

We are thrilled that you want to be a part of the Westwood HS Choir Department. We have many ensembles designed to fit the needs of all students interested in singing. Evaluations are designed not to exclude students, but to place them in the appropriate developmental ensemble so that we can best encourage your continued musical development. You may enter the choir program by simply enrolling.

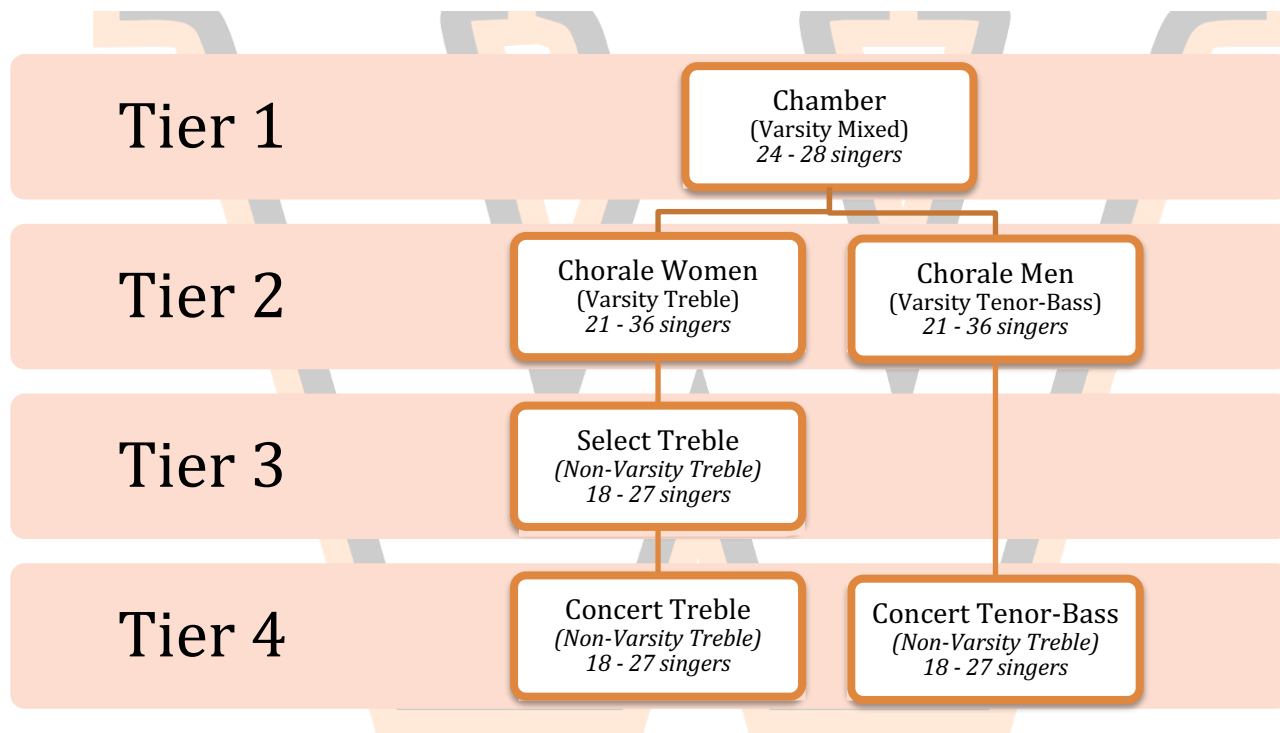
Evaluations are not required but are highly encouraged for all singers.

During the 2020 audition cycle, the evaluation process is three steps that will all be conducted digitally and submitted through a Google Form.

- The Vocal Range Assessment – you will sing scales up and down to determine your range.
- The Musical Artistry Assessment – you will sing “My Country tis of Thee”
- Sight Reading Assessment – you will sing an 8-measure sight reading example.

All students interested in singing are allowed in the Westwood Choirs with or without an evaluation. However, any student without an evaluation will be placed in our Tier 4 Choirs.

A thorough description of each choir and course numbers for each ensemble is presented on the choir website at <http://westwoodchoirs.com/choirs>.



Legend:	
Ensemble Name	Chamber
	(Varsity Mixed)
	24-28 students

Tiers, Explained

Choirs are organized based on several criteria, based on demonstrable skill in several areas:

- Sight Reading
- Vocal Range / Musical Artistry
- Personal Factors

Sight Reading Assessment:

The [University Interscholastic League Sight-Reading Criteria](#) defines the required skills that will be assessed during the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluations in the spring semester. Students who participate in the All-State Choir Audition process must sight-read individually in later rounds, generally at Level 3 or higher on the [Westwood HS Choir Level Up](#) system. As such, all singers are evaluated for placement in an ensemble with demonstrable proficiency for that tier. A student who is currently enrolled in our program will have been evaluated, either through individual assessments or through group sight-reading activities during their ensemble through the current academic year.

Skill Assessment Breakdown:

	Tier 4	Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
"Level Up" Target	A, B, 1	2, 3 +	4+	6+
Solfège Recognition	none/some	refined	can peer teach	near perfect
Keys	C, F, G	up to 2 #/b	up to 4 #/b	any key
Harmony	primary triads	primary triads	primary triads	primary triads
Minor Triads	none/some	minor triads	minor triads	minor triads
Minor Scales	none/some	none/some	all minor scales	all minor scales
Altered Syllables	none/some	Fi, Si, Di, Te	Chromatic Scale	Chromatic Scale
Rhythm	none/some	accomplished	advanced	advanced
basic patterns	x	x	x	x
dotted half/quarter	x	x	x	x
dotted eighths		x	x	x
Tied notes across bar lines			x	x
Sixteenth note patterns			x	x
Simple syncopations				x

Vocal Range/Musical Artistry

Students in our ensembles are expected to develop their vocal tone over time. Students in Tier 1 or 2 have advanced vocal tone, with considerable range and control. Students who have advanced in the TMEA All-State Audition process, where they have prepared multiple pieces of music, evaluated by a panel of judges, over a period of time will be considered for higher tier ensembles. Directors will consider all students and their current level of demonstrable skill while considering placement for any advanced ensemble.

Ensembles are developed as a balanced group – equal numbers of students on each voice part. Directors will consider the student's current voice part, but might place a student in an ensemble for the following year based on a different voice part.

Enrollment may have an impact on combined ensembles. For instance, a Tier 3 Tenor-Bass option does not currently appear on our master schedule, and all incoming, new to choir tenor/bass voices are combined into the Concert Tenor-Bass class.

Personal Factors

Students in our ensembles have demonstrated levels of achievement in many aspects of their academic, musical, and often athletic interests. Should a scheduling conflict occur, directors consider all placement possibilities with the individual student in mind. Decisions are made on a case by case basis.