

August 19, 2016

NNSC Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome! I am very excited that you are a part of our choir program for the 2016-2017 school year here at North Newton Jr-Sr High School. I'm excited to get to know each of you better, and looking forward to a productive year, full of continued growth and achievement.

I count myself very fortunate to be returning as your choir director. I am a graduate of Saint Joseph's College, and I am looking forward to all that this year has in store. I am from Winamac, Indiana and have been heavily involved in music programs throughout the state. I look forward to utilizing my experiences to help ensure that everyone involved with the music program here has a positive and rewarding experience.

Attached you will find a copy of the choir department handbook. The handbook includes information regarding ensembles, attendance, classroom expectations, grading, and other pertinent information. Please take time to look over it, and return the last page with the requested information. This will help to ensure that if a situation arises during a choir event, the appropriate contact information will be on hand. Please have the student return the sheet to me by August 22nd.

Please let me know if you have any questions about anything contained in the handbook, or otherwise. My door is always open, or if you prefer to contact me by e-mail or phone, my information is listed below.

I look forward to working with all of you to make this a great year!

Sincerely,

Craig Redlin

Director of Music

North Newton School Corporation

(219)-285-2252 ext. 226

credlin@nn.k12.in.us

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the North Newton School Corporation Choir Program to develop the individual student through musical experiences that promote the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to become free-thinking individuals, independent musicians, life-long learners, informed consumers of music, participants of music-making, and advocates of music and music education.

Philosophy Statement

We study music because it is a unique form of knowledge and communication. It gives the student a chance to explore an emotional means of communication and discover how to express his/her own feelings in a positive and appropriate manner.

Performance is the primary means of learning in the choral program. Through performance, a student achieves musical independence through the development of technical ability, listening skills, ensemble skills, and theoretical knowledge. Participation in the concert choir is the primary vehicle for this musical development. In such a program, students are exposed to a wide variety of the finest in musical literature, and therefore learn to appreciate the value of music.

Besides achieving true musicianship, students gain an understanding of their musical heritage and develop their creative abilities. Each activity in the choral program contributes to a well-rounded musical education and helps students experience the joy and satisfaction of music making.

There are also many valuable by-products of music study through choir participation. Students learn the skills of responsible group membership and participation. Participation in choir encourages the development of a good work ethic. In addition, current research studies have found the study of music to have positive effects on mental performance and critical thinking skills.

The choir program, which has the students as its central focus, promotes learning through the art of music making and the development of musical understanding, will most fully provide all the benefits such a program can offer. We seek to be this type of an organization.

The Staff

Craig Redlin

Director of Music

Office Phone: (219)-285-2252 ext. 226

E-mail: credlin@nn.k12.in.us

Mrs. Karen Williams- Piano Accompanist

The choir program in the North Newton Schools form an important part of the total school life. It is a highly visible part of the school and of the community. We are ambassadors that perform throughout the area, while representing the North end of Newton County and the surrounding area. We represent our community with the highest standards of excellence and ethical conduct.

Membership Qualifications

Any student in 6th grade or higher who is in good standing with North Newton School Corporation is eligible for membership in the Choral program. Good standing means the student has adequately demonstrated the educational skills and behaviors necessary to make a positive contribution to the choir. It also means that the student has successfully completed all choir requirements from the previous year (if applicable). After 8th grade, membership will ***only*** be granted for those who have not taken a choir class that has had special circumstances occur. All students participating in choir are expected to enroll for both the fall and spring semesters of the course (Unusual or special circumstances such as academic conflict may be considered by the director).

Ensembles

High School Choir, Junior High Choir, & 6th Grade Choir

These ensembles are the primary vehicle for music instruction. All Concert Choirs are based on the grade level of the student. These ensembles perform a number of official concerts during the school year and may also participate in Indiana State School Music Association events in the spring.

Other Events

There are several music organizations in Indiana that put on high quality events for choir students throughout the year. They include ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest, IBA All-Region & All-District Choir, All-State Choir, and many others. For information about these activities, please contact Mr. Redlin.

Classroom Rules and Expectations

1. Students are expected to be in the choir room when the bell rings. Tardies will be enforced. Please note that excessive tardies in a High School class can result in removal from the course.
2. Class will begin 2 minutes after the bell rings each day. Students should be seated and ready for rehearsal at this time. Students who are not in their seats will be counted as tardy. The accumulation of tardies during the semester will result in consequences from the office. (please see student handbook).
3. Each individual is responsible for having all materials for participation in class each day. This includes a pencil, sheet music and anything else that is applicable to participation in choir class.
4. There is **no food** or **gum** allowed at any rehearsal or performance.
5. Talking while a conductor is on the podium is interpreted as a total lack of respect for your classmates and instructors. Please focus on the task at hand during rehearsal time.
6. Be respectful of school owned equipment. At the conclusion of rehearsal, all materials should be put away properly.
7. Failure to follow any of the above listed rules may result in a grade deduction. The student may be referred to the office and parent will be contacted for serious or repeated infractions.

Grading Expectations

Student grades are based on a blend of 3 categories:

- Classroom Participation
- Concert Performances (including outside rehearsals)
- Assessments (Singing or Written)

Classroom Participation

All students are expected to conduct themselves with the behavior of professional caliber musicians at all times during choir department performances, rehearsals, & activities. Students will be evaluated on their achievement in this area.

