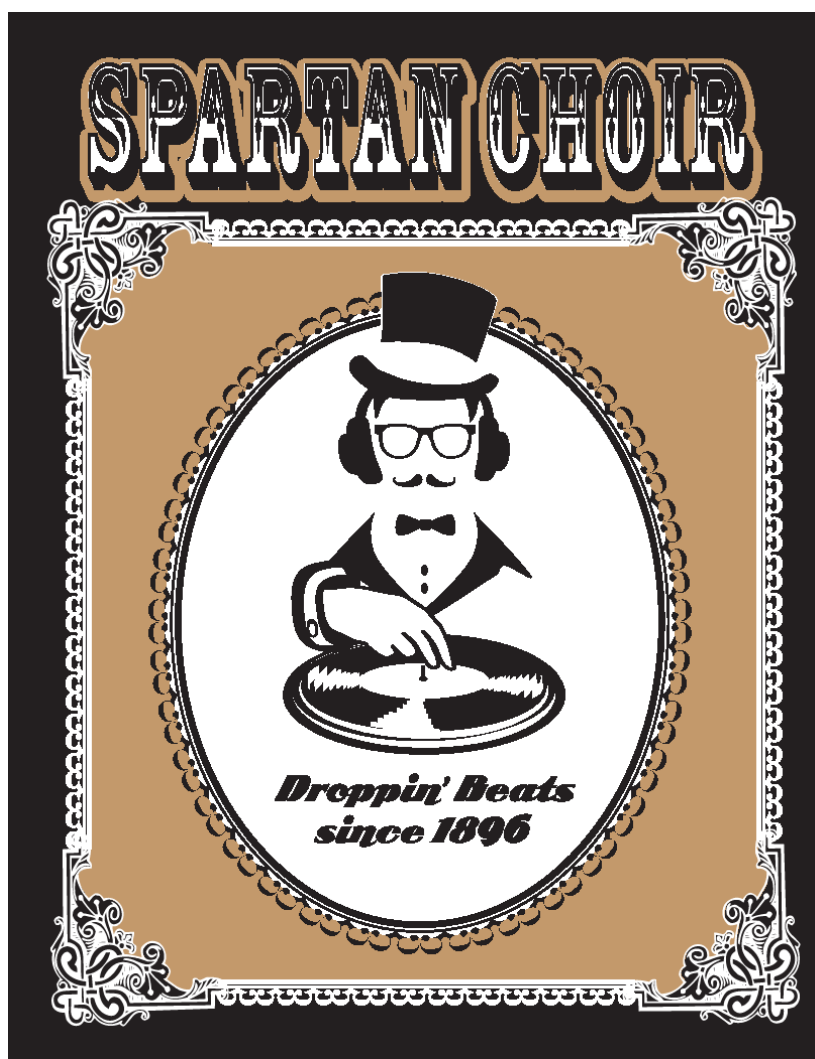


# WEST SPRINGFIELD CHORAL ARTS



{hand}book 2014-2015

Mr. Dustin Brandt, director  
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phone: 703.913.3932  
[www.spartanchoir.com](http://www.spartanchoir.com)

## Welcome

### **Dear Students and Parents:**

I am so excited to welcome you to the West Springfield Choral Arts Department. My goal for each student in the choral department is to have a positive experience making music and to develop a strong sense of self by providing engaging, creative, and challenging opportunities through an atmosphere that demands self-respect, a positive community, and hard work.

I have provided a handbook for you and your student to read over. It is devised as a reference for the director, parents, and students. The information contained in the book will answer many of your questions and help to alleviate any misunderstandings later in the year. Please read over the information with your student and sign the back page of the booklet.

I encourage students and parents to contact me at any point during the year should you have questions or concerns. E-mail is usually the easiest way to reach me, as I am not usually near the phone during the school day, but you are welcome to leave a voicemail message and I will return your calls as soon as possible. I am looking forward to making beautiful music together.

Please return the last page of the handbook by

**Thursday, September 18th, 2014.**

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me at school, 703-913-3932 or via email at [dtbrandt@fcps.edu](mailto:dtbrandt@fcps.edu).

Sincerely,

Mr. Dustin Brandt  
Choral Arts Director  
West Springfield High School

## Rules and Expectations

All students are expected to have read and comply with the following expectations:

