

# What you need to know about The Fine and Performing Arts Program at Western Canada High School as an incoming Grade 10 Student

Dear Grade 10 Students/Parents,

You are about to embark on an incredible three years at Western Canada High School full of many great opportunities and experiences. **Annually, we see 50% of Western Canada High School's total student population enrolled in a Fine and Performing Arts Course.** We have a full slate of opportunities to choose from in each of the disciplines, which include: Dance, Drama, Visual Art, Choir and Band.

In an effort to ensure that you as students/parents do not miss out on the incredible opportunities available in the Fine Arts at Western, you will find some important information that is specific and relevant to all incoming Grade 10 students who may wish to get involved in one or many of the Fine and Performing Arts Programs. It is important to note that all of our Fine and Performing Arts offerings are scheduled classes for credit. Courses take place during the school day, before school and after school. Please see the details below by discipline for important information.

## **Band:**

Western is proud to boast one of the largest Music programs in the city of Calgary with close to 330 students annually enrolled in the Band Program. At the **Grade 10 level, here** is what the Band Program looks like:



The Grade 10 Concert Band is open to all students who have taken band in junior high OR students that have spent at least one year studying their instrument privately ***If you already have a full schedule, it IS STILL POSSIBLE*** to enroll in the Grade 10 Concert Band. The Grade 10 Concert Band is called Band AM (Instrumental Music 10 5cr\_cohort a). This is a full year 5-credit course. The class meets on Tuesday and Friday mornings: Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30am and Fridays from 7:00-9:00am.

If you are enrolled in Band 10 day block (Instrumental Music 10\_5cr), you should also be enrolled in Band 15AM (Band 15\_5cr). Band 15AM is your course enrollment for the Grade 10 Concert Band, which is the full year AM course. This ensures you get 5 credits and a mark for Band 10 day block (Instrumental Music 10\_5cr) an additional 5 credits and a mark for Band 15AM (Band 15\_5cr). ***If you are a full IB or partial IB student, it is important to note that your enrollment in the Band Program will support you in achieving your CAS outcomes each of your three years.***

**Grade 10 Concert Band:** Each year the Grade 10 Concert Band goes to Band Camp, performs a Winter and Year End Concert, which are both held at the world class Jack Singer

Concert Hall, and is a featured performance ensemble at many WCHS events. This ensemble leads to our Sr. ensembles in grades 11 and 12. The grade 11 and grade 12 ensembles tour annually within Canada and Internationally. The Band Program at Western provides a great way for new grade 10 students to meet many other grade 10 students and develop a great sense of community within the school. If you are interested in joining the Grade 10 Concert Band, or have any questions about your enrollment in Band, please be sure to contact Mr. Hagan at [behagan@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:behagan@cbe.ab.ca). The first AM class will take place on **Friday September 4<sup>th</sup> At 7:00am in the Band Room**

**Junior Jazz Band:** At the Grade 10 level, students have the opportunity to audition for the Junior Jazz Band. Instrumentation for this ensemble includes: Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone, Acoustic Bass, Guitar, Piano and Drums. The Junior Jazz Band class is on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:45-5:15pm. This is also a 5-credit class in music. All students in the Jr. Jazz Band must also be enrolled in the Grade 10 Concert Band. If you are interested in enrolling in the Jr. Jazz Band, please contact Mr. Harding at: [rhharding@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:rhharding@cbe.ab.ca)

## **Choir:**

There are three choirs at Western: the Festival Chorus, the Concert Choir, and the Jazz Singers. The Jazz Singers ensemble is by audition and has already been determined for the 2020-2021 school year.

Incoming grade 10 students will fit into either the Festival Chorus or the Concert Choir. **The Festival Chorus, is a choir for all treble singers new to Western.** Rehearsals are held on Monday and Thursday mornings from 7:10-8:30am. There is no audition for this group and it is open to all students regardless of experience. We strongly encourage both experienced and non-experienced vocalists to come out for this great ensemble. The Festival Chorus participates annually in a variety of school events, "Choralfest" and performs a Winter and Year End Concerts at Knox United.



The Concert Choir, is a choir for all baritone singers new to Western. This group meets on Tuesday and Friday mornings- Tuesdays from 7:10-8:30am and Fridays

from 7:10-9:00am. The Concert Choir participates annually in the same activities as the Festival Chorus, but also participates in a spring choir trip every year. All treble vocalists new to Western must spend one year in the Festival Chorus before qualifying to audition for the Concert Choir. Please contact Ms. Reinhardt [sjreinhardt@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:sjreinhardt@cbe.ab.ca) with any questions regarding the Choir Program. There will be a very important meeting for all students **enrolled or interested in enrolling in Choir on Friday September 6<sup>th</sup> right after school in the theatre.**

### Dance:

WCHS Dance Program offers beginners a springboard into the exciting world of Dance and enhances an experienced dancer's continued growth and study in the art. Dance 15, 25, & 35 students will perform in Dance @ Noon shows at the culmination of each semester. Dance @ Noon is a show that provides the opportunity to perform in a supportive and fun environment. All Dance 25 and 35 students will be part of our renowned **Centre Stage** Dance Show held in early May. They will have the opportunity to work collaboratively and creatively on submissions, as well as work with a professional lighting director in creating a beautiful show in our theatre. Open auditions for the Centre Stage Dance Show will be held in March, just before spring break. **Even if you are not part** of the official Dance Program, you may audition a solo, duet, or group piece. It is an amazing and rewarding performance opportunity.

If you would like to get involved in the Dance Program or have any questions about Dance at Western, please contact: Ms. Price at [mjprice@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:mjprice@cbe.ab.ca).



Please feel free to look for more information on our website at [www.westerncanadafinearts.com](http://www.westerncanadafinearts.com). For any general inquiries regarding the Fine and Performing Arts Program at Western Canada High School please contact the Learning Leader, Mr. Hagan, at [behagan@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:behagan@cbe.ab.ca)

### Drama:



The drama program will be conducting auditions our fall production at the beginning of September 2020. There will be an opportunity for grade 10 students to be involved and audition during the first few weeks of the school year. Be sure to contact Ms. "G" at the contact below if you are interested in auditioning. We will be holding auditions for our Spring Drama Production during the exam break in January. Throughout the year, the Drama Program attends the Calgary High School Drama Festival at the beginning of May, which is always a highlight of the year and hosts a variety of guest artists in all our drama courses. Past guest artists include; Graham Percy, Alice Nelson, Eric Rose, Kevin McKendrick, Jamie Konchak, Glenda Stirling and Ethan Cole. Finally, we will be attending several professional theatre productions this year at Theatre Calgary. Please contact Ms. Gallichan-Lowe at [cjgallichan@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:cjgallichan@cbe.ab.ca) for any questions related to the Drama Program.

### Visual Art:

The Visual Arts Program at Western is dynamic, fun and a great way to find an avenue to explore your creative side. The Visual Arts also includes digital photography experimentation to appeal to those who love photography and using current computer software.



Annually, we are privileged to host a gala fundraiser called Celebrate Western, where student artwork is displayed on a beautiful evening that celebrates our incredibly talented and creative student artists. Check out the Fine Arts Website, which you can find from the WCHS homepage and click on the Visual Art gallery to see work that students have produced this past school year. Please contact Ms. Gwen Ridout at [gdridout@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:gdridout@cbe.ab.ca) or Mr. Graham Harker at [ngharker@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:ngharker@cbe.ab.ca) with any questions related to the Visual Art Program.