Concert Performances

All students will participate in required ensemble concerts and rehearsals outside of the school day. Each concert will have a certain amount of points. Since concerts are the primary exams in choir, there are very few excused situations for absence. Our classes are “Co-Curricular” which means that events occurring outside the school day are **mandatory** for course requirements and grading. The following list is not all-inclusive, but should give an idea of what is and is not allowable:

Excused Absences from a Concert

- Severe illness verified with a physician’s documentation.
- Sudden emergency situations (such as death of a family member).
- Recognized religious holidays or widely understood church-mandated absences, when documentation is given and the request is made 30 DAYS BEFORE the concert date.
- IHSAA-sanctioned single-elimination playoff events.

Excused Absences from a Rehearsal

- All items listed above PLUS:
- Participation in a sport or academic competition (performance trumps rehearsal)
- Absence from school that day.

Unexcused Absences from a Concert

- Job Conflicts
- Family Vacations
- Studying or doing homework (part of any organization is managing your time effectively. Don’t commit if you can’t follow through!)
- Malfunctioning musical equipment (i.e. my instrument broke)
- SAT or ACT tests (these events offer several dates, and therefore are avoidable)
- Undisclosed “personal reasons”.
- Illness without school nurse or physician documentation.

Singing/Written Assessments

- Singing exams are given periodically as needed to ensure proper individual musical development. Singing tests are worth 50 points. All singing tests may be retaken ONCE for an improved grade. Exams may either be recorded or live.
- Written assignments will be periodically given in all NN Choir classes to ensure students are not just learning performance skills. High school choir classes will have a written final exam at the end of semester 1 and a singing exam at the end of semester 2.

Guidelines for Choir Trips

1. Be on time.
2. You are responsible for seeing that all items that you will need are placed in the proper place for travel. Do NOT assume someone will do this for you.
3. Everyone travels with the group and returns with the group. Only in extreme circumstances will an exception be made in traveling to performances. Special permission to return home in some other manner may be granted if a **WRITTEN** note from a parent or guardian is given to the director before departure.
4. Bus travel is to be quiet. Only portable radios, cassette, CD, or MP3 players with earphones are allowed on the bus. Please use discretion when bringing valuables on a choir trip.
5. Follow the instructions of the director, staff, bus drivers, and parent chaperones at all times. They are your legal guardians in the absence of your parents.
6. Your parents should be notified of our return time prior to departure. We will make every effort to return as according to the trip itinerary.
7. For the safety and security of all students, the director and chaperones reserve the right to check all luggage prior to departing on overnight trips.
8. Before every trip, your child will be given an itinerary for the day. This is done as a convenience for your family. We will make every effort to arrive home on time. **Please be on time when picking up your student.** Thank you for your efforts.

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO POLICY: The use of these substances will not be tolerated during any choir activity at the school or away. School and local authorities will deal with any students found with these items, incurring the same penalties as if the offense occurred during the school day. In addition, the student(s) will be sent home immediately at the parent's expense. Students in violation face the penalties set forth by the school, up to and including removal from the choir program entirely.

Concert Attire

All students are required to have all items pertaining to the ensemble they are in.

6th & Junior High School Choir

- White button down long-sleeved dress shirt or blouse.
- Red Tie (Boys only). Red Accent (Girls only).
- Black dress slacks. (Floor length skirts are acceptable but not preferable)
- Black socks
- Black closed-toe dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flops)

High School Choir

- White button down long-sleeved dress shirt or blouse.
- Red Tie (Boys only) Red Accent (Girls only).
- Black dress slacks. (Floor length skirts are acceptable but not preferable)
- Black socks
- Black closed-toe dress shoes (no tennis shoes or flip-flops)

Band Boosters

Each parent that has a student enrolled in the choir program is considered a member of the NN Band Booster organization (Legal name). The purpose of this parent group is to provide supplementary communication, encouragement, assistance, and financial support to the choir program. Each year there is an election of executive officers for the band boosters, of which any parent is eligible. General meetings will be held monthly in which all parents are encouraged to attend. The boosters also conduct a series of fundraisers and choir events to support the tremendous amount of work that the students put in each year. This is an excellent opportunity to be involved in your child's education and to help support the choir program here at North Newton. For more information, please contact the director or one of the Booster officers.

Director's Statement

Please understand that the director will have final say on any issue related to the North Newton Jr-Sr High Schools Choir program. The policies laid forth in this handbook will be enforced. Under extremely rare circumstances, however, the director may find it necessary to alter the policy for the best interest of the student. Be aware that every effort will be made to avoid this circumstance if possible.

Schedule of Performances and Call Times

December

11th – Winter Concert 2 pm. Call Time 1 pm. Concert attire.

February

4th – Solo and Ensemble at KVMS. Concert attire.

April

8th – ISSMA Organizational Contest at KVMS. Concert attire.

May

14th – Spring Concert 2 pm. Call Time 1 pm. Concert attire.

25th – Spring Music Banquet. 6 pm. Dress semi-casual in Spring attire.

****Every Home Basketball Game is up for someone in the Choir program to sing the Star-Spangled Banner. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Redlin via email.****

Parent Contact Information

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

Choir: (Please circle) 5th/6th Choir JH Choir HS Choir

Please contact me if you need volunteers for Choir sponsored events.

PARENT AND STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We understand and agree to abide by the information contained in the North Newton Jr-Sr High Schools Choir Handbook. We further understand that failure to follow these guidelines could result in academic and/or participation penalties.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date