

CHOIR HANDBOOK

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

**MRS. PEG SORENSEN,
CHOIR DIRECTOR**

**MRS. SANDRA PAYNE,
ACCOMPANIST**

- **COURSE SYLLABUS**
- **GRADING CRITERIA**
- **PERFORMANCE DATES AND ATTIRE**
- **CHOIR LETTERING CRITERIA**
- **MSHSL ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**
- **FORMS TO BE SIGNED**
- **PARENT BOOSTER VOLUNTEER FORM**

We are very proud of our choir program! Parents, please consider making an investment in your child's choir experience and volunteering your time at choir events. Please read the handbook thoroughly and feel free to contact the choir office at 748-6060 (Mrs. Sorensen) with questions, suggestions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your support of the choir program!!

WELCOME TO NORTH HIGH CHOIR!

As a member of a North High Choir, you have made a commitment to put forth your best effort to make this a truly outstanding choir. The skills you will develop will help you personally, professionally and spiritually. To achieve maximum enjoyment from this class, the classroom rules must be followed in order to have productive rehearsals.

Introduction:

In choir class, you will improve your singing voice through the practice of proper vocal techniques. You will develop your musicianship through sight singing, ear training and part-singing. You will sharpen your music theory and rhythmic notation skills. In choir, you will acquire an appreciation for different styles of music, and continue to enjoy music at a deeper level. You will develop a stronger sense of self-esteem from each performance experience. You will discover your inner being through the creation of beautiful harmonies that emote feelings. Each student will be assigned a choir robe and a choir folder that he/she will be responsible for throughout the year.

Objectives:

This class will develop you to become:

- 1) A purposeful thinker by using the critical and logical thinking skills necessary to transform the written notes in the musical score into aural musical tones.
- 2) An effective communicator through the performance medium. Each musical performance requires expression of emotion through music to communicate the composer's message.
- 3) A self-directed learner with a positive attitude toward learning all styles of music, and developing personal musical tastes. There are also many opportunities to strengthen leadership abilities through the rehearsal process, and by being section leaders, committee members, etc.
- 4) A productive group participant by acquiring cooperative group skills necessary to become a hard working team member.
- 5) A responsible citizen through the process of being accountable for one's choir folder, music and robe, and being on time and present for all choir rehearsals and performances.

Course Outline:

During the course of the school year, the students will learn:

- 1) the principles of healthy, beautiful tone production through the study of proper breathing techniques and vowel placement
- 2) an appreciation of music from all styles and time periods, and background information on composers
- 3) the solfegg technique of sight singing and interval ear training
- 4) how to read music in four part harmony
- 5) various musical signs and symbols
- 6) basic music theory and rhythmic notation skills
- 7) the skill of listening to harmonies, balance and blend
- 8) how to make the music expressive through emotional involvement
- 9) to follow instructions carefully
- 10) the qualities that make one a good leader
- 11) the cooperative group skills necessary to work in a large group setting
- 12) stage presence and concert etiquette

Classroom Expectations:

- 1) Have your music folder and a pencil every day.
- 2) Be in your seat with your folder ready to rehearse when the bell rings.
- 3) No gum, candy, food or beverages will be allowed in the music area.
- 4) Be prepared to participate fully in all class activities.
- 5) Show courteous, respectful behavior to everyone in the classroom.
- 6) Be attentive at all times.
- 7) Use correct posture at all times when singing.
- 8) When not singing, sit quietly and listen to another voice part, translate the meaning of the text or memorize the music.

Behavior Policy:

If a student is disrupting the rehearsal or breaking the rules on a consistent basis, he/she will be asked to see Mrs. Sorensen at the end of the rehearsal. With the third infraction, the student will need to serve an hour detention within two week's time. If he/she fails to serve the detention, a Wednesday School will be assigned. With the fifth infraction, the student will be placed on a Behavior Contract, and his/her opportunity to remain in choir will be in jeopardy.

Tardy Policy:

With the third tardy in the trimester, the student will need to serve an hour detention within two week's time of the third tardy. On the sixth tardy, a Wednesday School will be assigned. Starting with the seventh tardy, a 5% grade reduction will result with each tardy thereafter through the end of the trimester.

Assessment Procedures:

The students will EARN their grade each term based on the following criteria:

- 50% Daily Participation
- 30% Individual Grading
- 20% Concert Attendance (Missed concerts points NEED to be made up by turning in an alternative assignment within two weeks of concert!)

