

*A Cappella
Audition Packet*

Includes instructions for

Synergy

&

Momentum

Bring completed forms with you to your first audition:

NO EXCEPTIONS!

***ALL AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE IN
NORDONIA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR ROOM***

Greetings!

Congratulations on taking your first step toward becoming a member of the Nordonia High School A Cappella Program. Our ensembles have built an impressive history. They have had the opportunity to perform for and with a cappella all stars such as The Filharmonic, Street Corner Symphony, VoicePlay and even Pentatonix. Our groups are featured each year at the Kettering National A Cappella Festival, the largest festival in the country, have opened for Disney at Playhouse Square and we even host our own a cappella festival each spring. We'd love to have you be part of the future of this exciting program!

The groups are:

◆ **Synergy**

- ◆ The premiere a cappella ensemble at Nordonia.
- ◆ Performs pop a cappella music on handheld microphones with limited choreography.
- ◆ Singers must be the highest order of vocal musicians.
- ◆ This ensemble is regularly submitted for consideration at academic & music conferences. Members should expect rigorous rehearsals with the highest expectations resulting in dynamic performances.
- ◆ Performs at most Nordonia High School Choir Concerts in addition to many other functions & events within the community and around the state.
- ◆ Auditions open to students in grades 8-11.

◆ **Momentum**

- ◆ Momentum is a larger a cappella group with a similar stage presence as Synergy.
- ◆ Performs pop a cappella music on handheld microphones with limited choreography.
- ◆ Singers must exhibit an advanced vocal and musical ability.
- ◆ Performs at most Nordonia High School Choir Concerts in addition to a limited number of events within the community and around the state.
- ◆ Auditions open to students in grades 8-11.

Members of the a cappella program will receive the highest level of vocal training to best prepare them for superior performances and success based on the national music standards. Therefore, students who are chosen to become members are expected to rehearse and perform at a high level of excellence. In addition to weekly rehearsals, individual "homework" on their music is expected.

Although there are many talented students auditioning this year (including past members, who must re-audition), there are a limited number of available positions in the program.

Competition is very high. Not being selected does not, in any way, indicate a lack of valuable musical talent.

Thank you for your interest in Nordonia's A Cappella Program. We look forward to hearing and seeing your audition!

Sincerely,

Mr. Pickering & Miss Pellington

Audition Requirements/Information

ALL AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE IN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR ROOM

A cappella auditions seem to scare a lot of people. PLEASE don't let that be the case for you! In fact, the a cappella groups are the perfect place for musicians who have non-traditional skills. Being able to sing solos with style, harmonize by ear, learn from CDs, beat-box, etc. are all GREAT for these groups. What makes a cappella groups strong is having a diverse group of musicians with a wide array of skills – some technical, some natural.

Being the best singer, the best sight-reader, etc. is NOT going to win you a spot here. We are looking for the IT factor... and here is how we will assess you in the process:

