



Northwest Guilford High School Chorus

Beverly Alt, Conductor

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The Northwest High School Chorus exists to:

- Help students develop musical skills such as a precise sense of rhythm, proper vocal tone, an accurate sense of pitch, appropriate response to conductor, and a fundamental understanding of music notation and reading.
- Expose the student to a variety of musical styles in order to develop interests and appreciation for those styles.
- Expose students to advanced choral literature and a cappella singing.
- To cultivate in each student a love for singing in a choral situation which will in turn produce a self-motivation on the part of the student to work and learn in the rehearsals.
- Provide concert, festival, and competition performance opportunities.
- To provide opportunities which prepare students for collegiate level singing.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil for daily note-taking (NO PENS, HIGHLIGHTERS, etc. for writing in music)

GRADING

Members of all choirs (Concert Choir, Honors Women's Ensemble, and Honors Vocal Ensemble) will receive their grade for the nine-weeks based on their participation, actions, and attitudes in the following areas:

- Daily Grades / Participation: 40%
- Performances/Major Dress Rehearsals: 50%
- Written Assignments / Tests: 10%

1. **Daily Grades:** Students receive a daily grade of 20 points per day for actively participating. This equals a total of 100 points for each 5-day week. 5 points may be deducted from the daily 20 point participation grade for each infraction of talking at inappropriate times, chewing gum, inappropriate use of electronic devices, not being prepared, displaying disrespect, and for more than three tardies in one nine-week grading period. Students are expected to participate daily in all classroom activities. Please refer to the classroom participation grading rubric.
 - a. If a student is unable to perform vocally, he or she is still expected to follow along during rehearsal with music in hand and participate in all activities possible. If this occurs on an ongoing basis, make up work will be assigned. Each student will be responsible to have his or her **music folder** and a **pencil** at their seat at the beginning of class each day. Folders will be checked periodically to ensure that materials are in their proper order. **When we are learning choreography, you will be expected to wear the appropriate attire to dance in rehearsal each day. If you choose not to**

comply with Mrs. Alt's expectations, you will be directed to sit out of the rehearsal and your participation grade will be affected accordingly.

- b. Students who earn honors credit participate in more performances, festivals, and read music at a more advanced level.
2. **Written Assignments:** Students will occasionally have written assignments and quizzes. These will be part of the overall grade.
3. **Performances:** BE THERE. BE ON TIME. BE READY.
 - a. This is a performance-based class, so preparing for concerts and other performances is the purpose of our work together each day. We enjoy making music together and our goal is to share it with the audience. In order for us to do that, you have to be present when the music-making happens!

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED, including performance dates which have been changed from the date on the syllabus. *Performance dates that are changed with less than three weeks' notice will not be required.* Students who have an **UNEXCUSED** absence from a performance will be given a grade of **"0"**. Excused absences from performances are due to illness, death in the family, or other family emergencies. These must be properly documented. A doctor's note may be required.

*In order for an absence to be excused for any reason, parent communication to the director is ***required***.*

- If the absence is not due to an emergency, (i.e., family trips, etc.), parental notification must be made to the director at least **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE**. Excusing these are at the discretion of the director.
- If the director is not notified *at least two weeks before a required performance*, then the absence will not be excused.
- *The director will NOT excuse students for work related conflicts, transportation conflicts, (our parent volunteers provide assistance with this) community performances and events. You are given our dates at the beginning of the year and your enrollment in this class constitutes an agreement that you will attend our performances. Our performances are for a grade.*
- Mrs. Alt can be reached via telephone or email and *must* hear from a parent regarding absences.

ABSENCES DUE TO FAMILY TRIPS THAT HAVE NOT HAD PRIOR APPROVAL WILL NOT BE EXCUSED. EXCUSING THESE AND ANY OTHER ABSENCE IS TOTALLY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR. MAKE UP WORK AND MAKE UP TIME AFTER SCHOOL WITH MRS. ALT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL EXCUSED ABSENCES. MAKEUP WORK AND TIME WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTENDANCE AT GRADUATION IS A REQUIREMENT OF THIS COURSE. Please plan now for this date. (June 7, 2019 at 11:30 am).

Students in this course are earning a credit toward graduation. Choral Music is an academic subject and attendance at performances is an imperative factor in earning grades each quarter. Just as it is in any other academic subject, when a major test is missed, it must be made up. Making up excused absences from missed performances is the same as making up a test in another academic subject. It is a requirement and at the conductor's discretion.