Grading Criteria:

Choir is a full participation class! 50% of your grade will be based on your daily performance in choir rehearsals. You may earn up to three points daily by following all the classroom expectations and participating fully in all activities. If you miss a class day, it is YOUR responsibility to make up the rehearsal time to gain your daily points.

30% of your grade is based on individual sight singing, rhythm skills, music theory worksheets, ensemble singing in class and group projects. If you miss a class day, it is YOUR responsibility to ask the teacher what you have missed.

20% of your grade is based on your participation in the scheduled concerts.

Attendance at all concerts is mandatory! Students are expected to report at the assigned time for the concerts and stay for the entire concert!! Concerts need to be a priority before all other extra-curricular activities and places of employment. ***Work is not considered an acceptable excuse!*** If an emergency or unavoidable conflict arises, a written excuse must be given to the choir director. ***If you miss a concert for an excused reason, you must complete an independent project within two weeks of the concert date to make up the 100 points.***

Homework Expectations:

Each student is expected to memorize the music (and choreography) to be performed at the concerts. You will be expected to keep up with the sight singing, rhythm packets and worksheets assigned in class. Out of school rehearsal time will be needed for the group projects to be presented in class.

CHOIR PERFORMANCE DATES

THESE DATES ARE REQUIRED PERFORMANCES AND ARE CALCULATED INTO THE CHOIR GRADE. PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW:

Sun. Sept. 27	Northern Lights Dress Rehearsal 4-6 pm
Mon. Sept. 28	Northern Lights performs at Coronation @ 6:00 pm
Fri. Oct. 2	Northern Lights performs for Halftime Show
Sun. Oct. 18	Northern Lights Dress Rehearsal 4-6 pm
Fri. Oct. 23	Show Choir Clinic 9 am – 4 pm @ North (For Northern Lights and all interested future show Show choir members)
Sat. Oct. 24	Show Choir Clinic 9 am – 4 pm with performance @ 6 pm in Auditorium
Thurs. Nov. 5	Concert/Bel Canto Choirs Masterworks Rehearsal @ 3:30 pm @ Tartan
Sat. Nov. 7	Concert/Bel Canto Choirs Masterworks Rehearsal 10 am – Noon @ Tartan
Sat. Nov. 7	Concert/Bel Canto Choirs Masterworks Performance @ 7 pm (Report to Tartan at 6 pm)
Sun. Dec. 13	Northern Lights Dress Rehearsal 4-6 pm
Mon. Dec. 14	Concert/Bel Canto/Show Choir Concert @ 7 pm
Tues. Dec. 15	Varsity/Show Choir Concert @ 7 pm
Sat. Jan. 9	Show Choir Spaghetti Dinner in Cafeteria 6-9 pm
Mon. Jan. 11	Concert Choir performs for Choir Pyramid Concert 6:30 pm in Gym (Gr. 5, 8 & 12 rehearse after school and perform together)
Jan. 29-31	Show Choir Competition in Sauk Prairie, WI
Sat. Feb. 13	Show Choir Competition in Waconia, MN
Sat. Feb. 20	Show Choir Competition in Hastings, MN
March 5-7	Show Choir Competition at Omaha North HS, Nebraska
Sat. March 13	Show Choir Competition in Albert Lea
Tues. March 16	State Solo/Ensemble Contest @ North 3:30-9 pm (This is NOT a required event, but all choir members are strongly encouraged to participate)
March 25-28	National Show Choir Competition in Nashville, TN
Thurs. April 15	Choirs to State Large Group Contest @ Stillwater HS (During the school day)
Mon. May 3	All Choir Concert @ 7 pm
May 17-19	Show Choir Extravaganza Rehearsals – Times TBD These rehearsals are REQUIRED
May 20 & 21	Show Choir Extravaganza Performances @ 7 pm
Thurs. May 27	Choir Banquet in Cafeteria from 6-9 pm (This is NOT required, but all choir members and families are encouraged to attend)
Wed. June 9	Concert Choir performs for Graduation @ Aldrich Arena at 7 pm, Rehearsal earlier in the day

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PERFORMANCES

THE FOLLOWING PERFORMANCES ARE NOT REQUIRED, BUT COUNT TOWARDS POINTS FOR YOUR CHOIR LETTER. PARTICIPATION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED!!

