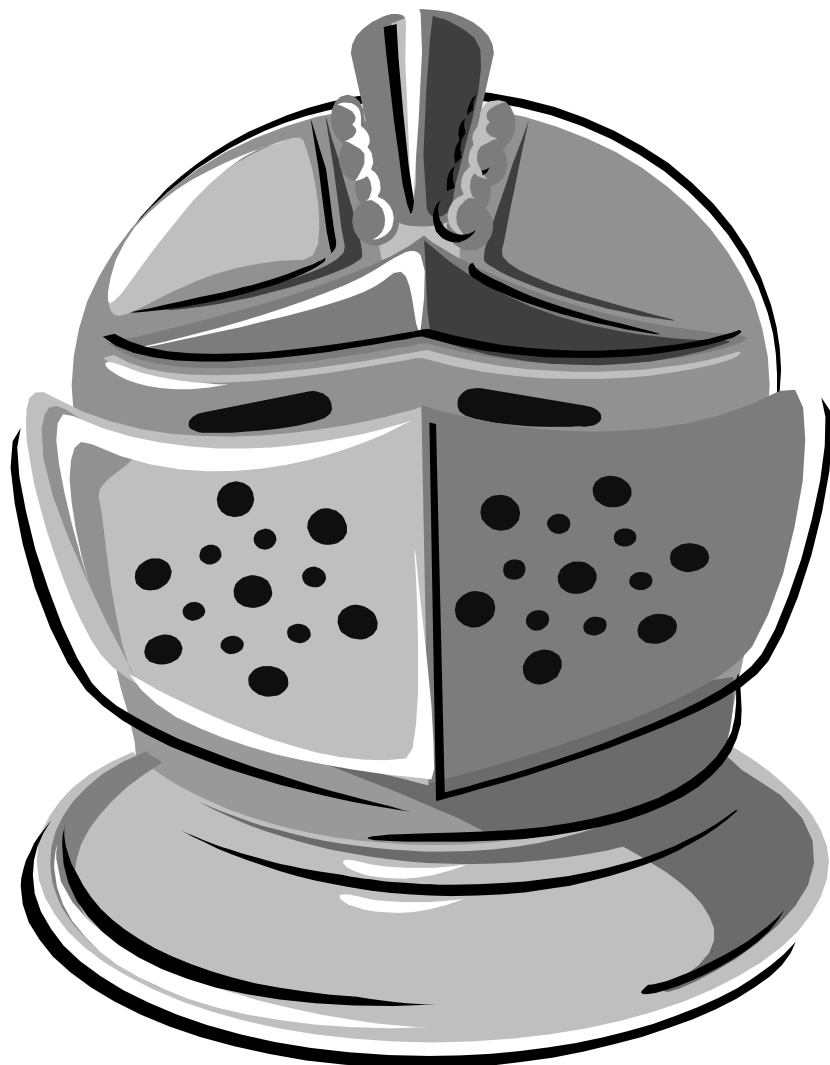


***NORDONIA  
HIGH SCHOOL***



***CHORAL HANDBOOK***

## ***Nordonia High School Choral Activities Department***

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*Mr. John E. Pickering; Director*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I ask that each student and his/her parent read this handbook and review the calendar of concert dates thoroughly. This handbook is designed to create a clear understanding of the expectations and responsibilities of each choir member and his/her parents. It takes a willingness to work together, positive attitudes, discipline and open lines of communication between everyone involved to make a successful music program. We can be proud of the groups at the NHS Choral Department. We will continue to work together to make our groups the best they can be and a source of pride for the entire community. I am very proud to serve as your director and I am looking forward to an exciting year!!!

Sincerely,

John E. Pickering  
NHS Choral Director

- I. The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint choir students and parents with all the aspects of membership in the choirs. Read and keep this handbook in your assigned folders. It is my hope that the information included will make participation more enjoyable and rewarding.

II. **Purpose of Nordonia High School Choirs**

- A. To promote the highest possible standards of excellence in performance, professionalism and pride in oneself, the choir, the school, and the community.
- B. To provide a constructive and beneficial activity for student participation.
- C. To encourage school spirit and pride.

III. **Organizations**

A. **Symphonic Chorale**

- 1. Membership
  - a. Open to any student in grades 9-12.
  - b. Membership based upon audition with director.
- 2. Performances may include
  - a. School and community events.
  - b. OMEA Contest.
  - c. Other performances at discretion of director.

B. **Women's Chorus**

- 1. Membership
  - a. Open to any female student in grades 9-12.
- 2. Performances may include
  - a. School and community events.
  - b. OMEA Contest.
  - c. Other performances at discretion of director.

