



# Handbook for Student and Parents 2023-2024

North Mesquite High School Choir Department

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## **Director's Expectations for Students**

- **Come to each rehearsal with a positive attitude about working.** You are expected to arrive in class on time wanting to sing, and eager to MAKE MUSIC.
- **Come to School.** You cannot be a good student or choir member if you are not here.
- **Turn in all items ON TIME.** Learn this important life skill now.
- **Keep yourself informed of all dates, concerts, trips, and events.** Resolve schedule conflicts ahead of time and communicate with me so that I can help you with the conflict.
- **All performances are a mandatory element of the curriculum.** If you are in choir only for a fine arts credit, then you need to rethink your choice.
- Since restrooms are no longer available during passing periods, it will be necessary, on occasion, to go during class. If you need to use the restroom, hold up the restroom sign with your hand, (the ASL letter "R") and we will tell you if you may go. **You must enter your restroom break into E-Hallpass, and take the physical bathroom pass with you.**
- **No Food or Drinks are allowed in the choir room.** Water is the ONLY exception. This is a school policy.
- **Be respectful and polite to ALL.**
- **Represent NMHS and the Choir Department in a positive way.**
- **Make arrangements for efficient transportation to and from choir events**

## **NMHS Choir Discipline Plan**

**Objective:** To provide a learning environment conducive to student learning and effective teaching.

Any behavior, **whether spoken or unspoken**, that disrupts the learning process or interferes with the well being of others is unacceptable. Consequences for poor behavioral choices are listed below.

1. Choir detentions will be after school from 4:05 to 4.25 p.m.
2. Failure to serve a detention will result in an office referral.
3. Detentions will not be excused for any other activities (1.e. football practice, band practice, rehearsals....etc...) so make good behavioral choices each day!
4. Transportation for the detention is the responsibility of the student and parent.

First disruption: Student / teacher conference, Verbal warning

Second disruption: Student/Teacher conference  
Grade of "B" in citizenship  
Phone call to parent

Third disruption: Choir detention or office referral  
Grade of "C" in citizenship  
Phone call to parent

Fourth disruption: Office referral  
Grade of "D" in citizenship  
Parent conference  
Possible choir reassignment or removal

Fifth disruption: Office referral  
Grade of "F" in citizenship  
Removal from choir

### **Citizenship Grades**

Citizenship grades are assessed on the director's evaluation of a student's behavior in all rehearsals, performances, and choir functions. Poor behavior, chronic tardiness, and absences are often a sign of a lack of personal pride and lack of concern for the group. Members who habitually show this lack of pride and concern may be removed from the choral program.

## **NMHS Choir Grading Rubric**

### **Daily Grades (Skill Demonstration, Rehearsal Etiquette, Participation)** **40%**

*Daily Grades are given to students at the conclusion of each school week.*

*This results in students receiving 9 Daily Grade Scores per grading quarter.*

1. Singing 100%. Giving full effort
2. Having all materials (pencil, music, folder, any other assigned materials)  
**Failure to bring any of these materials could result in a loss of points from that week's Daily Grade.**
3. Being in your seat and prepared to learn when the bell rings.  
**Failure to be in your seat when the bell rings could result in a loss of points from that week's Daily Grade**
4. Using hand signs and keeping a beat when singing on solfege.
5. Not talking when the director stops during rehearsal.  
**Talking at inappropriate times could result in a loss of points from that week's Daily Grade**

### **Class Work (Written Assignments & Quizzes)** **20%**

1. Short, written, in-class assignments
2. Quizzes and other written assessments

### **Tests (Mid-quarter and end-of-quarter tests)** **20%**

### **Performances (Concerts, Rehearsals Outside of Class, and Pass-offs)** **20%**

#### **Concerts:**

1. Attendance
2. Performance
3. Display of Appropriate Audience Etiquette
4. Uniform

*\*Concert expectations are discussed in the "Concerts" section of the NMHS Choir Handbook.*

#### **Mandatory Rehearsals Outside of Class:**

UIL rules allow for 8 hours of rehearsal/practice time outside of the normal class period per week. At most, Chorale members will have two extra hours of rehearsal a week. For choirs other than Chorale, rehearsals will only occur during weeks leading up to concerts or contests and when they do occur they will be after school. When we do have extra rehearsals, students are required to attend. Work and transportation issues are not acceptable excuses for missing one of these crucial rehearsals. I will give no less than two weeks notice before each rehearsal so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. If you have a school conflict involving another extra-curricular event, please notify me immediately as outlined in the "Students Expectations" section of the *NMHS Choir Handbook*.

#### **Sight-reading Tests and Singing Pass-offs:**

Individual Sightreading Tests and Pass-offs will be conducted mostly via Google Classroom. Group pass-offs (in which students perform in groups) may be conducted in class.