1. Respect others. Respect yourself. Respect property. Respect performances.
2. Students will be assigned a black binder and pencil for chorus. In this binder, students are to keep all course materials distributed by the director and a sharpened pencil. Students must always use pencil when marking music or when working on written assignments. This may be taken home, but you are responsible to bring it back to class the next day!
3. No gum chewing nor food or drink should be consumed in the choral classroom without Mr. Brandt's direct permission. **Only water is permitted.** Students are encouraged to have a water bottle with them every day.
5. Students are expected to arrive for class on time and prepared. When the bell rings, students need to be ready for the warm-up activity. Students who abuse the school attendance policy will be referred to their administrator for disciplinary action.
6. Unnecessary talking and disruptions will not be tolerated in the rehearsal setting. Student grades will reflect rehearsal technique and class performance assessments.
7. Students are not allowed to have cell phones, gaming devices, etc during class time, performances, or rehearsals. Students who have a cell phone or are texting during a performance will receive a take home detention and a deduction in points for concert etiquette. In addition parents who have cell phones out or on during performances may be subjected to the evil eye, uncomfortably long stares, aggravated whispering or awkward silences while we wait for your phone to stop ringing, and other forms of passive-aggressive forms of public humiliation.
8. **Choral students are required to attend all choral concerts in which their ensemble is performing.** Call times will be announced at least four weeks in advance of a concert. Students will only be excused from a concert with a valid medical excuse. **Birthdays, family functions, lack of transportation, vacations, etc. are not valid excuses for missing a concert.** Please plan ahead. Please read the handbook sections regarding performance and rehearsal requirements.
9. All policies outlined for students of West Springfield High School are to be upheld, both on and off campus, as a member of the Choral Department.

## Grading Policies

Students will be graded using a Total Points Grading System. Every quarter will be worth a set number of total points.

For example, a grading quarter could be divided as follows:

Concert Performance = 200 points

Sight Singing Test #1= 50 points

Daily Warm Ups= 150 points

Written Test #1= 50 points

Weekly Class Grade =60 or 90 points (30 per day) = 675 points per quarter

TOTAL for Quarter = 1125 POINTS

The *grading scale* for each term is set according to the FCPS/WSHS Grading Scale; the *number of points* will vary upon the numbers of tests, performances, etc. Students are expected to participate fully in daily rehearsals in the classroom for 30 points per day. Should a student be unable to sing due to illness, he or she is expected to observe the rehearsal and take notes in his/her music. Students who are sick will not be allowed to just sit and listen. If you are truly that ill, you will be excused to the clinic. Students will not receive full class work points if they do not have their music, do not have their pencil, or are not prepared for class in any way.

## Performance Requirements

Performances are an extremely important part of music education. **Thus, students are required to perform in each of the main choral department performances this year.** Plan ahead! **As previously stated, students will only be excused from a concert with valid medical excuse.** Birthdays, family functions, lack of transportation, vacations, etc. are not valid excuses for missing a concert.

The official choral calendar is available both in the classroom and at [www.spartanchoir.com](http://www.spartanchoir.com). Please take a moment to note all performances that are required and plan accordingly. The calendar is not set in stone, and any changes will be announced as soon as possible. As performance dates are added throughout the year, students will be notified within a reasonable amount of time to make necessary arrangements. Unique cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.

## Rehearsal Requirements

Afterschool rehearsals are a required part of the music department at West Springfield. In order for students in various choral classes to practice together, afterschool rehearsals are necessary. Dates will be announced at least two weeks in advance of any afterschool rehearsal. The week before a concert, there will always be at least one required afterschool rehearsal. Please check the attached calendar, **as well as the postings in the classroom** to confirm these rehearsals and times. Missing an after school rehearsal can be very costly to ones grade!

Students who do not pre-arrange an absence or conflict at least 2 weeks in advance will not be excused from rehearsals.

## Fundraiser Expectations

Throughout the school year, the choral department will sponsor individual and group fundraisers to help offset the costs of trips, partys, costumes, music, pianos, risers etc. Pie Sales, SpartanFest, All that Jazz, and Breakfast with Santa, are annual department fundraisers. Christmas Tree Ornament sales and Leaf Raking are individual fundraisers. **In lieu of students fees all students are expected to participate in all group fundraisers to help support the program.** Incentives will be offered to encourage students to take part in our efforts. Other than the uniform purchase and unlike most music programs there is NO ANNUAL FEE associated with this department. We raise all our money.

## Concert Attire

Students in the choral department must wear uniform attire for all performances. Below are lists of uniform requirements for all students in the choral department. Female students will be measured in class in September for their concert dresses.

### Women in Bel Canto, and Concert Choir and Madrigals:

#### **\$85 fee includes:**

- Black WSHS Choral Dress
- CPA will provide pearl necklaces at each concert

#### **Does not include (you provide):**

- Black flat concert shoes (no higher than one inch heel)
- Nude or black bra

### Women in Personality:

#### **\$50 fee includes:**

- Show Dress
- Earrings

#### **Does not include (you provide):**

- Flesh t-strap character shoes
- Black tights
- Tan tights
- CoverGirl Ever Red-dy 507
- False Eye-Lashes
- Other items TBA

### ALL Men:

#### **Who DO NOT own a Tux:**

#### **\$117 fee includes:**

- Black Tuxedo Jacket
- White lay-down collar Tuxedo Shirt
- Black Tuxedo Pants
- Black Fully Lined Vest and Tie

#### **Does not include (you provide)**

- Black socks
- Black dress shoes

#### **Who already OWN a Tux**

#### **\$50 fee includes**

- vest & tie = \$35 and shirt\* = \$15.