C. **Men's Chorus**

- 1. Membership
  - a. Open to any male student in grades 9-12.
- 2. Performances may include
  - a. School and community events.
  - b. OMEA Contest.
  - c. Other performances at discretion of director.

D. **Acappella Groups (Synergy & Momentum)**

- 1. Membership
  - a. Select ensemble from that is auditioned by the director.
  - b. The number of students selected is left to the discretion of the director.
  - c. All rehearsals and performances are mandatory, unless prior permission is granted by director.
  - d. Participants can be removed for missing more than 3 unexcused rehearsals.
  - e. There may be additional costs for meals/lodging on trips.

2. Performances may include
  - a. School and community events.
  - b. Festivals, OMEA Competitions, or other special events.
  - c. Other performances at discretion of director.

#### IV. Concert Attendance and Absences

- A. Public performance of the music rehearsed in class is looked upon as a final test. Therefore, students are required to participate in all functions of the choir in which he/she is a member.
  1. Absences
    - a. Absence from any event will REQUIRE a Choral Absence Request Form be on file 2 (two) weeks BEFORE the expected absence. You may find this form on the website. Any unexcused absences from a performance without prior notice to the director will result in the final grade being dropped by two letter grades.
    - b. Absences because of personal illness, death in the family, etc. can be excused with the Choral Absence Request Form.
    - c. Any excused absence will be given an alternate assignment in order to make up the grade missed by the performance absence.

#### V. Grades and Grade computation

- A. Students will be graded in four areas.
  1. Classroom participation and conduct. (70% of grade)

Class points are based on positive participation and performance, motivation, effort, cooperation, quality of work, self-evaluation, and the following of school and classroom policies and rules.

**Please note:** One point will be deducted from your final participation grade for each unexcused tardy beyond three. Also, points will be deducted for each time you are chewing gum, candy, eating food, or having beverages other than water in the choir room.

    - a. Be in his/her seat with a pencil and folder by 30 seconds after the bell rings.
    - b. Not talk during rehearsals unless called upon to do so.
    - c. Have a POSITIVE attitude toward other choir members, new music, musical concepts and director.
    - d. Be willing to help with all aspects of a performance or other choir activity including set-up, tear-down, etc.
    - e. No food, drink or gum in class.
  2. Attendance at performances (30% of Grade)
    - a. Be well groomed and wear required concert attire.
    - b. Be prompt for all performances.
  3. Choir Lessons/Testing (Counted as part of classroom grade)
    - a. Meet with director in small group setting outside of class for sectional work. These sessions give the director an opportunity to help each singer individually improve his/her skills.
    - b. Attempt to sing his/her part individually as well as with a group.
- B. Grades will be computed on the following scale:
  - A = 90-100%
  - B = 80-89%
  - C = 70-79%
  - D = 60-69%
  - F = 0-59%

**VI. Choir Trips**

- A. Written parental permission will be made for all trips.
- B. All members must have current Emergency Medical forms on file with the choir director and school office.
- C. All school rules apply on trips at all times.
- D. All students ride the bus to and from choir function except when a student who wishes to ride home from a function with his/her parent submits a written request to the choir director at least one day in advance.
- E. Departure times for each trip will be announced. Plan on being 20 minutes early in order to organize and load.
- F. Be where you are to be, when you are to be there, with everything you need.

**VII Student Conduct**

- A. Members of the choir must remember that they are in a visible position and as representatives of the school they shall behave in a dignified manner at all times.
- B. The use or possession of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, hallucinogens, or other mind-altering substances at any choir function is absolutely forbidden. The use of such or the evidence of the use of such shall result in immediate removal from choir. The school authorities will be informed for further action.

**VIII. Concert Attire**

A. Symphonic Chorale

- 1. Ladies
  - a. Formal black gowns (provided).
- 2. Gentlemen
  - a. Formal tuxedos (provided)
  - b. Must provide t-shirt and full length, black socks.

B. Women's Chorus

- 1. Choir robe (provided)
- 2. Must provide ALL black dress slacks (no jeans, no yoga or sweat pants)
- 3. Must provide ALL black, closed toed, dress shoes (no tennis shoes/sandals)

C. Men's Chorus

- 1. Choir robe (provided)
- 2. Must provide ALL black dress slacks (no jeans)
- 3. Must provide ALL black dress shoes & socks (no tennis shoes)

**IX. Care of equipment, music and facilities**

- A. Students are responsible for any and all equipment issued to them.