CONCERT ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN HONORS LEVEL COURSES.

COMING LATE & LEAVING EARLY:

If you arrive late to the call time of a performance your grade will be lowered from "100" to "50".

- The director also reserves the option to not allow late students to perform.

Students who leave performances early without being excused by Mrs. Alt will receive a "50".

- Leaving early is unprofessional, disrespectful to those performing, is not exemplary of Northwest behavior, and does not merit full credit for a performance.

DELAYED START REHEARSALS ARE A REQUIREMENT IN THIS COURSE.
THESE REHEARSALS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.
FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RESULT IN A "0".

Students should be prepared for a DELAYED START REHEARSAL on the Monday preceding each concert. A dress rehearsal grade will be given for the Monday delayed start rehearsal and the Concert Warm Up Rehearsal.

CONDUCT

The following are guidelines which are to be followed in Mrs. Alt's classroom:

1. Follow directions with a good attitude.
2. Acknowledge others' right to speak in class.
3. Show respect for yourself and others.
4. Be on time and in your seat before the bell rings.
5. Keep unnecessary items put away during class.
(Reading, homework, and the use of any kind of electronic device during a choral rehearsal is unacceptable and will not be permitted. Students' participation grades depend on their decision to listen and follow instructions during rehearsal.)
6. Respect all school property and do not damage it in any way.
 - Do not step in the seats of the chorus chairs!
7. Students will wait to be dismissed at the end of class.
8. Tardies will be addressed in the following manner: *(School tardy policy-please refer to your student hand book)*
 - Students with chronic tardies (on the third tardy) will have their daily participation grade lowered 10 pts for each tardy.
 1. First Tardy - Warning
 2. Second Tardy – After School Detention (ASD)
 3. Third Tardy – ASD, Parent email, grade lowered
 4. Fourth Tardy-ASD, Parent Phone Call, grade lowered
 5. ISS-All Day, grade lowered
9. Use of perfume, perfumed lotions, hairspray, nail polish, etc. is not allowed in class. This can cause serious breathing issues for some students, which inhibits their ability to sing properly. We have students with food allergies (such as nut allergies) so please be aware of that.
10. **Keep your phones and any other electronic devices put away while Mrs. Alt is teaching.** These devices will be taken and sent to the front office, in accordance with the NW electronics policy.
You may use them during any free time at the end of class, but not during rehearsal.
Cell phones may also be charged at the charging station during class, but cannot be retrieved until the end of the rehearsal.
Refusal to give a phone or an electronic device to a teacher or an administrator merits up to 2 days of OSS.
11. All Northwest High School and Guilford County School rules apply.
12. **Do not eat or drink during rehearsal. ONLY WATER IS PERMITTED.**
13. We will follow the Northwest High School Dress code at all times, including field trips.

The student's daily participation grade will suffer for each infraction of a guideline. (Please refer to the daily participation rubric) Parental contact will be initiated if grade cuts begin to accumulate. Office referrals will also be made when necessary.

If a student consistently chooses not to adhere to classroom guidelines, then field trip privileges will be revoked.

***** CONDUCT/PROMPTNESS WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION/AUDITION IN HONORS LEVEL CHORUSES. *****

CLASS ATTENDANCE

All students are encouraged to be familiar with the Guilford County High School Attendance Policy for the 2018-2019 school year. Students are responsible for keeping up with their absences. Teachers at Northwest are required to follow the Guilford County Attendance Policy.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FIELD TRIPS OR PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED BY MRS. ALT WITHOUT NEGOTIATION.

***** ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION/AUDITION IN HONORS LEVEL CHORUSES. *****

***** HONORS CREDIT *****

Any student who is registered for "Beginning" or "Intermediate" Vocal Music is eligible to apply for Honors credit by completing one project and presentation assigned by Mrs. Alt. Upon completion of the assignment, the Honors credit will be retroactively adjusted for qualifying students and reflected as Honors – Proficient.

THE CHORAL BOOSTERS

The Choral Boosters is led by a group of parents who help with organizing trips, events, chaperoning, fundraising, etc. We invite your generous tax-deductible donation to sponsor the program. 100% of your support will directly benefit our students. Please refer to the forthcoming packet of information from the Choral Boosters.

