



2021-2022 Nickerson High School Madrigals Syllabus

Kendrick Weaver, Choral Director

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The only thing better than singing is more singing.

– Ella Fitzgerald

Course Location & Time

NHS Music Room, 6th hour

Required Materials

Pencil

Music will be supplied

Formal concert attire: **dresses or tuxes to be purchased by students** (see "Performance Attire")

Course Description

Students will:

- Learn/review basic music theory, proper breathing, proper vowel formation, and proper diction in English and other languages.
- Study, memorize, and present challenging and high-quality music for a variety of performances throughout the school year.

Rehearsal Expectations

Students need to come to rehearsal with...

Punctuality (be on time!)

A good attitude

A pencil for notes

A device connected to the internet (school Chromebook)

Don't bring...

Food, candy, gum

Pens or highlighters to mark music/textbooks

Any drink that is not unflavored water

Grading - Daily Participation Points

Effective rehearsals require **every** singer to be present and engaged. Each of you is important to the sound of the group, and we all depend on each other. Students will receive a weekly participation grade, with 10 pts per day.

All of your daily points will be related to your effort in engaging with the music and material covered in class that day.

- Lack of participation, poor attitude/effort, or unpreparedness will result in 2 points being deducted for each infraction. It is the teacher's responsibility to inform students when they are losing points so they can adjust their actions.
- Using phones in class will earn you a failing grade for the day, automatically reducing your maximum points to half, at 5 pts. Any student using their phone will have to give it up until the end of the class period. It will be the responsibility of the student to retrieve their phone once class is over.

Because the bulk of this class is rehearsal, which cannot be replicated outside of school, any tardy or excused absence will result in a 5-point loss from the daily participation grade. Unexcused absences, ISS, or OSS will result in a 10 point-per-day loss. Missing an entire week due to unexcused absence/ISS/OSS will result in a **zero** for the week.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Performances | = 200 points maximum |
| Weekly Participation Grade | = 50 points maximum per week |
| Pencil Checks | = 10 points (pass/fail) |
| Assessments (quizzes, singing tests, sight reading) | = Quiz Grade (Points TBD) |
| History/Theory/Written Assignments | = Written Work Grade (Points TBD) |

Performances and Performance Absences

Performances are the culmination of all the work we do as Madrigals. For each performance, you will receive a grade comparable to a test in another class. Your other teammates are counting on you to be there and provide your best effort. Therefore, **attendance at all performances is MANDATORY!**

It is an honor and a privilege to be in this group. Your participation should reflect the fact that other people wish to be a part of this ensemble but cannot. Any student who has an unexcused absence from a concert will be put on probation. A second unexcused performance absence for the year will result in your removal from Madrigals at semester.

Unexcused absences include: academic ineligibility (failing two or more classes), no ride, work, or other events not pre-approved by Mr. Weaver or the school.

Excused absences include: school sponsored activities, personal illness, death in the family, or any other circumstance approved by Mr. Weaver in advance.

Students who have are absent from a concert may elect to complete a make-up assignment. By completing this assignment, students with unexcused absences will receive partial credit (maximum 50% of concert grade) instead of receiving a zero. Students with an excused absence can complete a concert make-up assignment for full credit.

If you will be absent for a concert, please get it approved by Mr. Weaver at least two weeks in advance so the choir can plan accordingly. The three make-up assignments for a concert absence are:

1. The student will record themselves singing the entire concert
-or-
2. Write a 3-page research paper about the music sung at the concert
-or-
3. Attend and judge a choir performance at a different school

The details to the assignment are on the school website (www.nickersonchoirs.org) under Home > Documents. It is the responsibility of the student to take initiative by completing and returning a concert make-up assignment.

Required Performance Events (subject to change)

Fall Concert - Wednesday, Oct. 6

Collaboration with Hutch Symphony (optional)

Rehearsal Thursday, Dec. 9 @ 7pm

Performance Sunday, Dec. 12

Winter Concert - Monday, Dec. 13 @ 7pm

League Festival - Wednesday, Mar. 2

Regional Festival (Large Ensemble) - Apr. 13-14

State Festival - TBA

Final Concert - Wednesday, May 4 @ 7pm

Performance Attire

Students will purchase formal concert attire. New members will purchase either a new dress for \$75, or a tux for \$130. Measurements will happen during Madrigals camp, or the first two weeks of school.

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.

In addition, everyone will need **black dress shoes, black shoes, and black slacks** to wear with the Madrigals polo shirts for less formal performances. If you cannot afford the required attire, please let Mr. Weaver know ASAP so we can get you what you need.

Homework Policy

Learning how to sing is like learning any other skill-- the more you practice, the better you will be. Homework will be practice logs, occasionally assigned to give students additional preparation for concerts. Parents will be responsible for signing practice logs to confirm that the student did practice for the correct amount of time. Your student will need to access the practice tracks on the choir website at www.nickersonchoirs.org. If internet access is not available in your home, please let Mr. Weaver know so he can make other arrangements. It is Mr. Weaver's responsibility to post upcoming due dates on the whiteboard and provide at least two verbal reminders of homework. If students do not complete their homework by the due date, it will be docked 10% for each day late. Homework submitted 5+ days late will still be accepted but will only be able to earn 50% credit.

Lettering

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

Additional Performance Opportunities

Fall Musical – Anyone may audition on August 19 or 20,
Performances: November 12-14

KMEA State Middle-Level Honor Choir – Freshmen only
October audition, February performance

Collaboration with Hutch Symphony
Available to anyone, December 12 Performance

KMEA District/All-State Choir – District (9-12th grade), State (10-12th grade)
November audition, December & February performances

KCDA Choirs
Treble (Freshmen women) - October audition, February performance
Women/Men – March audition, July performance

Solo & Ensemble Festivals
Spring Semester

K-State Summer Choral Institute
Sophomores & Juniors – April audition, June camp & performance

Awards

A graduating senior or seniors 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. Certificates and medals will be given for participation in Regional and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals. 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.

Please remove this page and return it to Mr. Weaver by Friday, August 27 for 10 points.

Nickerson Madrigals Contract

I have read and understand what is expected of me in rehearsal, and how I will be graded for assignments, concerts, and daily participation. I understand that the high exposure of this group means we represents our school, our town, and our district at each performance. I will purchase or make arrangements for the required performance attire. I acknowledge that performances are mandatory events, and the rest of the ensemble depends on my attendance and best effort in every rehearsal.

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Name (print): _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Name (print): _____