

NCHS 2009-2010 CHOIR HANDBOOK

Ben Luginbuhl, Jo Lynn Robinson, & Kathy Vermillion, Directors

GRADING

Grading will be based on total points that accumulate to the end of the semester. Point values for each assignment or concert will be announced prior to the due date of the assignment or the date of the concert. Concerts will usually be worth 100 or more points because they are the most important part of our program. Other grades will be given for the daily grade, theory assignments & quizzes, and voice tests. Semester grades will be assigned by taking 90% from your cumulative semester points and 10% from the final exam.

The **daily grade** is figured based on participation and effort in class. It is worth a total of 5 points per rehearsal. Unexcused tardies will result in a 2 point reduction per rehearsal. Unexcused absences will cause you to lose all 5 points from each rehearsal missed. Because this class is heavily graded on participation, excused absences will result in a loss of 2 points per rehearsal. If an illness causes you to be absent for a lengthy period, points can be made up with an alternative assignment (provided the absence is excused).

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Concerts are the most important component of this course. They happen outside of the regular school day and are required for your grade. In the event of an absence, the following policy will be followed:

- Excused absences include the following: death in the family or illness / absence from school, or other conflicting school activity. If you become ill, your parents must call us before the call time of a concert or before the bus leaves to an event.
- If you are involved in a sport or other *school-related* activity and have a conflict with a required event, you must notify your director **AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE** of the conflict so the director and the sponsor can work out a solution. **Work is NOT an excused absence!**
- If a student misses a concert with an **excused** absence (as prescribed above or by the directors), that grade will be required to be made up with a project agreed upon between the director and the student. Full credit will be awarded.
- If a student misses a concert with an **unexcused** absence, the student will lose all points for the concert, unless special permission to make up the grade for half credit is approved by the director. **Choosing to write a paper instead of coming to a concert is not an option—it will result in a grade of 0 for the concert.**

Parent Volunteer Opportunities:

We have a Choir Parents organization and would welcome your participation! Parents who volunteer on this board would help directors in several ways. Here are just a few:

- House Managers / videographers at concerts
- Help with fundraisers
- Help plan choir family events, like the tailgate and banquet
- Accompanists for Solo-Ensemble Contest, concerts, etc.

We will be holding our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 1** at 7:00 pm in the choir room. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome to attend!

Choir Classroom Procedures

- Cooperate and be respectful to your teachers and to other students.
- Tardies will be given to those who come into class after the bell. If you have to use the restroom, come into the room first and ask your director. **A tardy counts in the loss of daily grade points and will be turned into the office.**
- ALL BOOK BAGS, HOMEWORK, MAGAZINES, AND OTHER PAPERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE RISERS. Put your bags on the floor in the front or the rear of the room, get your folder **AND A PENCIL**, and find your seat.
- No gum, candy, pop, or other food is allowed during rehearsal. Water is acceptable only if it is in a closed container.
- Handle music and folders with care. If we do not have all of your music by the end of the year, you will be charged to replace it.
- If you are sick or cannot sing due to some physical problem, notify your teacher before rehearsal begins. Be prepared to pay attention to the rehearsal and to be involved in the class. **Do not expect to be able to do homework for other classes.**

Choir Concert Procedures

- **Be on time.**
- Give utmost respect and listen to whichever group is performing on the stage. People come to listen to their children sing, and they don't want to hear you talking.
- Friends, significant others, and family members who are not involved in choir are not allowed to sit with members of the choir during a concert.
- Do not get up to use the restroom unless it is an emergency. If you must, do so in between songs or groups.
- Cell phones or palm-sized gaming devices are strictly prohibited. They will be confiscated and turned into your assistant principal.
- Relax and enjoy the concert

Above All Things...Be a CLASS ACT!

NCHS Choirs

2009-2010 Calendar

Please note which events are required and which are optional. All events in bold are REQUIRED of ALL choir students.