SERVICE LEARNING

The Guilford County Schools central administration has placed an emphasis on community service for all students. Students may document their service hours through the x2VOL system. Our class offers many opportunities for community service hours. Students who are interested in earning hours should contact Mrs. Alt for available opportunities and with ideas for service learning. These activities include student-led fund raising, after-school tutoring, and community performances.

2018-2019 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

This schedule is subject to change; if the dates of required events have to be changed, the performance is still required within up to three weeks of the performance.
(This would only happen in case of emergency and sufficient notice would be given.)

All evening concerts are **required** (See **Grading** above).

Performances set up at this time are listed below. Details will be given for each event as soon as they are available. Any changes in this schedule will be announced as soon as possible.

Some community events are not and cannot be scheduled yet.

Once they are scheduled, they will be required events.

You will be given ample time to make plans to attend.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (Call Time)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Uniform Fitting	September 4-7-in class		Cultural Arts wing
Honors Chorus auditions	September 28, 2018	Morning	UNCG
Mars Hill auditions	October 11, 2018	After School	Weaver Academy
All County Chorus	October 19-20, 2018	all day	TBD
Fall Concert	October 15, 2018	7:00PM (6PM)	NWHS Auditorium
NC Honors Chorus	November 10-11, 2018	All day	Benton Center, W-S, NC
*Summerfield Tree Lighting (tentative date)	November 17, 2018	5:30PM (5PM)	Athletic Park
Auditions for <i>The Addams Family</i>	November 30, December 3 December 4, 2018	4:00 PM	NWHS Auditorium
*Summit Rotary Club	December 14, 2018	11:30-1:30	Starmount Country Club
Winter Concert	December 17, 2018	7:00 pm (5:00 PM)	NWHS Auditorium
*NWMS Winter Concert	December 18, 2018	7:00PM	NWHS Auditorium
*Oak Ridge Elementary (<i>Music Dept. Weather Date</i>)	December 18, 2018 December 20, 2018	9AM <i>same as above</i>	Oak Ridge Elementary <i>same as above</i>
Mars Hill Rehearsal	January 24, 2019	4:30-7:30PM	Weaver Academy
Mars Hill Rehearsal	Jan. 29 (Snow date)	4:30-7:30 PM	Weaver Academy
Mars Hill Festival	February 1-2, 2019	All Day	Mars Hill University
MPA (Festival) Concert	March 4, 2019	7:00PM (6PM)	NWHS Auditorium
(<i>Weather Date</i>)	TBD	<i>same as above</i>	<i>same as above</i>
NC MPA	March 12-15, 2019	TBD (7AM)	Wake Forest University
Large and Small Ensemble Festival -Small Ensemble	Festival at Kernersville First Baptist Church		
All State Zone Rehearsal	March 18, 2019	5-8PM	NWHS Cultural Arts wing
(<i>Weather Date</i>)	March 25, 2019	5-8PM	NWHS Cultural Arts wing
Spring Trip	March 22-24, 2019	Overnight	Nashville, Tennessee
Spring Musical <i>The Addams Family</i>	April 11-13, 2019	7 pm	NWHS Auditorium
All State Festival	April 26-27, 2019	All Day	Charlotte, NC
Spring Show Rehearsal	May 15 (Solo Acts Only)	4:30PM	NWHS Auditorium
Spring Showcase	May 20, 2019	6:30 PM (4:30PM)	NWHS Auditorium
*Summerfield Founders Day	May, 2019 (TBD)	(TBD)	Summerfield NC

Tuxedo Return	May 22, 2019	In Class	In Class
End of Year Cookout	June 1, 2019	TBD	Bur-Mil Park
Graduation	June 7, 2019	11:30 am (TBD)	Greensboro Coliseum

- Events in **BOLD PRINT** are **REQUIRED** events for **ALL STUDENTS**
- Events marked with an asterisk (*) are required for Honors Vocal Ensemble members only
- **GRADUATION IS A REQUIRED EVENT FOR ALL CHORAL MUSIC STUDENTS**

Students should be prepared for a **DELAYED START REHEARSAL** on the **MONDAY MORNING** before each concert.

*****THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CHORUS CALENDAR FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR. IT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF A PERFORMANCE. ALL EVENTS MARKED REQUIRED WILL BE REQUIRED, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE MARK THESE DATES AND TIMES INTO YOUR PERSONAL CALENDARS NOW SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE THEM. *****

CONCERT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive at the concert call time that is announced for each concert. Students should expect to be in place up to two hours before the start of any concert in order to rehearse combined pieces. Predetermined call times have already been listed for some concerts.

