

WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS

AUDITIONING AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES

Mission:

The Performing and Fine Arts Department is founded on three pillars: *glorify God, edify each other in community, and pursue excellence*. We believe that by glorifying God first and building each other up, we will naturally foster an environment in which each of us has the tools to pursue excellence. It is with this same heart that we approach auditioning for our dramatic and choral programs. Below is a list of policies the Performing and Fine Arts Department uses for auditions.

Policies:

The teachers, parents, and outside professionals who are commissioned to work with our students believe in leading through service, and with integrity. As such:

- It is **not** our policy to offer a specific role to a student prior to auditions. Auditions for plays and select singing groups are open to the whole student body (occasionally middle school and/or elementary school students, as well), and no student will be **pre-cast** or **chosen** prior to auditions. If a parent or a student believes a teacher or any adult working in the program has made such an offer, we would encourage immediate contact with the drama or choir director. Additionally, school administrators are available.

Drama:

- The Performing Arts staff at Westside Christian High School prayerfully considers each casting decision and will always strive to put together the best cast for each play. **As an educational theater institution, when making casting decisions we take into account more than just individual talent. We also look at growth potential and overall group dynamics.**
 - *While auditions are open to all students, whenever possible and appropriate we try to cast drama students **before** non-drama students.*
- All roles in a play are open to all students in auditions. However, as much as is possible and/or appropriate, we tend to give weight in casting decisions, especially in the Spring play, to drama students who are juniors and seniors. However, this does NOT guarantee any student a specific role.

- *Ultimately, our desire is that all students have a great experience during the play and are capable of performing their best in their assigned roles. **Not all roles are appropriate for all students.** We try to cast students in ways that highlight and develop their strengths and gifts.*
 - *Additionally, our desire is to train students to reach their fullest potential as Christ-centered artists with their own voice, giftings, and perspective. We do not train any students toward a **specific role**, but rather prepare them for the myriad of roles they will have the opportunity to experience on stage.*
 - *All students who wish to audition for a play will be asked **prior** to auditions if they will accept **any** role. Only students willing to accept any role **will be allowed to audition.***
- A committee of teachers and adults who are experts in their respective fields makes all casting decisions within Westside Christian High School's Department of Performing and Fine Arts. **The make-up of this committee changes for each set of auditions, depending on the requirements and needs of each show.** For example, a musical casting committee will consist of the director, production assistant, **choir director or vocal coach, music director, choreographer** and, if appropriate, the stage manager. In a non-musical, teachers, professionals, or adults more appropriate to the show replace the vocal coach, music director and choreographer.
 - Often, there are more students who audition than roles in a play. This means some students will be cut. This is not an indictment on them as individuals or on their abilities as performers. There are many factors that go into casting each show, and not all students will make every show. Making the cast list in one show does not guarantee casting in future shows.
 - We hope that auditions are an opportunity for learning, and edification; students who do not make the cast list are encouraged to ask questions and seek to grow from the experience.

Choir:

- Enrollment in the varsity mixed ensemble, *Soli Deo Gloria*, is by audition only. Typically, *Soli* is auditioned in the spring of each school year; however, the Choral Director reserves the right to audition select individuals at the beginning of the school year. Since *Soli* is a small, select performance group, consistent attendance, punctuality, and commitment to the demands of a varied and challenging repertoire and up to twenty performances per year is necessary. Since this group will represent Westside in a variety of concerts off-campus, it is critical

that students who wish to participate have flexible schedules and give high priority to the group.

- All students currently attending Westside Christian High School, as well as incoming freshmen and transfer students, are eligible and encouraged to audition for *Soli*. Typically, students who are older and more experienced as singers take precedence; however, no student is guaranteed a position, and younger, less experienced students are also eligible. The Choral Director will select the best singing group possible from those students who have auditioned. The risk of rejection is an unfortunate part of any audition process, and the student must be prepared for the possibility of not being included in *Soli*. Also, because *Soli* is auditioned anew each year, past participation does not ensure future inclusion.
- The Director of Choral Music at Westside will head the selection panel. The Director of Drama and another accomplished musician or two from the Westside faculty/staff will also hear all vocal auditions. The audition process includes, but is not limited to, a completed *Soli* application and questionnaire, a signed participation agreement, demonstrated attitude of commitment to and involvement in Performing and Fine Arts, and a vocal audition and interview. The signed participation form includes commitment to a positive attitude of servant leadership, limited unexcused absences and tardies, flexibility in scheduling and attendance at all performances throughout the year.
- Singers who join *Soli* must commit to a minimum of (4) voice lessons with a professional voice teacher/coach during the summer.

These policies are **not** designed to discourage any student from participation in the performing and fine arts during their time at Westside Christian High School; rather, they are intended to encourage as many students as possible to participate while setting clear, simple expectations and guidelines.

1 Corinthians 12:12

For just as they body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so ti is with Christ.