

Northside Middle School Choral  
Handbook  
2022-2023 School Year



*"Words make you think. Music makes you feel. A song makes you feel a thought."*

*- Yip Harburg*

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Letter to the Parents,

Hello and welcome to *THE* Northside Middle School choir program. I look forward to working with all of you in the efforts to have our best year yet!

In this handbook you will find all the information for our choir program including;

- Wardrobe
- Classroom Expectations
- Attendance Policy
- Concert Etiquette
- Grading Procedures
- Concert Attire
- Code of Ethics

*Parents/Guardians; It is very important that you read through this handbook.*

*There is a schedule attached in our calendar. Please note that some events will not require all students.*

**Mission statement:** The Northside Middle School Choir Department strives to create stronger, more competent young musicians who appreciate the arts! Students who are in this program will be well on their way towards excelling and exceeding in Band, Theater Performance as well as traditional Choir.

Here are the list of goals at the end of the year per grade level;

6th grade

- Be able to read basic Sight Reading examples
- Be able to be part independent
- Be able to sing in at least 2 parts

7th Grade

- Be able to sing in at least 3 parts
- Develop error Detection Skills for All-state
- Be able to sight read examples by oneself

8th Grade

- Be able to sing in 4 parts
- Continue to develop and master Detection Skills for All-state
- Master Aural Skills for Grade level

## Choral Opportunities;

We are finally reaching levels of normalcy before the pandemic! This means that we are a busy program and students in the vocal department here at Northside Middle school have many various opportunities to sing and travel. Now there is a **small caveat** that **MUST** be understood; Students in this program are considered to be “ambassadors” of the School. It is **EXPECTED** that you will be on best and utmost professional behavior when you are on any school related function and activity. You are the best of the best here at this school and you must show it!

Georgia Music Educators Association, otherwise known as “GMEA” strives to provide opportunities to all students who are interested in performing and being in fellowship with other like minded students across the state.

The following GMEA events are listed below with dates and deadlines;

Honor Choir 7th and 8th Grade (January 19-20th)

- This is for students who are interested in singing with other students from the state of Georgia.

LGPE (March 6-8th 2023)

## Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to give their best effort in class every day. We follow PRIDE in this classroom along with few other rules:

### **Procedures**

- Come in quietly; grab your folder and take out your pencil.
- During the whole group rehearsal or if the teacher is addressing the class, no talking is permitted.
- Raise your hand to ask a question.
- We dismiss in an orderly fashion by rows/sections.
- Restrooms are done on a case by case basis and typically, only one student per gender may be allowed to go and typically will not be allowed during rehearsal time. This is to ensure a student does not miss vital information. Water fountains will have the same stipulations only one student per gender may be allowed to go. And may not be allowed during full group rehearsal time

### ***Hard Rules***

- No soda cans are allowed to be drunk during class, Dark soda is not allowed at all for vocal health reasons. Water is encouraged
- **UNLESS** granted permission, no eating is allowed in class, no sharing of food either.
- **GUM IS NOT ALLOWED** – This is for vocal health and safety.
- **No cell phones (see hand book for cell phone policy).**

## Concert Procedures/Attendance.

One of the most educationally fulfilling aspects of enrollment in a performing ensemble is participation in the various performances throughout the year. As a result, the music department enforces the following policy with regards to performance attendance:

### Attendance;

Unless noted, ***ALL*** concerts are mandatory. Your child is an integral part of the overall choir sound. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent from a concert due to vacation, illness, religious observance, etc, please email me ahead of time and let me know if you are able to.

Emergencies happen and your child will not be penalized or punished because they were absent. I will put a zero in the gradebook. This serves as a placeholder and to grab your attention. Please note that all absent students must complete a concert make-up in order to receive their concert grade. This includes either coming in during lunch or a free period and singing through concert music, or completing a paper. Students will have until the last day of the marking period the concert took place to complete their concert makeup. If I do not receive a makeup assignment, the Zero will remain. NO EXCEPTIONS!

### How Communication Works;

I use and check email constantly during the school day, any concerns can be answered fairly quickly.

I will also use Class Dojo. I will send out reminders in advance about performance and rehearsal. This is also how I can be contacted if there is any reason your child cannot make a concert, remember this needs to be given with **AMPLE** notice time

CONCERT DRESS; Because we are a team, each member must wear appropriate team uniform. It allows us to look professional. If you are unable to wear the required concert dress or have questions, please contact me, Mr Robinson in advance so I may help you obtain the appropriate clothing. We have two types of Dress Code, Formal and informal

- Formal Dress
  - All black or otherwise stated.
- Informal
  - NMS colors
    - NMS Choir Polo
    - Blue/Black Jeans
      - NO HOLES IN JEANS
    - No Crocs

### Grading:

Grading is the same as all other courses here 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 F.

Students are responsible for knowing all material. Extra credit opportunities *may* be offered but are not a guarantee for this course.

### Percentages:

Concerts/Tests 40%

Participation 30%

Daily 20%

Homework 5%

Final 5%



## PARTICIPATION;

Participation is graded as following;

All students will be graded on participation. Each day, students can earn 20 points. Every 5 days. Those points will be tallied. Earning these points are very simple and students do so by doing the following

- Coming in prepared
- On task and focused.
- Actively participating

On the other hand, students can lose points if they do the following. Each infraction after the first warning will result in 5 points

- Off task and redirected more than once (One time, any issue after this will be a deduction in grade)
- Any student being stepped on or written up will receive a zero for the day a write up may result in 2 zeros.

Important dates (\* means all students in attendance)

January 19th-20th, 2023

- District Honor Choir

January TBA

- Real Men Sing

\*February 23, 2023

- LGPE Concert
  - Location NMS
  - Time: TBD

March 6-8th

- Choral LGPE

\*May 9th, 2023

- Spring Concert
  - Location TBA
  - Time TBD

This section must be returned by Friday 1-6-2022.

Student name\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parent name\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone number\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Parents, also complete this form by scanning the QR Code Below



THANKS AND LETS MAKE THIS A GREAT YEAR! GO JETS!