The director reserves the right to lower the grade of any student who is late to a concert call time.

These call times are announced well in advance.

STUDENTS MAY NOT USE ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT ANY TIME DURING CONCERTS OR REHEARSALS FOR CONCERTS.

IF YOU ARE FOUND USING YOUR PHONE OR ANOTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE WHEN YOU ARE ASKED NOT TO, THEN THE DEVICE WILL BE TAKEN AND TURNED IN TO THE FRONT OFFICE FOR PICK UP ON THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY.

Students who refuse to comply with this policy to any adult will be subject to 2 days OSS.

FESTIVAL CHORUS PARTICIPATION *available to Honors level students*

Throughout the year, selected students will be offered the opportunity to audition for state and county wide festivals such as Mars Hill Choral Festival, All State, NC Honors Chorus, All-County Chorus, etc. The director will offer opportunities for students who display a proper attitude, students who are willing to put in extra time to learn the selected music, and to students who show an interest in learning advanced choral repertoire. Selected students will need to pay applicable fees for these festivals.

All County Chorus - expenses

Honors Chorus Auditions - \$20.00 audition fee, \$20.00 registration fee, plus expenses

Allstate Chorus - \$30.00 registration fee, plus expenses / overnight stay

Mars Hill Choral Festival - \$30.00 registration fee, plus expenses / overnight stay.

If students are selected to participate in these festivals, they will be expected to attend all after-school rehearsals, formal rehearsals, and the festival concerts. They will wear Northwest Chorus concert dress in all festivals. An audition is typically required for these festivals.

CONCERT CLEAN UP

Each class is expected to stay after **one concert** each **year** to assist with clean up. This is considered part of the participation grade for that quarter.

CLEAN UP ASSIGNMENTS

Fall Concert: *Honors Vocal Ensemble (Zero Period)*
Winter Concert: *Honors Women's Ensemble (5th period)*
Festival Concert: **Community Service Hours Offered**
Spring Concert: *Concert Choir (3rd Period)*

ATTIRE

The Northwest Chorus dresses uniformly for all formal and informal performances. **All ladies *new* to the choral program at Northwest will have the choice to rent or purchase a formal dress. Gentlemen rent tuxedos from the Chorus closet and will need to purchase a wing-collar tuxedo shirt, tie, and cummerbund. The rental fee students who are renting dresses or tuxedos is \$20.00.**

ALL STUDENTS must purchase a Northwest Chorus polo shirt to wear for informal performances this year. The style of the polo is changing this year.

Please refer to the mailing you will receive very soon. **ALL students will be fitted in class this year. Ladies who need a dress exchange because of sizing must do this during the Sept. 4-7 time frame. You will receive detailed information on purchasing concert attire.**

AWARDS

Chorus members may earn a Northwest Letter at the end of their second full year in chorus if they have accumulated no unexcused absences from any required performances and are actively engaged in the choral program. They will earn a pin at the end of each subsequent year.

Additional pins and recognition may be earned by participating in the following:

All-County, All-State, Honors Chorus, Mars Hill, Governor's School, Classroom Piano Accompanying

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities are necessary to provide sufficient resources for the Chorus operate successfully.

***Every student needs to fundraise in some way because every student will benefit from fundraising in some way!**

Any student who owes any money to the choral department may not:

- **PARTICIPATE IN ANY FIELD TRIPS AT ALL**
- Participate in any outside activities funded by the choral department (i.e. Festival Choruses, etc.)
- Receive any awards or letters.

Students must make all payments on time in the correct order. *For example, a trip payment would not be accepted if a student still owes for a fundraiser. Any money collected would be applied to balance owed by the student.*

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE NORTHWEST CHORAL BOOSTERS.

RETURNED CHECKS POLICY: If a check is returned to the Chorus due to insufficient funds, then the following measures will be taken:

- The check will be returned to you and you will be asked to pay in cash.
- Checks will not be deposited a second time because of the service charge to the chorus.
- You will be asked to pay the bank returned check fee.
- **Students must turn in money directly to the designated location determined by Mrs. Alt**
- **Do not leave money on Mrs. Alt's desk unattended. Please hand money directly to Mrs. Alt.**
- **Neither the Booster Board nor Mrs. Alt will take responsibility for money given to someone else.**
- **DO NOT TURN IN MONEY TO THE FRONT OFFICE!**

***** FUNDRAISING * NOTICE *****

IF A STUDENT IS NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OR ALL OF THE CHORAL BOOSTERS' FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, THEN IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LET MRS. ALT KNOW. IF A STUDENT PARTICIPATES AGAINST HIS OR HER PARENTS' WISHES AND MRS. ALT HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED, THE STUDENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BALANCE THAT IS DUE.