- **ROUND ONE – Monday, May 13 (6pm-9pm)**
 - Group Audition
 - Everyone must plan on participating on this day.
 - Perform in small groups on a song of my choosing.
 - Learn your respective part (SATB).
 - Sheet music and learning tracks for “*Signed, Sealed, Delivered*” is available at: www.NordoniaChoirs.com
 - YOU MUST PLAN ON BEING HERE THE FOR THE FULL TIME.
- **ROUND TWO – Tuesday, May 14 or Wednesday, May 15**
 - American Idol Audition:
 - You will pick one of the 2 days listed above
 - You need to be present for your audition time only.
 - Perform one pop-style solo a cappella (no track or accompaniment).
 - “American Idol Golden Ticket Round”
 - Please make this a song that best represents YOU.
 - Have a second song ready in case we want to hear something different.
 - Please limit selections to 1 minute or less.
- **ROUND THREE – Tuesday, May 28 – Callbacks (6-9pm)**
 - Here's how round two works:
 - Callbacks will be posted on Monday, May 20th.
 - A song from the current **Synergy** repertoire will be available at www.NordoniaChoirs.com.
 - Candidates must come prepared to sing a *harmony part* by themselves from memory with this year's existing group.
 - IF CALLED BACK, YOU MUST PLAN ON BEING HERE FOR THE FULL TIME.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **There's a lot to prepare here – what if I'm confused? What if I need help?**
 - Take advantage of our optional HELP SESSIONS!
 - Students in grades 9 - 11
 - NHS Choir Room
 - Thursday, May 2nd from 3:00pm – 4:00pm
 - Friday, May 10th from 3:00pm – 4:00pm
 - You are also welcome to come to any middle school help sessions!
 - Can't be there the whole time? No problem! You can come and go as you please and as your schedule allows!
 - 8th grade students
 - NMS Choir Room
 - Friday, May 3rd from 3:00pm – 4:00pm
 - Thursday, May 9th from 3:00pm – 4:00pm
 - You are also welcome to come to any high school help sessions!
 - Can't be there the whole time? No problem! You can come and go as you please and as your schedule allows!
- **Beatboxing**
 - Anyone auditioning to beatbox MUST ALSO prepare a full singing audition as outlined above.
 - All auditionees may be asked and should be prepared to beat-box with a pop-song of our choosing (don't worry about being great, just don't be scared or shy!). You should also be willing to try to jump in with the group if asked.
 - Likewise, beatboxers should come prepared to audition as SINGERS. Beatboxers in our groups must sing occasionally, so you must sing for your audition.
 - Those interested in being the dedicated beatboxers should be ready to do a beat-box solo.
 - *Lack of beatboxing will not keep you OUT of a group, but the competition will be tight. The ability to plan ahead, do even a little, and have some flexibility and versatility MIGHT be the difference that gets you IN!*
- **What will help me make it into one of the groups?**
 - Come prepared, not scared.
 - Sing confidently, and if mistakes happen, recover.
 - Have a great attitude
 - Perform.....ALWAYS.
- **What if I still have questions?**
 - ASK Mr. Pickering or Miss Pellington
 - Ask us in class.
 - You can also email us at: *NordoniaChoirs@gmail.com*

A Cappella Program Calendar & Expectations

At this early time, it is impossible to determine the exact date of each event. However, a rough outline can be provided.

Rehearsals During The Year

- August through Mid-November: Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:00
- November through end of year: Mondays 6:00 – 9:00
- *Rarely*, rehearsal might have to be “shifted” to a different night or adjusted to accommodate other activities within the district, other conflicts within the group’s membership or a special holiday (Labor Day, etc.)

Fundraisers

- We will be hosting 1 large fund-raising event – **students and parents of the a cappella membership are expected to work this event.** The money raised will be invested back in the program.
 - **Nordonia Aca-Fest**
 - Friday, February 14, 2020 – after school through the evening.
 - Saturday, February 15, 2020 – students present from 7am until done, parents working throughout the day as scheduled by the Nordonia Choral Booster Executive Board.
 - A cappella groups will perform on the evening show with our national headline group.

Other Performances & Events

- November 8 & 9, 2019 – *National A cappella Festival* – Dayton, Ohio
- Our groups are sometimes asked to perform within the community and at other school functions. Advance notice (two weeks or more) is always given to the members so that their schedules can be adjusted accordingly.

Sharing Students Between Programs & Activities

- A cappella is a fantastic opportunity for Nordonia students, but not the only one in which they are typically involved. We are happy to share students with other activities, but any such sharing must be equitable, to all parties, and communicated well in advance. This is the responsibility of the student. Members can expect an accurate, regularly updated calendar that contains as many future dates as possible. In return, we expect that students communicate with us in regards to any potential conflicts.

Grades & Conduct

- Excessive tardiness, poor performance or lack of cooperation will result lowered grades.
- In extreme cases of misconduct, students have been removed from the group of which they were a member.

