



# CLOONOTES

**NORTH HILLS HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PROGRAM  
NEWS AND UPDATES FROM DIRECTOR MR. SHAUN CLOONAN**

## **SEPTEMBER 2023**

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### **We're Back in Full Swing for 2023-24!**

Hello to all of our choir families and welcome to what is shaping up to be a great year of choral music making in our program. If we haven't had the chance to meet, I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events. I'm very proud of the work our singers are doing so far this year and am eager for the chance to share their beautiful voices with you all!

### **North Hills Singers Auditions – Wednesday!**

Auditions for the 2023-24 North Hills Singers will take place on Wednesday, September 13 from 2:00-4:30pm in the choir room. Anyone currently in a choir class (Symphonic or Chorale) is eligible to audition for the group, which typically meets on Mondays after school.

#### ***For the first hour:***

We will start as a group and go through a warm-up together, then go over the parts to the Alma Mater one voice part/section at a time. I'll then do some random mixing and matching of groups of singers in front of the room to see how people adjust to those around them with balance and blending of voices.

#### ***From 3:00-4:30:***

Everyone will be sent to the auditorium and students will come in to the choir room in pairs and sing their part individually (allowing a friend in for moral support, but we need to hear individual voices!). You will be scored according to the PMEA audition rubric. After you have sung individually, you may leave.

My plan is to have a list created by Friday at the latest, allowing me to go over scores and put voices that work best together. It's like putting together a big puzzle and I may not have totally decided on a final list Wednesday night. Sometimes I need a day to step away and then come back to the list to make sure what is put together is the most fair and accurate representation of voices for the group. I also won't know the exact size of the group until I see how many audition and what the balance of voices might be. It could be as small as 16 or as large as 24.

Those on the list should attend the first rehearsal from 2:00-3:30 on Monday, September 25 in the choir room.

### **Choral Parent Kick-off Meeting – NEXT TUESDAY**

We'd like to get our choir families together to go over our plans for fundraisers, events, and a very brief overview of the planned Spring Music Department tour. Our choral parent officers will discuss the schedule of fundraisers and solicit help in making those happen. It shouldn't be a very long meeting, but will be a time to get to know the high school choral program for this year. We will meet on **Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00PM in the High School Auditorium.**

## **Allegheny County Chorus – October 10**

We have 12 students from North Hills participating in the first ever Allegheny County Chorus festival, to be held on Tuesday, October 10 at Gateway High School. Students will miss one day of classes for this event, and about 15 schools will come together for a day of making music together. The directors from each school have split up duties and will be conducting a mixed SATB and a treble SA ensemble, ending with a concert in the evening. We'll have more information about this in the next week after student participation is finalized (the deadline is Wednesday for directors to submit their students).

## **Choral Parents Association**

For the most up-to-date info on these fundraising efforts, visit the Choral Parents LinkTree at [https://linktr.ee/NHChoral\\_Parents](https://linktr.ee/NHChoral_Parents)



Thank you in advance to our officers:

Linda McCann, treasurer

Keara Vance, secretary

Becky Dittman, fundraising chair

...as well as the various volunteers who will step up to chair fundraisers and who will serve as chaperones on the spring tour. We couldn't do what we do without all of your help!

If you are interested in becoming more involved, or if you are not receiving email updates and would like to, please send an email to [nhchoralparents@gmail.com](mailto:nhchoralparents@gmail.com) to be included on their list.

## **Keep Connected!**

The best way to stay current with what is happening in our program is to join our Google Classrooms and Remind groups. Your student can invite you as a guardian to their Google Classrooms, so check with them to do that. For remind, our codes for each ensemble are as follows:

Chorale (periods 5 & 8) - @nh-chorale

Symphonic Choir (periods 6 & 9) - @nhsymchoir

North Hills Singers (after school) - @nhsingers

Spring Tour Updates - @nhtour2024 (not set up yet!)

And follow us on social media:

Facebook – North Hills Choirs

Instagram - @northhillschoirs

Twitter - @northhillschoir



As well as the website [nhchoiranddrama.net](http://nhchoiranddrama.net), where all items distributed are posted and there is a link to a Google Calendar that has all of our rehearsals, fundraiser and payment deadlines, and performances listed.

## **Thank you!**

I appreciate your interest and support in making this year a great one for the choral program at North Hills. Let's have a great fall – and get ready for our holiday season in December!

Shaun Cloonan, NHHS Choral Director