

2023-24

Show Choir

Mrs. Katie (Meo) Cudworth, Director

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www.nhvweb.net/nhhs/music/kmeo

Music Office (two doors down from the Band Room)

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Attendance

You received a copy when you auditioned, and there is another in this packet. So important! Please put it in a prominent place at home!

Most important point to remember: SHOW CHOIR IS AN ACADEMIC CLASS, IN WHICH YOU RECEIVE A GRADE AND CREDIT TOWARDS YOUR GPA. You have as much responsibility to be here as you do any class that takes place during periods 1-6.

Performances

We will perform in one Winter Concert, one Winter Assembly Concert (during the school day), one Spring Concert, and the Department-wide annual Prism Concert. We take performance field trips to the district middle schools in the winter, and we also perform at Graduation. Dates and details for these and any other possible performances will be available as things progress (and many are already available below). All performances are required and count towards your grade. See the Music Department Grading Policy for more details. Here are the current special rehearsal and performance dates on our calendar:

Important Dates (so far)

Mon., 12/4, 6-8pm ~ tech rehearsal in the Theatre

Tues., 12/5, 6-8pm ~ tech rehearsal in the Theatre

Thurs., 12/7, 7:00pm (call time earlier) ~ Winter Concert I

Fri., 12/8, all day (call time 7:15am in the Mall) ~ Middle School Field Trip #1

Fri., 12/15, all day (call time 7:15am in the Mall) ~ Middle School Field Trip #2

Thurs., 12/21, during school ~ Winter Concert Assembly

Wed., 3/20, 7-9:45pm ~ Prism Dress Rehearsal

Thurs., 3/21, 8:00pm (call time 7:30) ~ 20th annual Prism Concert

Mon., 5/13, 6-8pm ~ tech rehearsal in the Theatre

Tues., 5/14, 6-8pm ~ tech rehearsal in the Theatre

Thurs., 5/16, 7:00pm (call time earlier) ~ Spring Concert II

Tues., 6/11, (time TBA) ~ Graduation performance on Singley Field or the Main Gym

SPECIAL NOTE: You are expected to check your email **DAILY** for updates, changes, information, requests from the Directors, etc. A lot of things happen throughout the school year in this Department, and you are now a member! That is exciting, but it can also be overwhelming *if you choose to become unorganized*. Do not allow yourself to fall behind. And if you do, catch up quickly! Checking email often is the first step.

Attire

All members will purchase their own performance outfits. Some items will be purchased through NHHS, some you will acquire on your own. Here are some details:

Shirt/pants option:

- shirt must be full button-down, long-sleeved, and black
- pants must be formal and black
- ties will be ordered through the school and cost \$10 (cash)

Dress option:

- you will order a specific dress for yourself, most likely off Amazon

Preparation

Please be prepared with all of your music and a **pencil** at every rehearsal.

Failure to be prepared during rehearsal will result in a lowering of your Class Participation grade.

Failure to return your music at the end of each semester will result in a lowering of your Class Participation grade (and you may owe money for it).

Solos & Duets

Semester One: Each member of this ensemble will prepare, memorize, and perform one solo piece. The song must be within a popular music genre (pop, r&b, rock, jazz, indie, folk, contemporary musical theatre, etc.), and it must be somewhat standard in length (at least 2 minutes, no more than 6). It may be an original or a cover of an already existing piece. It may be sung a cappella (when appropriate) or accompanied by live instruments or karaoke track. You may have other instrumentalists, back-up singers, and/or a few voices singing harmony with you, but yours must be the only featured solo voice used. This is not a duet or a group number. This is designed to show **your skills**.

Semester Two, part one: Each member of this ensemble will prepare, memorize, and perform one duet piece with another Show Choir member of their choosing. The song must be within a popular music genre (pop, r&b, jazz, indie, folk, contemporary musical theater, etc.), and it must be somewhat standard in length (at least 2 minutes, no more than 6). It may be an original or a cover of an already existing piece. It may be sung a cappella (when appropriate) or accompanied by live instruments or karaoke track. You two may have other vocalists perform back-up singing, and you may have other instrumentalists perform with you.