## **Choir Uniform and Supply Fee**

1. The Uniform & Supply Fee is the Choir Department's only general required student fee.
2. Due by Friday, September 1st.
3. Refer to the next page for money turn-in procedures
4. \$25 - covers choir t-shirt, formal uniform cleaning, and supplies.
5. This is one of the cheapest fees at NMHS. Please turn this in on time. Please communicate with Mr. or Mrs. Forkner if you are unable to pay the fee by Sept 1st.

## Materials

Materials for choir will be issued to each singer. Students will receive:

- a music folder
- sightreading materials
- sheet music
- Pencil



If a student damages, destroys, or loses music that belongs to the choir department, they must pay for a replacement.

## Money Procedures



There will be times throughout the year when money will be due for various items (uniform fee, fundraising, choir trip payments). Payments may be made through cash, check or money order or via the Mesquite ISD In-Touch online payment system. When possible, we recommend using the secure In-Touch online option for efficient and safe payment. If payment is made with a check, please be sure the following information appears on the check:

- The account holder's drivers' license number and DOB
- The student's name who is turning in the check on the memo line
- What the check is for (i.e. Uniform Fee) on the memo line

\*\*\*Please do not turn in Post-Dated checks (MISD Policy)

Students should turn in money before or after class. ALL cash/checks must be turned in inside an envelope, which will be provided by the choir department.

## Cell Phone Policy



We understand that most students need to have a cell phone to communicate with parents on a daily basis. In some cases they can even be used as an educational tool. It is important to know when it is appropriate to use a cell phone in choir, and when it is not.

**Appropriate Times To Use Your Phone:** Before class begins, during a break in class designated by the director, If class ends a few minutes early.

**Inappropriate Times To Use Your Phone:** During warm-ups, announcements, and especially during sight-reading or rehearsal. This includes when the director is working with another section of the choir.

**ONE WARNING will be given to students using their phone at an inappropriate time during class.** If the student continues to use their phone, it must be handed over until the end of class. Refusal to hand over a phone will result in a referral.

A CHARGING STATION is available located at the front of the classroom. This is first come, first serve. Charging phones must be silenced without flashing lights, and must be left charging for the entire class, unless students are given permission to use phones.

## Opportunities & Concerts

**All-Region Choir Auditions** – Auditions are held every fall for the All-Region Choir. This honor choir is made up of singers from this area of the state. Students interested in auditioning can get more information from Mr. & Mrs. Forkner. Chamber, Honor, and UNITY members must participate.

**UIL Solo and Ensemble** – This contest, held every February, gives students the chance to perform a solo for a judge and receive a rating. Students scoring a superior rating receive medals. Chamber, Honor, and UNITY members must participate.

**Solo & Small Group Auditions** – Each year we have soloists and small groups perform on our *Sounds of the Season Concert* in December and our *NMHS Choir Spring Show* in May. These soloists and/or small groups are selected through auditions held by the choir department. For those singers comfortable with performing solo or in a small ensemble, this is a wonderful opportunity to push yourself and to grow as a performer.

**Annual Musical** - Each year the NMHS Fine Arts Department puts on an annual musical. We would love to have a great number of Singing Stallions participate in our musical cast. Traditionally, musical auditions are in October and the show performances are in late January.

**Concerts** - Students are expected (regardless of academic eligibility) to attend all concerts and required extra rehearsals. The choir calendar outlines the required concert dates. Extra rehearsal schedules will be given no less than 30 calendar days in advance to allow students to plan accordingly. **All concerts and rehearsals are grades.**



