

SYLLABUS

Nickerson High School Women's Choir — Spring 2021

Scott Logan, Choral Director

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We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. —Aristotle

COURSE LOCATION & TIME

Class 8 — 2:26-3:10pm

Mondays: Remote

Tues-Fri: Music Room

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

Music Folder

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)

Tuesday, March 16 7:30pm Pre-Festival Concert, New Gym (?)

Wednesday, May 5 7:30pm Final Concert, New Gym (?)

GRADING

*Women's Choir is a PERFORMANCE-BASED course. Therefore, participation in ALL PERFORMANCES is MANDATORY. All performances (200 points) will count as a test grade, 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.

Effective rehearsals require EVERY singer present and engaged. Students will receive a weekly Participation Grade, worth 50 points (10 points for each day, both remote and in-person). 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. This grading scale will change if/when the hybrid schedule changes.

HYBRID WEEKLY PARTICIPATION GRADE:	50 points/week (10 points each day)
NON-HYBRID 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 loss of points from the daily/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

Every Monday, you will login via Zoom during your scheduled class time for the “Manic Monday” schedule. **Women’s Choir will begin at 2:26pm.** Attendance WILL be taken, and you will be marked Tardy/Absent as needed.

You will need to join my Google Classroom for all of your remote work. ****You MUST remember to take home and bring back your music folder every day.**** 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.

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.

HYBRID SCHEDULE TUES-FRI

Students with last names A-L (except Madrigals) will come to school on Tuesdays & Thursdays for in-person rehearsals. You will complete remote assignments on Wednesdays & Fridays via Google Classroom.

Students with last names M-Z (and all Madrigals) will complete remote assignments on Tuesdays & Thursdays via Google Classroom. You will come to school on Wednesdays & Fridays for in-person rehearsals.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

Women’s Choir wears ALL BLACK or black bottoms and white tops. Nice black dress slacks or knee-length black skirts should be worn with white blouses/polos/tops. **TIGHTS/LEGGINGS/YOGA PANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED. SKIRTS/DRESSES MUST BE KNEE-LENGTH OR LONGER.** You will also need black dress shoes (flats or short heels). If you show up to a concert inappropriately dressed, you will NOT be allowed to perform, and you will receive a ZERO for the concert grade. **DON’T TEST ME ON THIS.**

LETTERING

Letters will be given at the Director's discretion this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Requirements include 100% attendance at all performances, enrollment both semesters in a choral ensemble, and earning a minimum A- average both semesters.

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.