Date	Event and Place	Time	Who's Involved	NOTES
August 25-27	Court Singers & Missing Links Auditions	2:45 pm	Optional	Sign up for time
October 6	Fall Concert, Auditorium	7:30 pm	All Choirs	Formal dress
October 12	IMEA Auditions, BHS	Morning	Optional	Outside practice and preparation needed
October 16	Choir Family Tailgate & Sing the National Anthem at the Homecoming Football Game	TBA	All Choirs	Wear jeans & black & orange!
November 2	Spaghetti Supper, NCHS	TBA	All Choirs	Business Casual dress
November 7	IMEA District Jazz Festival at IWU	All Day	Required of those who pass audition	Concert at 3 pm, Westbrook Aud.
November 21	IMEA District Festival at ISU	All day	Required of those who pass audition	Concert at 5 pm, Braden Aud.
December 4-5	9th Annual Madrigal Dinners	2:00 & 7:00 pm	Madrigals & Court Singers	Tickets on sale at Spag Supper
December 10	Holiday Concert, Auditorium	7:00 pm	All Choirs	Formal dress
January 27-30	IMEA All-State, Peoria	All weekend	Students selected from Oct. audition	Concerts on Saturday
February 8-10	Musical Auditions	TBA	Optional	Callbacks Wed.
February 13	Millikin Women's Choir Festival	TBA	Women's Chorale ONLY	
February 22	Winter Concert	7:00 pm	Concert Choir & Men's Choir ONLY	Formal dress
March 6	IHSA Solo-Ens. Contest at BHS	All day	Optional	
March 15	Unit Choir, Eastview Church	7:00 pm	All Choirs	Formal dress
April 11	Chapel Concert, location TBA	3:00 pm	Adv. & Treble Only	Formal dress
April 15-17 April 22-24	Musical, Auditorium	7:30 pm	Optional	
May 7	Jazz & A Cappella Night	TBA	Jazz, Table, & Links	
May 11	Spring Concert, Auditorium	7:00 pm	All Choirs	Formal dress
May 14	Choir Banquet / Senior Spotlight Concert, NCHS Cafeteria	6:00 pm	All Choir members & families welcome	
May 16	Baccalaureate, East Gym	3:00 pm	All Choirs	Business Casual dress
June 2-6	Music Dept. Trip to San Antonio, TX!	TBA	Open to all Jr and Sr choir members	

Please call or e-mail us if you have any questions or concerns.

Mr. Luginbuhl
luginbbr@unit5.org
 728-5000, ext. 4120

Mrs. Robinson
robinsoj@unit5.org
 728-5000, ext. 4116

Ms. Vermillion
vermillionjk@unit5.org
 728-5000, ext. 4116

All of this information can be found on the choir website! www.unit5.org/nchs/choir

Please print, fill out all information, sign, and return ASAP

Name _____

Grade _____

Address* _____

**If you do not live in Normal, please list city and ZIP code*

Choir (circle)
Chamber

Treble

Men's

Women's Chorale

Parent / Guardian

Names _____

Home

Phone _____

Parent / Guardian

Daytime Phone _____

PARENTS: Please check if you are interested in volunteering for any of the following jobs:

_____ Choir Parents Organization

_____ Accompanist

If you would like to receive information via e-mail, please list your address. We will not use your address for anything other than choir information.

Parent / Guardian Email Address:

I have read the NCHS Choir Handbook; therefore I understand the performance and behavior expectations of the NCHS choir program. I also understand the uniform guidelines for care. I will participate in all performances and will cooperate with everyone to make this year successful.

student signature

parent / guardian signature

NCHS Choir Uniform Information Sheet 2009-2010

We are extremely fortunate to have concert black uniforms available for all choir students at Normal Community High School. We realize that these concert uniforms are not the type of clothing that you would typically choose to wear. However, they look really great up on stage and add a professional element to our performances.

I, _____ (please print the name of student), understand my responsibility for my assigned uniform, which is listed below. It is the property of Normal Community High School Music Department. It is being loaned to me for use during this school year after I pay the fee listed below. At the end of the year, I will return the uniform assigned to me in the condition in which it was loaned to me. If there is any damage to the uniform, I assume financial responsibility for its repair. Failure to return my uniform will result in my being responsible for replacing it. (Approximate replacement costs are \$40 for girl's tops, \$30 for girl's skirts, \$65 for men's tux jacket and \$30 for men's tux pants, \$125 for robes.)

In addition to the uniform, I am aware that I am responsible for supplying the following items to complete the uniform by our first concert on October 8, 2009:

Men: Black Dress Socks
Black Dress Shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES!)
Pants must be hemmed

Women: All Women: Black Dress Shoes (NO TENNIS SHOES!)
Treble Choir & Women's Chorale: Black leggings or tights for under the robe
Chamber Choir women: skirts must be hemmed to floor-length (do not let fabric drag on the floor, and do not cut any fabric off the skirt). Do NOT just pin up the skirt and leave it - the pins rip the fabric. Please use thread and a loose stitch.

Uniform Fees: \$15 (Includes end of the year dry cleaning fee)

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

\$15 ____ Cash OR ____ Check (Payable to NCHS Choir)

Please include the uniform fee when you return this signed form, which is due September 25th. Be sure to contact us if the uniform accessories or fees will cause a financial hardship. We have some extra items available that can be borrowed.

Uniform Assignments (To be filled in by instructor or parent helper)

Chamber Choir Women: Dress Top # _____ Dress Skirt # _____

Men: Tux Coat # _____, Tux Pant # _____, Tux Shirt # _____

Treble Choir & Women's Chorale: Robe # _____