



Spring 2020 Choir Handbook for Students & Parents

Periods:

Symphonic Choir – periods 4 & 8

Women’s Choir – periods 5 & 9

Room: Choir Room B119

Website: www.nhchoiranddrama.net

Instructor:

Mr. Cloonan

cloonans@nhsd.net

voice mail: 412-318-1400 x2731

Class Structure

1. Get your folder, throw away any gum/candy, and find your seat. *Friends don’t let friends chew gum in choir.*
2. Participate in warm-up activities with your full attention, and stay in your assigned place so that you are not marked absent and have to explain to your parent why PowerSchool said you weren’t in class.
3. The hall pass may be used **after warm-ups are completed, one at a time**. Please do not abuse the hall pass or the privilege will be taken away from you.
4. Keep homework put away unless you are told that there is free time or that you may work quietly while another section is rehearsing.
5. When class is over, make sure that your music is put neatly back in the pocket of your folder and that you return your folder to the correct shelf. Please do not leave music on a chair or the floor.

Grading

Report cards are distributed at the end of each semester, and grades will be kept current through PowerSchool online. Grades reflect your participation, attention, and motivation.

50% Daily Active Participation

25% Vocal Hearings and Sight-reading Assignments

25% Concerts & Combined Rehearsals

It takes work to fail choir! You have to make a conscious effort to not participate, to not follow directions, to show disrespect for others, and to not attend rehearsals and concerts. The only thing preventing you from having an A in choir is YOU.

Google Classroom & FIDs

A Google Classroom has been set up for each choir class to allow for posting of practice files and reference recordings, as well as assignments for any possible Flexible Instruction Days (FIDs) when the district calls for them in place of a snow day. Please join the appropriate Google Classroom with your NH student G-mail account using the class code listed below:

- Symphonic Choir: **u4g03e**
- Women’s Choir: **Bir6prw**

After-School Rehearsals

After-school rehearsals are also a part of your class grade. Since each choir is divided into 2 class periods, we need to hear what the full group sounds like as we prepare for concerts. These rehearsals are **very** important, because it is here where we can properly check for balance between sections, practice coming on and off of the risers, figure out standing arrangements, and work with our piano accompanist and other instrumentalists.

Attendance is required, and it is your responsibility to make arrangements to be there. Talk with your bosses, coaches, sponsors, and parents to make sure you can attend. See the calendar-at-a-glance at the end of this handbook for specific after-school practices for each ensemble. There will be times when it is just Symphonic Choir, just Women's Choir, and everyone combined. **READ THE SCHEDULE CAREFULLY**, as attendance will be taken at each rehearsal.

Concerts

Public performances are a part of the district music curriculum, and are required. Concerts serve as our formal assessment of the weeks of work and preparation. There is **ONE** evening required for the spring semester. **Write it on your family calendar tonight and make sure you attend so that we have a full choir on stage.**

If there is a legitimate conflict with a concert date (and very little is considered legitimate), it should be brought to Mr. Cloonan's attention as soon as possible **IN WRITING** (either a note brought in or an e-mail sent by a parent), **and submitted BEFORE the day of the concert.** Remember that concerts make up 25% of your grade. If you become ill on the day of the concert, it is your parent/guardian's responsibility to notify Mr. Cloonan (voice mail ext. 2731, email: cloonans@nhsd.net). Failure to submit an excuse will result in your grade being lowered by at least one full letter grade (do the math – you lose 25%, that means the highest grade you can get is a 75%, which is a "C"). We all must work together and help to make the best concerts possible – even one person missing from the choir hurts everyone, so don't think that your voice doesn't matter!

Concert Dress Code

The North Hills Choral Department follows a strict dress code policy for public performances. We strive to look as polished and presentable as possible, reflecting the hard work put in before each performance. Choir members are assigned a robe for concerts (we got new robes this school year, worn for the first time at the December concert!). Standard black and white dress concert attire should be worn under the robe for uniformity.

Girls: white button-down blouse, longer (to the knee, no mini) black skirt with black stockings OR black dress slacks (not leggings), and black low or flat heels (no sandals or high heels).

Boys: white button-down collared shirt with tie, black pants, black socks and black dress shoes.

Concert Dates

While it is important that we share in the music making process together, and that is what brings many of us to join choir in the first place, that is only part of what we do. All of the hard work put in during class and rehearsals is so that we can share what we do with others. For that reason, public performances are written into the curriculum of each music ensemble class and are considered formal assessments as part of the course grade.

- Cabaret Night (open to all choir members interested): Friday, February 21, 2020, 7PM, Cafeteria A Side
- Arts Alive (North Hills Singers): Friday, May 8, 2020, 5:00-9:00PM, High School Auditorium
- Spring Concert & Senior Recognition (required for all): Friday, May 15, 2020, 7PM, HS Auditorium

2020 Spring Tour to Virginia

Those attending the music department tour to Virginia will have several additional items on the calendar to be aware of in planning the semester. On the back page, you will see payment dates, a parent/family meeting the week before we leave, and "Tour Choir" rehearsals. Those practices are specifically for the group that will be performing in the Music in the Parks festival at Busch Gardens. We need to rehearse to hear what that specific group of singers sounds like together before performing for judges. Tour Choir rehearsals include those traveling with the band and orchestra as those choir members will also be at the competition.

