

SYLLABUS
Nickerson High School Madrigals – Fall 2020
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We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. —Aristotle

COURSE LOCATION & TIME

NHS Music Room, Odd Days, Class 3

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Pencils

Masks

Chromebook/Device with working microphone and speakers or earbuds/headphones

Music will be supplied

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will

Learn/review basic music theory (including note recognition, rhythm, etc.)

Learn/review proper breathing

Learn/review proper vowel formation

Learn/review proper diction in English and other languages

Learn/review protocol for performances - stage presence, entry and exit of stage

Study, memorize and present challenging and high-quality music for a variety of performances throughout the school year

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Students need to come prepared to each rehearsal with...

Punctuality (be on time!)

A good attitude

A pencil and writing/note-taking materials

A mask

Internet-ready device for any assigned research/writing projects (advance notice will be given)

Gum, food, candy, and beverages other than plain, unsweetened, unflavored water are NOT allowed. Students may bring water if they wish.

No inkpens, highlighters, or markers may be used on any music or in any textbooks.

Electronic devices must be left in a bag/purse or in the music folder slot. Any cell phones, iPods, mp3 players, or other devices will be confiscated and turned in to the office.

When the bell rings, students should be in their seats/on the risers, with their music folder, and be ready immediately for rehearsal.

Students will not be allowed to leave rehearsal within the first or last 10 minutes of class for restroom/water breaks.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES* (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Thursday, October 8	7:30pm	Fall Concert, Auditorium
Thursday, December 3	8:30am	USD 309 Retired Teachers Meeting, 309 Complex
	7pm (?)	Rehearsal with Hutch Symphony, Memorial Hall
Saturday, December 5	7:30pm (?)	Performance with Hutch Symphony, Memorial Hall
Friday, December 11??	ALL DAY	USD 309 Mini-Tour to NES/RVMS/SHES (this may not happen?)
Tuesday, December 22	7:30pm	Winter Concert, Auditorium

GRADING

*Madrigals is a PERFORMANCE-BASED course. Therefore, participation in ALL PERFORMANCES is MANDATORY. All performances will count as a test grade (100 or 200 points, depending on activity), so an unexcused absence at a performance will result in a ZERO. Excused absences include school-sponsored activities, personal illness (with doctor's or parent's note), death in the family, or extenuating circumstances approved by the Choral Director. **Students with an**

UNEXCUSED concert absence can elect to complete a research project for **PARTIAL** credit (up to 75%) instead of receiving a **ZERO**.

*Students who are academically ineligible for the Spring League and/or State Festivals may elect to complete a research paper in lieu of the Festival performance. **Academic ineligibility may result in removal from Madrigals at semester.***

Effective rehearsals require EVERY singer present and engaged. Students will receive a weekly Participation Grade, worth 50 points. Absences or tardies, leaving before class ends, class disruption, poor attitude, lack of participation, or being unprepared for rehearsal will result in points being deducted from the weekly grade.

WEEKLY PARTICIPATION GRADE BREAKDOWN:	Remote Mondays =	10
	Tues./Wed. =	20
	Thurs./Fri. =	<u>20</u>
	TOTAL =	50

Periodic music theory, choral methods, or music history assignments and pencil checks may be given. Individual point values will be assigned to those assignments, and assessments (quizzes) will be given as needed. Periodic “Singing Tests” may also be administered to measure students’ effort and attention during rehearsals, especially leading up to a performance.

TARDIES/ABSENCES

According to the NHS Tardy Policy, students are allowed 2 unexcused tardies per semester with no penalty. The third and subsequent unexcused tardies will result in an Office Discipline Referral and associated disciplinary measures. Because the bulk of your grade is based on participation, **any tardy or absence or early dismissal, whether excused or not, will result in a 5-point loss from the weekly participation grade.** Unexcused absences, ISS, or OSS will result in ALL points being lost for each day. ***THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEEKLY PARTICIPATION POINTS.***

REMOTE MONDAYS

Beginning September 14, you will login via Zoom or Google Meet during your scheduled class time for the “Manic Monday” schedule. **Madrigals will begin at 9:44am.** Attendance WILL be taken, and you will be marked Tardy/Absent as needed. **We will END class on Mondays no later than 10:27am.**

You will need to join my Google Classroom for all of your remote work. ****You MUST remember to take home your music folder on Thursdays/Fridays so that you have it on Mondays.**** We WILL be doing various “choir” activities on Mondays that will require you to have your music. These may include solfège work, discussions about lyrics/expression/performance style, and mini-rehearsals or even sectionals. You should plan on singing at times on Mondays, so find a quiet room, garage, back yard, or somewhere you will be able to sing. You will need a working microphone and working speakers/earbuds/headphones. You will NOT be excused from activities due to technology problems, so make plans NOW.

Some of your remote Mondays will be graded based on logging in and participation. Other Mondays will require you to complete an assignment (including marking your music) and submit it electronically for credit (taking a picture will often work).

****You MUST also remember to bring back your music folder on Tuesdays.****

REMOTE LEARNING RULES:

- 1) Login using VIDEO – do NOT turn off your camera, or you will be marked ABSENT.
- 2) Login using AUDIO – MUTE yourself after you login and stay muted until you are asked to speak or need to ask a question/participate.
- 3) Dress for school – do not login wearing inappropriate (or insufficient) clothing.
- 4) Limit distractions/interruptions – do not login from a busy, noisy place or have other people in the room with you while you are online. If you need to use the restroom or have an emergency during the session, send me a private message, mute your audio/video, and then get back to the session ASAP.
- 5) Stay engaged in the session – if you are using another device, playing video games, texting, or doing something OTHER than participating in the session, you will lose points.
- 6) Observe our classroom rules – Do not eat, drink, or chew gum while we are having a virtual rehearsal/sectional.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Students will purchase formal concert attire. NEW GIRLS will purchase new dresses for \$75, and NEW guys will purchase tuxes for \$130. Both guys and girls will need BLACK DRESS SHOES. Also, ALL students need BLACK DRESS SLACKS and BLACK SHOES to wear with the Madrigals polo shirts for less formal performances. Polo shirts will be issued to students, like a school uniform, and the students will keep and launder the shirts for the year. At the end of the year, the polos

will be returned to the school. Any staining, damage, or loss of a polo shirt will result in a \$20 charge added to your school account.

LETTERING

Students enrolled in Vocal Music classes are eligible to receive a varsity letter. Lettering point charts are available upon request and on the website. Points must be earned outside the choir class including musical audition/participation, private voice lessons, auditioning for District/All-State Choir, Festival solos, participating in a church choir/worship team, etc.

AWARDS

A graduating senior(s) will receive the National School Choral Award, given at the Choral Director's discretion. The recipient will be a student who shows leadership in vocal music at NHS, promotes good musicianship, displays a positive attitude and work ethic, and has been highly involved in vocal music at NHS during their high school years. The Fred Waring Director's Award for Chorus will be given at the Choral Director's discretion to a student who has demonstrated notable progress, growth, achievement, leadership, etc.

Seniors who have participated in vocal and/or instrumental classes all 8 semesters of high school (with an overall A average) will receive Music Honor Cords at graduation.