Absences/Conflicts

We understand that students have many worthwhile experiences from which to choose during their time in school. Conflicts with other events often arise, and circumstances sometimes require our absence. Therefore, we ask students for 100% attendance **accountability**, rather than 100% attendance. Of course students are expected to be present whenever possible. Listed below are some guidelines to determining what is an *excused absence*, an *unexcused absence*, or a *conflict*.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Severe illness (verified by doctor's note in case of dress rehearsal, concert, performance, or classroom absence).
- Death in immediate family.
- Participation in family wedding (**director must have one month's prior written notice**).
- Participation in family religious ceremony (**director must have one month's prior written notice**).
- In all cases, parents must present excused notes in writing directly to your director prior to the absence.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- No call/No show to rehearsal, dress rehearsal, or performance.
- No prior notice of conflict.
- Non-contagious minor illness (headache, head cold, sore throat, etc.).
- Work – Failure to give your boss proper notice is not our problem. If your boss is uncooperative (I haven't had one yet who was), please have them call me, or I would be happy to contact them.
- Babysitting – Please make family arrangements to accommodate your schedule as a student.
- “But I couldn't get a ride.....” – Again, plan ahead.
- Routine appointments that can occur other times (dental/eye exams, doctor checkups, driver's license, etc.)

CONFLICTS

- Participation in other NHS events (sport, club, or other co-curricular class) is permitted & encouraged, provided the student provides their director with: (1) written schedule of other activity, (2) Name and contact information of other activity's sponsor, AND that your director and the other sponsor can come to consensus on a program of time sharing.

It is important to note that there has NEVER been an issue or conflict with sharing students between these activities that has not been able to be resolved with proper communication.

As advisors & coaches, we are aware that students are involved in many school activities and we work diligently to provide a balanced approach so students are afforded the best opportunity to be successful in all their endeavors.

A Cappella Application

NAME: _____ GRADE (NEXT FALL): _____ AGE: _____

STUDENT PHONE: _____ PARENT PHONE: _____

PARENT'S NAMES: _____

PARENT E-MAIL: _____

STUDENT E-MAIL: _____

Please take your time to make sure we can read your writing. Illegible forms will NOT be accepted.

I am auditioning for:

- Synergy Only
- Momentum Only
- I will accept a position in either a cappella group!

Check any NHS Performing Arts Programs that apply to you:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Marching Band | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Concert Band | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Wind Ensemble | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Jazz Band | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Symphonic Chorale | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Men's Chorus | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Women's Chorus | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Synergy | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Momentum | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Spring Musical | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |

Check any Lee Eaton or Middle School ensembles that apply to you (incoming Freshmen only):

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Band | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| Jazz Band | | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| Knightrhythm | | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |

2019 - 2020 Schedule Requests (No particular order)

First Semester

**Second Semester
(In case you have 1/2 year classes)**

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

List any other previous musical experience not listed on previous page:

Private lessons? _____ YES _____ NO

Voice or instrument: _____

If yes, name of teacher: _____ How long have you take lessons? _____

All anticipated extra-curricular activities for next year:

Please indicate any potential conflicts you might have with the rehearsal times and/or concert events outlined in this packet.

***A CAPPELLA PROGRAM
PARENT PERMISSION SLIP***

I/we give support for our child to audition for the Nordonia A Cappella Program. We have read the audition packet and understand the commitment necessary to be an active member of the group from the aspects of work ethic, time and effort. I/we also pledge our support to the Nordonia Choral Boosters if our child becomes a member of the group.

I/we also understand that there will be financial obligations to cover various costs associated with the a cappella groups including, but not limited to, the National A cappella Festival (estimated \$120.00) and casual performance attire (varies from \$20 - \$50)

Student Name (print legibly)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

You **must** remove the last 2 pages of this packet and turn them in at your group audition on Monday, May 13th.