Communication

Communication will be key to our success. Open and honest communication between student, director, and parent will help to assure that everyone knows what is going on, what is expected, and that we avoid frustration, anxiety, and hurt feelings.

What to expect from Mr. Cloonan: I will do my best to always let you know as far in advance as I can dates, times, and locations of rehearsals and performances. Especially with the NH Singers, things come up quickly and require flexibility on everyone's part.

I say this at the beginning of every semester in every class every year: *I will never accept "I didn't know" as an excuse for missing something.* And here's why...there are SEVEN different ways for you to find out what is happening in our choral program:

1. You will receive a printed monthly calendar
2. That calendar will be posted on the bulletin board in the Choir Room
3. A weekly schedule of rehearsals is written on the board in the front of the room
4. Announcements will be made in class if not daily, at least every other day
5. A PDF of the calendar is posted on the choir website at www.nhchoiranddrama.net.
6. Social media alerts in the form of any combination of Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook are sent out regularly
7. When big combined rehearsals or special events take place Remind app texts are sent out as well

If you don't know what is going on, you can't say it's my fault for not letting you know!

What Mr. Cloonan expects from you: First and most importantly, BE HONEST. Sometimes you forget to say something to your parent, or a boss, or a coach. That is human. I'm a pretty understanding person, unless you purposely cover up the mistake by lying about it. As soon as you realize or know about a conflict for a legitimate reason, let me know! We can work together to find a solution.

Secondly, TALK TO YOUR PARENTS. I can't tell you the number of times I've talked with a parent who said "they never gave me that paper," or "I just found out yesterday about this." Avoid the unnecessary fight at home or with me by being proactive and organized.

And lastly, BE RESPONSIBLE. Take some ownership of and pride in your commitments and responsibilities. The group suffers when you fail to communicate. Look at your schedules, plan your appointments and other activities around when you know you need to be with the choir. Every voice counts at our concerts!

COMMUNICATION METHODS

There are several ways to find out about what is happening with the North Hills Choirs:

- NH Choirs on Facebook: www.facebook.com/northhillschoirs
- NH Choirs on Twitter: @NorthHillsChoir
- NH Choirs on Instagram: @northhillschoirs
- Email or Call/Voice Mail Mr. Cloonan: cloonans@nhsd.net or 412-318-1000, x2731.
- Choir & Drama website: www.nhchoiranddrama.net
- NH Choirs YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/northhillschoirs

 **Remind App Directions:** Search by *class code name*—

Women's Choir: @nhwomens, Symphonic Choir: @nhhssymph,

North Hills Singers: @nhsingers, Busch Gardens Tour Choir: @nhtour2020

To receive messages via text, text @*class code name* to 81010. You can opt out of messages at any time by replying, 'unsubscribe @*class code name*'. Trouble using 81010? Try texting @*class code name* to (302) 321-6356 instead. Or to receive messages via email, send an email to *class code name*@mail.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Calendar-at-a-Glance

January 2020

17	Fri	\$\$\$	\$125 Virginia Tour payment due
27	Mon	7:00PM	NH Singers @ Hockey Senior Night, RMU Island Sports Complex
28	Tue	2:15PM	Cabaret Night Auditions
30-31	Thu-Fri	7:00PM	Winter Musical: "The Little Mermaid, Jr." at the Middle School

February 2020

1	Sat	7:00PM	Winter Musical: "The Little Mermaid, Jr." at the Middle School
14	Fri	\$\$\$	\$150 Virginia Tour payment due
17-20	Mon-Thu	2:15PM	Cabaret Night rehearsals (Thursday run-through)
21	Fri	7:00PM	CABARET NIGHT in Cafeteria A Side

March 2020

13	Fri	\$\$\$	\$150 Virginia Tour payment due
20-22	Fri-Sun	7:30PM	Spring Musical: "Catch Me if You Can"
26-28	Thu-Sat	7:30PM	Spring Musical: "Catch Me if You Can"

April 2020

2	Thu	2:15PM	Tour Choir Rehearsal
3	Fri	\$\$\$	Final Tour Payment due (amount to be announced later)
7	Tue	7:00PM	Tour Parent Meeting (for those traveling with choir), HS Auditorium
15	Wed	2:15PM	Tour Choir Rehearsal
16-19	Thu-Sun	all day	Music Department Tour to Virginia (leave after school Thursday)

May 2020

6	Wed	2:15-3:15	Full Symphonic Choir Rehearsal, Room B119
6	Wed	6:30PM	Choir Senior Banquet, Cafeteria
7	Thu	2:15-3:15	Full Women's Choir Rehearsal, Room B119
8	Fri	5:00-9:00PM	Arts Alive (music department performances, including NH Singers)
13	Wed	during school	Set up risers in auditorium
13	Wed	2:15-3:00	Logistics Rehearsal for all Choir Members
14	Thu	2:15-4:30	Combined Choirs on Stage for Concert Run-Through
15	Fri	6:30PM 7:00PM	All Choir Members Report in Concert Attire for SPRING CONCERT & SENIOR RECOGNITION
20	Wed	2:15-4:30	Auditions for New North Hills Singers
26-27	Tue-Wed	2:15-3:15	New NH Singers Rehearsal for Graduation
29	Fri	5:30PM	New NH Singers report to Martorelli for 7:00 Graduation