HEALTH FORMS

We have two health forms.

1. One that lists a great deal of information that needs to be updated from year to year. Each student will need to complete one of these this year. This one is attached to this syllabus. Please return ASAP.
2. One that is a medical release for treatment. The medical release of treatment will need to be NOTARIZED.

We will have a notary public available at the Fall concert to assist you with the Medical Release for treatment. We take this form and all health forms with us on all field trips for each student. Students may not travel with the NW Viking Voices without both forms on file. Students who are returning to our program have one on file and do not have to complete one of these this year. New students will have to do this.

Students must complete the medical release for treatment by October 31.

Any student who has not turned in their health forms by that time will have their grade lowered by one letter.

A notary will be provided at our fall functions to assist you with this.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the commonplace use of cell phones and other mediums of technology comes the responsibility of taking ownership for the kind of information that is conveyed.

YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU:

text, email, post, tweet, tumble, pin, instagram, periscope,, record, or anything else that involves sharing through social media.

Anything you post can be screenshot on phones, handheld devices, computers, or copied and pasted. You can delete it, but once you post it, it is immediately available and will always be out there for someone to find!

So do not put out anything in any text or on any site that could negatively affect your future college and/or professional career.

PARENT REMIND

Please stay connected by joining our parent remind group at: rmd.ourkidsing
You will receive frequently updated information on chorus activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I work at Northwest 0-third periods. It is best to communicate with me through my email . My contact information is as follows:

Mrs. Alt: (336) 605-3300, ext. 207758- If you call and leave a voice mail after 12:30 pm I may not get it until the following day. I check my email often.

altb@gcsnc.com www.northwestvikingvoices.org -website

All activities will be posted on the Chorus website for your convenience. The website will be updated. All of the class and Choral Boosters information is on it (course syllabi, newsletters, permission slips . . . any information that is needed.) Concert information is always on the website.

**Parents, please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, questions,
or concerns about your child’s education and experience in the Chorus classroom.
Also, the Choral Boosters will be reaching out to you about volunteering this year.
I look forward to working together with you for the good of our students this school year!**

**Please bring a box of KLEENEX tissues & a small bottle of HAND SANITIZER
Thank you!**

Please sign both sides of this page, detach, and return this page to school ASAP. (by Sept. 6.)

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SYLLABUS.
MY CHILD AND I UNDERSTAND THE CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY AND
FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES. I AM AWARE OF THE CONCERT SCHEDULE.**

**I understand that ALL CHORAL MUSIC STUDENTS are required to be in attendance at Graduation on
June 7, 2019 at 11:30 am.**

SIGNED:

PARENT _____

STUDENT _____

DATE _____

HOME PHONE _____

PARENT CELL PHONE _____

***PARENT E MAIL**_____

Please print clearly so that your email can be accurately added to the email list. If you do not begin to receive frequent updates from Mrs. Alt, please email her directly at altb@gcsnc.com so that you can stay informed.

***ALTERNATE EMAIL**_____

Please put me on the Remind communications list_____

* We are asking that you provide us with your email address where we can share information concerning upcoming events. Only the Choral Department will use this address. No information will be shared with any other organization or business.

*****Some easy fundraising opportunities for us.....*

We invite you to list your **Harris Teeter VIC Card Number so we can link you to the *Together in Education* program. A percentage of your grocery receipt will be donated to the Northwest Choral Boosters each time you shop there. This number will only be used to link your Harris Teeter VIC Card with the Northwest Choral Boosters and will not be shared with any other organization or business.

VIC#_____

****Amazon.com** will make a donation to our Choral Boosters account if you will register your account with them. We invite you to do this!

If you link your account to our “Northwest Guilford High School Choral Boosters Inc” at the smile.amazon.com website, each time you order through this website Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible Amazonsmile purchases to us. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon!!!!

Video / Photography Release Form

This form is to verify that you authorize that you/your child may be seen in video recordings and photography for the instructional and promotional purposes of the Northwest Guilford Viking Voices Choral Program.

Check one:

I DO authorize _____

I do NOT authorize _____

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____