

Keynote Auditions

In Person Auditions Thursday, September 18th beginning at 3:15pm

Thank you for auditioning for Keynote at Waukee Northwest High School.

A spot in this ensemble is an honor to celebrate!

Included in this packet is information about the audition process, audition materials, and other material that must be ready prior to auditions.

Scale--Major; Natural Minor; Chromatic

- Students will sing their scale(s), both ascending and descending, in swing style, sung on syllables 'doo-ba' or 'doo-vah.' Optional: A new pitch may be given in between each scale.
- Tempo approximately quarter note = 92; sung a cappella.
 - Soprano begin on E
 - Alto begin on A (below middle C)
 - Tenor begin on E
 - Bass begin on G

Jazz Solo--*Scat solos or embellishments to the song are not required but are highly encouraged and marked in the music for you.*

- Sop- Time After Time -- Aebersold Vol 41 (Once through, follow repeats, NO coda)
- Alto- I Could Write a Book -- Aebersold Vol 113 (Once through, follow repeats, NO coda)
- Tenor- Love is Here to Stay -- Aebersold Vol 113 (Once through, no repeats, NO coda)
- Bass- September in the Rain -- Aebersold Vol 107 (Once through, follow repeats, NO coda)

Sight Reading--Students auditioning for Keynote are expected to sight read – Melodic: 4/4 time signature, max leap of M6. May be sung on solfege or a neutral syllable – whatever will help you succeed!

Auditioning for the groups commits you to the schedule, financial obligation, and performances for each group upon selection. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Murray.

The schedule for Keynote is very important and must be a priority. This is a smaller ensemble, BUT everyone is a vital part of the ensemble—one missing musician greatly affects the overall effectiveness of rehearsal. The directors are as flexible as they can be with scheduled school events (speech & theater, sports, band, etc) and have been able to make 100% of all conflicts work out. Nearly all of the past members have had other activities that they have been involved with and it works out great. The directors will never ask the student to choose – the coaches and the director will workout a plan prior.

Keynote Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons
3:00–4:30pm in choir rooms at NWHs beginning November 5th

The **2025-2026 Performance Schedule** -

Nov ?? - I-Wolves National Anthem

Dec 17 - Jazzmas Caroling

Jan 16 - Waukee Star Struck

Jan 29 or 30 - Valley Vocal Jazz Summit

Feb 13 - Singing Valentines outing

Feb TBD - Additional Jazz Performance

Mar 25 - per submission Iowa Vocal Jazz Champs (at location TBD this year)

Students in Keynote will also be encouraged to audition for the All State Jazz Choir - Video auditions due April 6th? Or April 13th?

**These dates,
times, and
locations may
change**

Financial Obligation:

Our district transitioned to the language of suggested donations instead of mandatory fees. As a staff, we have been diligent to ensure that our previously collected fees are spent in a way that utilizes every dollar brought in. As we continue forward, that mission remains the same. Our suggested donation amount of **\$75 per student** covers exactly what it costs to outfit our ensemble, get them to and from contests, and bring in clinicians.

Prior to auditioning, students will be expected to complete the audition information form–linked below:

Audition Information Form: <https://forms.gle/Fzw1KUZigg8bPZE6>

Questions: Mrs. Murray kmurray@waukeeschools.org