\*If you have a white lay-down collar tuxedo shirt you only have to pay \$35 for a vest and tie.

These uniforms are yours to keep and are your responsibility to hem. You will be sent a bill via CHARMS for your uniform.

Students are expected to be fully dressed for every concert in order to participate. Students who are not dressed correctly will not perform and will receive no points towards their grade for the quarter. **Students are to wear no jewelry except the what is assigned to them. Hair should be pinned back away from the face and be off the shoulders.** Families who are financially concerned about covering the cost of the uniform should contact Mr. Brandt as soon as possible.

**Calendar 2014-2015 UPDATED 8/29/2014**

8/25	10:00 AM	Madrigals	Rehearsal; Choir Room
8/26	10:00 AM	Madrigals	Rehearsal and Photos - Wear Polos and Jeans!
8/27	10:00 AM	Personality	Dance Workshop and Fittings
8/28	9:00 AM	Madrigals	Orientation - National Anthem
9/19	6:45 PM	Madrigals	Home Game
9/26	6:45 PM	Madrigals	Home Game
9/30		All Choirs	Fundraising Begins
10/3	7-10 PM	All Choirs	Dance-a-Thon!!! - Fundraising for Trips
10/10	6:45 PM	Madrigals	Homecoming Game
10/11	3:30 PM	German Exchange	Germans Arrive @ Dulles Airport
10/11	All Day	Seniors - Optional	All State Auditions Longwood University
10/11			Homecoming Dance
10/12	5:00 PM??	German Exchange	Welcome Potluck in Cafeteria
10/17	6:45 PM	Madrigals	Homegame
10/20	5:30 PM	All Choirs	Dress Rehearsal w/ Germans @ TBA
10/21	7:00 PM	All Choirs	Fall Concert w/ Germans @ TBA
10/21		All Choirs	Fundraising Ends
10/24	12:30 PM	German Exchange	Germans Depart @ Dulles Airport
11/7	6:45 PM	Madrigals	Homegame
11/15	8:00 - 4:00	All Choirs	District Choir Auditions @ Centreville HS
11/20-22	All Day	Srs. who Auditioned for Honors Choir	Honors Choir, Norfolk VA
12/1-5	2:30-6:00	AUDITIONS	Musical, One Acts and All That Jazz
12/13	7:30 AM	All Choirs	Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser/Performance
12/16	2:30 PM	All Choirs	Dress Rehearsal for Winter Concert
12/17	7:00 PM	All Choirs	Winter Concert
2/9-13			All That Jazz Fundraiser
2/19-21		All Choirs	District Choir/All-VA Auditions
3/10	7:00 PM	All Choirs	Pre-Assessment Concert
3/19-21		All Choirs	Assessment @ Woodson
4/16-18		All Choirs	Spring Trip Location TBA
6/8	2:30 PM	All Choirs	Dress Rehearsal
6/9	7:00 PM	All Choirs	Spring Concert
6/11	6:30 PM	All Choirs	Choir Banquet
6/15-19		Germany Exchange	After school Rehearsals
6/20-7/4		Germany Exchange	Germany Trip!

**SIGNATURE FORM (TURN IN)**

**Please sign the statement below and return this and ALL OTHER FORMS to the chorus office by Thursday, September 18th, 2014.**

We the Parents/Guardians of ♦ \_\_\_\_\_ have read the West Springfield High School Choral Arts handbook with our student and understand the policies of the WSHS Choral Arts department. We understand that the handbook outlines the basic curriculum and expectations for our student during their participation in the WSHS Choral Arts department.

(Print Student's name)

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

- My emergency care information is attached!
  
- I WILL host a German Exchange Students(s) from October 11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> and **have signed up at signupgenius through the link at www.spartanchoir.com**
- I WILL NOT host a German Exchange from October 11<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>
  
- I WILL travel to Germany for two weeks at the end of June with the Spartan Choir
- I WILL NOT travel to Germany for two weeks at the end of June with the Spartan Choir
  
- I WILL participate in the Spring Competition in Williamsburg, VA **and my spring trip commitment form is attached!**
- I WILL NOT participate in the Spring Competition in Williamsburg, VA
  
- I WILL purchase an optional Choir Hoodie and/or T-Shirt **and my order form is attached!**
- I WILL NOT Purchase an optional Choir Hoodie and/or T-Shirt
  
- PARENTS - I WILL volunteer to help the Choral Patrons Association **and the CPA interest sheet is attached!**
- PARENTS – I WILL donate to the Choral Patrons Association for an optional tax write-off **and my donation slip and check are attached!**
- PARENTS – I cannot help the Choral Patrons Association at this time, but I will attend every concert I can and cheer loudly for my child!

♦ \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/guardian signature Date

♦ \_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature Date