# North Mesquite High School Choir 2023-2024 General Calendar

❖ Performances are shown in **Bold and Underlined Print**

❖ All-Region/All-State Choir Audition Events are shown in *italics*

<b>Date &amp; Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b><u>August</u></b>		
18 - Choir Contracts Due		
26 - Super Saturday Uniform Fittings	9 AM to 2 PM	NMHS Choir Room
<b><u>September</u></b>		
1 - Choir Supply Fee Due (\$25)		
11/12 - <i>District Choir Mock Auditions</i>	<i>4PM to 5PM</i>	<i>NMHS Choir Room</i>
19 - <i>District Choir Auditions</i>	<i>After School</i>	<i>Sachse High School</i>
21- Choir Fall Fiesta	<i>5:30-7:30PM</i>	Towneast Park Pavilion
30 - <i>Region Choir Audition</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Rowlett HS</i>
<b><u>October</u></b>		
<b><u>3 - NMHS Choir Fall Concert</u></b>	<b><u>7:30 PM</u></b>	<b><u>NMHS Auditorium</u></b>
23 & 24 -Musical Auditions	4:00 PM	NMHS Auditorium
25 - Musical Audition Callbacks	4:00 PM	NMHS Auditorium
<b><u>November</u></b>		
<i>1- All-Region Choir Pre-Rehearsal</i>	<i>9:30AM-3:30PM</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>4 - All-Region Choir Clinic &amp; Concert</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Rockwall-Heath HS</i>
<b><u>9 - Chorale &amp; Chamber at the MAC</u></b>	<b><u>7:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>Mesquite Arts Center</u></b>
<i>14 - Pre-Area Choir Auditions</i>	<i>4PM-8PM</i>	<i>Rockwall HS</i>
30 - Winter Solo Auditions	4:00 PM	NMHS Choir Room
<b><u>December</u></b>		
<b><u>7 - Sounds of the Season Concert</u></b>	<b><u>7:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>NMHS Auditorium</u></b>
21- UIL Solo Contracts Due	During Class	
<b><u>January</u></b>		
<i>6 - Area Choir Auditions</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>TAMU – Commerce</i>
25 thru 27 - Musical Performances	4PM – 10PM	NMHS Auditorium
29 - NV Treble Choir UIL Rehearsals Begin*	4PM to 5PM	NMHS Choir Room
30/ 31 - UIL Solo Pass-offs	During Class	NMHS Choir Room
30 - Combined Men's UIL Rehearsals Begin*	4PM to 5PM	NMHS Choir Room
31 - Varsity Treble Rehearsals Begin*	4PM to 5PM	NMHS Choir Room
<b><u>February</u></b>		
3 - UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest	All Day	West Mesquite HS
Feb 27 - Field Trip to Dallas Opera	TBD	Winspear Opera House
<b><u>Calendar Continued on Next Page</u></b>		

<b><u>March</u></b>		
<b><u>21 - Pre-UIL</u></b>	<b><u>7PM</u></b>	<b><u>NMHS Auditorium</u></b>
<b><u>23- UIL Super Saturday Rehearsals</u></b>	<b><u>TBA</u></b>	<b><u>NMHS Choir Room</u></b>
<b><u>27/28 - UIL Concert &amp; Sightreading</u></b>	<b><u>TBD</u></b>	<b><u>POTEET HS</u></b>
<b><u>April</u></b>		
<b><u>16- Men's Cluster Concert</u></b>	<b><u>7:00PM</u></b>	<b><u>NMHS Auditorium</u></b>
25- Choir Trip Meeting for 2024-2025	7PM-8PM	NMHS Choir Room
<b><u>May</u></b>		
3- UNITY Pop Show	7:00PM	NMHS Auditorium
6 – Spring Show Solo Auditions	4:00 PM	Choir Room
<b><u>9 - Choir Spring Show</u></b>	<b><u>7:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>NMHS Auditorium</u></b>
13 - Chamber Singers Auditions	4PM to 7PM	NMHS Choir Room
15 - UNITY Auditions Phase 1	4PM to 7PM	NMHS Choir Room
16 - UNITY Auditions Phase 2	4PM to 7PM	NMHS Choir Room
18- Choir Banquet	6-9PM	PDC Vision Room
22- Choir Trip (2024-2025) Deposit DUE		

**\* UIL Rehearsal (End of January through March)**

- **Combined (Cantate and JV Mixed Women) will have UIL Rehearsals every Monday when school is in session from 1/29/24 to 3/25/24. Rehearsals will be from 4pm to 5pm. The only exceptions are the 2/6/24 and 3/19/24 rehearsals, which are on Tuesdays due to Professional Development on Monday.**
- **Combined (JV and Varsity) Men will have UIL Rehearsals every Tuesday when school is in session from 1/30/24 to 3/26/24. The only exception is the 2/28/24 rehearsal which is on a Wednesday, due to the Opera Field Trip on Tuesday. Rehearsals will be from 4pm to 5pm.**
- **Chorale Women will have UIL Rehearsals every Wednesday when school is in session from 1/31/24 to 3/27/24. The only exception is the 2/13/24 rehearsal, which is on a Tuesday due to Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day. Rehearsal will be from 4pm to 5pm.**

## Concert Information

There are 10 major concert performances throughout the school year, all of which are considered “co-curricular” or home concerts and count as a grade. Concerts count as 30% of a student’s overall grade. Therefore, missing one concert can lower a student’s grade a great deal. The dates of each concert are given well in advance to ensure that each student can make arrangements to be in attendance. The concert dates above that appear in **Large, Underlined, Bold Print** are required for all choir students.

Work and transportation are NOT acceptable excuses for missing a concert. Any school conflicts with a concert date need to be discussed with the choir directors ahead of time. Illness can only be excused with a doctor’s note, unless told otherwise by a directo.

View All NMHS Choir events at  
[www.northmesquitechoir.com](http://www.northmesquitechoir.com)





# North Mesquite Choir Social Media

*Keep Up with Northside Choir Events and Information  
with our Social Media and Web outlets!*



*North Mesquite Choir Website*  
[www.northmesquitechoir.com](http://www.northmesquitechoir.com)



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