PERFORM NATIONAL ANTHEM AT HOMECOMING GAME ON OCT. 2

SCHOOL MUSICAL (The Music Man): NOV. 12-15, 20-22

CAROLING GROUP THAT PERFORMS IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

CSC ALL-CONFERENCE HONOR CHOIR & BAND:

REHEARSAL – THURS. JAN. 7 3-8 PM @ TARTAN

PERFORMANCE – TUES. JAN. 12 7 PM @ NORTH

STATE VOCAL SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST @ NORTH ON MARCH 16

HONOR CHOIR TRYOUTS AND ALL-STATE TRYOUTS

Since we do not have a budget to buy new robes or costumes, we suggest that audience members pay minimal ticket prices to help defray these expenses. For the concerts, the ticket prices will be \$3/Adults and \$2/Students & Seniors. The Show Choir Extravaganza ticket prices are \$8 Adults and \$5/Students & Seniors.

CONCERT ATTIRE

The students will wear choir robes with white collarettes and stoles for each concert. *The students are responsible for taking good care of their assigned robe, and are in charge of making sure their robe is hung up properly after each concert.* Parent help is needed in the robe room after the concert to hang up robes.

Under the choir robes, all singers must wear the following clothing:

GUYS – Black dress slacks (not jeans)

Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes are allowed)

Black socks

Short-sleeved shirt – any color

Dread locks and bright colored hair is not acceptable

GALS - Black dress shoes (low heels)

Suntan colored nylons (or skin colored)

Skirt or skorts – any color

Short-sleeved blouse - any color

Large earrings cannot be worn – only small earrings are acceptable

Dread locks and bright colored hair is not acceptable

NORTH HIGH CHOIR LETTERING CRITERIA

Lettering Philosophy:

The North High School Choir program is structured around the premise that all of our choir activities grow out of the classroom experience. This lettering policy is designed to encourage participation in vocal music offerings at North High that occur outside of the school day, and give recognition for participation and achievement in the “extra” events offered.

The benefits of this program are as follows:

- 1) Students will be rewarded for participation in aspects of the program that occur outside of the school day.
- 2) Students will be encouraged to participate in as many vocal music activities as their schedule allows.
- 3) Students will be able to work towards accelerated levels of achievement, culminating with the “OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATION” award granted to those who have demonstrated the highest level of participation.

WAYS TO EARN POINTS TOWARDS A CHOIR LETTER:

All-State Choir	5 points
Show Choir Camp	5 points
Honor Choir	1 point per day
Musical Theater	5 points for a major principle role 4 points for a minor role 3 points for an ensemble role Crew work is based on an hourly basis
Solo/Ensemble Contest	2 points per solo or ensemble
Extra performances	1 point per performance
Accompanist	2 points per performance
Dance Captains	Varied points
Section Leaders	Varied points
Workers for concerts/contest	1 point per event
National anthem	1 point per event
Caroling	1 point per event

To receive credit toward a letter, students will fill out a Lettering Points Request Form at the conclusion of the year, and submit it to the choir director for verification. The points will accumulate from year to year.

LEVEL OF AWARDS:

15 POINTS TO RECEIVE A CHOIR LETTER

30 POINTS TO RECEIVE A CHOIR BAR

45 POINTS TO RECEIVE A SECOND BAR

60 POINTS TO RECEIVE THE “OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN” AWARD

100 POINTS TO RECEIVE THE “OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATION” AWARD

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONTRACT

I understand that I am expected to attend all the choir concerts scheduled for the school year. I understand that I must wear the proper concert attire for each concert. (Fundraising money may be used to purchase the needed items.) I understand that I am responsible for taking proper care of the robe assigned to me for the school year. *If my robe is lost or damaged, I am personally responsible to cover the cost of a new robe.*

I understand that I will be issued a music folder, and that if any copies of music are not returned to the music department at the completion of each concert, *my folder partner and I are responsible for the replacement cost of each piece of music.*

I have read the Choir Handbook, and understand the Classroom Expectations, Behavior and Tardy Policies, Grading Criteria and the Concert Attendance Policy.

I accept the commitment and responsibility of being a member of the North High School Choir.

Student Signature _____ *Parent Signature* _____

FUNDRAISING PERMISSION FORM

I have read the fundraising rules and understand that fundraising is optional, and provides for funds to pay for only choir related activities. *I understand that the fundraising items are to be turned in by the due date, or I am responsible for paying for the items in my possession.*

Student Signature _____ *Parent Signature* _____

Please check one of the following options:

___ *My son/daughter has my permission to participate in choir fundraising activities.*

___ *I prefer my son/daughter NOT to participate in fundraising activities.*

BLANKET FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM FOR CHOIR EVENTS

This document serves as a blanket field trip permission form, allowing my son/daughter to be released from school to participate in field trips related to choir. Such field trips may include assembly programs to other schools, state high school league contests, show choir performances, and field trips to musical productions.

