

# General Notes

## Choir Students Tour The Windy City

Performances and Clinics Highlight WHS Choir Tour of Chicago

At 5:00 am on a Wednesday morning, cars and vans began to pull up to the high school doors, and students began to check in and load onto a tour bus. Although it was an early morning, and what seemed like a very long bus ride, the Choir arrived in Chicago to near perfect weather and lots of sunshine.

With two and half days in this beautiful city, the choir was able to experience a city with unique parks, fabulous food, friendly people and stunning architecture. They were treated to visits to Navy Pier, Millennium Park, and The Lincoln Park Zoo. Performances were given at The John Shedd Aquarium Wild Reef and The John Hancock Observatory Atrium.



The choir attended a special clinic with Dr. Stephen Alltop, Senior Conductor at Northwestern University. Dr. Alltop conducted and listened to the choir, offering his congratulations for such a heartfelt performance. He also gave the choir an exciting organ demonstration, and we concluded our clinic by singing the WHS Alma Mater!

After seeing a show by The Blue Man Group and an architectural boat tour, the choir headed back to Ohio with new memories and lasting friendships.



## Parents and Students, Carefully Study The Enclosed 2013-14 Instrumental Music Calendar



We need your help in making sure students are well informed of all their responsibilities over the coming year. In an attempt to make this as easy as possible, we have included with this newsletter the entire year's events in the Instrumental Music Department. Please go over this calendar with your son or daughter and check this with their other school activities and your family's activities. Please let us know of any concerns that you may have **as soon as possible**. This will make it much easier for us to resolve potential conflicts. Keeping open the lines of communication is what makes everything work smoothly. We've also included the Band Camp letter along with this mailing as well as a Concessions help form and Chaperone Assistance form. Please look these over carefully and consider ways in which you can help. We look forward to a fantastic school year. Until then, please enjoy a relaxing summer.

This past year, the WHS choirs enjoyed a year of fun, friends and learning. Performances included Homecoming, the Quarter-An-Order Dinner, the Rotary Seniors' Holiday Event, OMEA Solo and Ensemble, OMEA Large Group Adjudication (in which the Concert Choir earned a Superior Rating), and four of our own programmed concerts. Clinics with directors Toni-Arnold Shreve and Carrie Culver, and director and clinician Dr. Lisa Wong, helped the Concert Choir discover new techniques and discuss rehearsal and performance tips. The Vocal Music Department introduced two new ensembles this year. The WHS Chamber Singers is a group of hand-chosen students that perform through the first semester, singing holiday and classical music. The second semester featured We Sing Songs, a 'show choir/a cappella' group of auditioned students that pioneered contemporary a cappella at WHS. The choirs of Wooster City Schools are expanding into fifth and sixth grades and adding new students each year. Everyone is very excited for the 2013-2014 school year!

## Choir Year In Review

## Private Study

The music department feels very strongly about the importance of private study as an integral part of developing the student's progress on their instrument. The one-on-one relationship available in a private lesson allows for more individual attention than is permitted in a large group rehearsal. Students can concentrate on their own unique playing problems, improving on areas in which they are weak, and progress at their own rate. This individualized instruction can provide a better chance to master your own instrument, as well as maintain the quality of our program. If interested in private lessons, please see the directors for assistance in locating a qualified teacher.

**NOTE:** The WHS Music Parents Association has a scholarship fund available to assist with private lesson costs. Ask a music teacher or visit the music department web site for an application.

## Pay-To-Participate... Financial Assistance Available

Budget cuts have resulted in many undesirable situations across the Wooster City School District over recent years. The addition of a \$100 Pay-To-Participate fee for Band, Orchestra, and Choir has created additional burdens for all families and hardships for many.

The WHS Music Parents Association is committed to helping all families needing assistance. They are determined to see that no WHS or EWMS student is excluded from a music class due to financial concerns.

Through the Wayne County Community Foundation, funds have been established to offer scholarships to those who need help. Don't let the fee keep you from signing up for a music class.



Parents, we'll need your help with football concessions and also chaperoning band trips this fall. Send in the enclosed forms!

Visit the Music Department  
Web Site for Up-To-Date Info:  
 [www.whsmusic.nvi.net](http://www.whsmusic.nvi.net)

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### Take Note

June 8 - 11 Flag/Majorette Camp	July 27 Squad Leader Workshop	July 29-Aug 2 Rookie Band Camp	July 29-Aug 2 Percussion Camp	July 31 Uniform Distribution	August 5-16 Full Band Camp	August 30 First Football Game
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