Semester Two, part two: Each member of this ensemble will prepare, memorize, and perform one duet piece with another Show Choir member of Mrs. Cudworth's choosing. The song must be within a popular music genre (pop, r&b, jazz, indie, folk, contemporary musical theater, etc.), and it must be somewhat standard in length (at least 2 minutes, no more than 6). It may be an original or a cover of an already existing piece. It may be sung a cappella (when appropriate) or accompanied by live instruments or karaoke track. You two may have other vocalists perform back-up singing, and you may have other instrumentalists perform with you.

These are graded assignments. You will be judged on preparation, memorization, musical effort, choice of songs for your abilities, and effectiveness of your performance. You must choose songs that are meaningful to you in some way, and you must express that meaning to us, your audience. These assignments are worth 25 points (2.5 weeks of Class Participation grades) each.

These performances will take place at the beginning of the rehearsal, before warm-ups and repertoire work. They will be open to the public (your friends and/or family may watch if they wish). It is your responsibility to do any necessary warm-up work on your own time, prior to the start of class.

Please choose songs that you have not previously performed in the Show Choir setting.

Testing

According to the Auditioned Choir Attendance Policy, when you go past your allotted two "free" absences per semester, you may be tested on the material that was covered during each subsequent rehearsal. Think of it as classwork that you need to make up (because that is exactly what it is). You will find specific information (measure numbers, etc.) about what will be tested in my Google Classroom. *You*

will be contacted by me each time you are expected to record yourself singing one of these tests. You are responsible for sending it to me within a week of your missed rehearsal.

The purpose of testing is to keep each individual member accountable to themselves and to the entire group as far as learning the music. The goal of your presence in each ensemble is to become an **independent** musician within that dependent ensemble relationship, and this policy will definitely help you with that. It will also help you understand more fully what my expectations are as your director. If you do fail a test according to my expectations, your Class Participation grade for that week will be lowered. If you pass, your grade will remain intact.

Quartet Days

In order to ensure that all members are learning the music at an acceptable pace, you may be asked to demonstrate your knowledge of the repertoire during Quartet Days at certain points throughout the year. You will be responsible for learning specific measures of music, and performing them (for a grade) with members of different voice parts. More details on Quartet Days will become available on a case by case basis with each piece of repertoire.

Quartet Day performances will be graded as part of your Class Participation grade.

Independent Musicianship

As a Show Choir member, my expectation for you is that you are able to perform your vocal parts accurately and musically, even if you are the only person on the part. This is what testing and Quartet Days are designed to build in you. You must know the music so well that you do not need to lean on the others in your section in order to perform well.

All Show Choir music is expected to be memorized at a time appointed by Mrs. C (usually a week or more before performance).

Leadership Positions

Show Choir will feature appointed Section Leaders, and members of all choirs will have the opportunity to nominate and elect Choir President and Choir Vice President. All Section Leaders, President, and VP will be members of the Choir Council. We will discuss details about this process, but here are the basics:

Section Leaders

There will be one Section Leader per voice part. These have already been appointed by Mrs. C, and have been chosen on the basis of seniority, attendance record (partially because they are the ones *taking* attendance), dedication, musical capabilities, connection with others, and confidence within the choral rehearsal. I trust these four people to be my eyes and ears in rehearsal, and to help with whatever needs to be done for the ensemble over the course of the year.

Choir President

We will elect a Choir President and VP. Since these two people will represent ALL NHHS choir members, the positions will be voted on by members of *all* choral ensembles after the first few weeks (to give people a chance to get acquainted). Choir President must be a **senior**, and may be called upon over the course of the year to do the following:

- ~ Assist in running Choir Council meetings
- ~ Handle special projects
- ~ Organize the designing and ordering of Choir T-Shirts
- ~ Help organize items in the Department
- ~ Take on fundraising and special projects (and delegate)
- ~ Be our “right hand person”
- ~ Be well-liked and respected within the Department
- ~ Preferably this person has experience with more than just one choir, so they understand the needs of the different ensemble members

Choir Vice President

Choir Vice President may be a **junior** or a **senior**, and may be called upon over the course of the year to do the following:

- ~ Take detailed notes during Choir Council meetings
- ~ Be a general assistant to the Directors and, if need be, to the President
- ~ Help organize and find items in the Department
- ~ Preferably this person has some free time in their day, during which they are available to be in the Choir Closet organizing some things for the Directors
- ~ Take on fundraising and special projects (and delegate)
- ~ Preferably this person has experience with more than just one choir
- ~ Bring any choral concerns to the Directors and/or the President

Details on how to apply and campaign for these positions will become available shortly!