This document also serves as a permission slip to allow my son/daughter to ride a bus to and from the destination. The students are NOT allowed to drive themselves during the school day hours.

The students are expected to follow the High School League rules at all times when on a field trip, and to follow all instructions given by the director or a parent.

_____ has my permission to participate in choir field trips, and is allowed to take the bus to and from the destination.

Parent Signature _____ *Date* _____

CHOIR FUNDRAISERS

Fundraising activities are a necessary sideline of the choral program in order to continue the high quality, comprehensive vocal music program to we currently have. There should be enough fundraisers throughout the year to help cover the cost of extra activities the choir participates in. Due to the fact that choir is a co-curricular course, all expenses for the class are not always covered by the School District.

The revenue generated from fundraisers is to be the property of the choir activity fund. This fund can be used to pay for choir trips, choir banquets, field trips, costume and concert attire costs and other choir related activities. A running total of each student's individual account will be kept throughout the year. If a student has money in their individual account at the end of the school year, the money will be carried over to the next school year as their beginning balance. However, if a student drops out of the choir program or graduates, their remaining balance becomes property of the choir activity fund. This fund is NOT like a bank account. The funds cannot be transferred to other individuals, or cashed out at the end of the school year.

For each fundraiser, the student is responsible for his/her individual sales, and must turn in his/her money by the deadline date. Please make the checks out to North High Choir, and the student's name must be written on the memo line of each check. A late fee will be assessed for any money turned in after the deadline date. Once the student has ordered a product, the items may not be returned. The student is responsible for paying for all the items he/she ordered. If a student checks out Happenings Books, there is a deadline date when these items need to be returned if unsold. Again, if the items are not returned by the deadline date, the student is responsible for paying for the merchandise. These deadline dates will be made very clear to the students, and are listed on the board in the classroom.

For the last five years, the choir department has sold the most Happenings Books for the school. Let's try to keep that tradition! Books sell especially well if parents take them to their places of employment and do a little sales work.

In order to fundraise, the fundraising permission form must be signed and returned.

NORTH HIGH CHOIR STUDENT INFORMATION

In order to communicate with each family via group emails about choir activities and concerts, please complete the following information and return it with your forms. Please be very clear in your writing of the email addresses.

Student Name _____ **Cell phone** _____

Parent Names _____ **Home phone** _____

Cell phone numbers _____

Parent email _____

Student email _____

PARENT VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Parent volunteers are needed in order to continue all of the activities that the choir department offers for the students. Please checkmark the activities and events you would like to help with for the coming year. Descriptions of the duties are listed on the right side.

Booster club member/officer

Fund-raising coordinator

Competition chaperone

Show Choir Clinic Oct. 23

Show Choir Clinic Oct. 24

Dec. 14 Concert

Dec. 15 Concert

Show Choir Spaghetti Dinner Jan. 9

Choir Pyramid Concert Jan. 11

All-Conference Concert Jan. 12

Show Choir Competition – Sauk Prairie

Show Choir Competition – Waconia

Show Choir Competition – Hastings

Show Choir Competition – Omaha

Show Choir Competition – Albert Lea

Solo/Ensemble Contest March 16

Show Choir Competition – Nashville

May 3 Concert

Show Choir Extravaganza May 20

Show Choir Extravaganza May 21

Choir Banquet May 27

Booster Club Officer: Meet monthly to set fundraising activities; organize choir events; coordinate volunteer activities.

Fund-raising Coordinator: Investigate fund-raising options prior to meetings; finalize dates, order forms and delivery information.

Competition Chaperone: At the competition, parents assist with equipment; homeroom supervision; hair and makeup.

Concerts, Extravaganza: Collect ticket money; pass out programs; set up/distribute/clean up refreshments following concert; assist students in the robe room afterwards.

Show Choir Clinic: Check in students first day; supervise lunch times; plan Sat. dinner; decorate auditorium and cafeteria.

Spaghetti Dinner/Choir Banquet: Purchase paper products or food items; sell tickets; serve dinner; serve beverages; clean up afterwards; (Make meatballs and sauce the day before).

