



Chorus Syllabus and Handbook 2023-24

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Help sessions/Extra rehearsals: Teachers offer help sessions in the morning from 8:05am-8:25am. Students must ask for a pass in advance to attend the help session so that they may get down to the 200 hall that morning. Please contact the teacher to receive a pass. Passes will be given in class when morning rehearsals are held. **Extra rehearsals are generally held one morning for each grade level the week prior to the concert to combine classes.** These rehearsals are mandatory and will count as a Minor Grade.

Course Description: Chorus utilizes a Standards-Based Curriculum which focuses on the following nine standards.

- Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Performing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Reading and notating music
- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Composing and arranging music
- Listening to, analyzing and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances
- Understanding relationships between music and other disciplines
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture

The following topics will be covered as our skills develop throughout the year: sight-reading, notating music, music theory, music history, proper breath support, appropriate posture for singing, diction, singing in head voice with appropriate tone, and performing. Students will experience music of all genres and many different cultures.

Textbooks: Microsoft Teams, Sheet Music, Tone Savvy, Sight-Reading Factory, Alfred Theory Book

Grading Policy:

Grading Scale:
90%-100% A
80%-89% B
70%-79% C
Below 70% F

Semester Grade will be determined by:
Major Assessments: 50%
Minor Assessments: 40%
Practice: 10%

Codes in Infinite Campus:
NG – No Grade
I – Incomplete
M – Missing

Grade Minimums each 9-week reporting period:
-At a minimum, 2 grades should be major
-At a minimum, 3 grades should be minor
-At a minimum, 3 grades should be practice

Final Exam: If a final exam is administered, it will count as a major assessment.

Grading Categories:

Major (50%): an assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills. Majors may include unit assessments, writing performance tasks, presentations and projects. **Required concerts will count as Major grades.**

Minor (40%): an assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit. Minors may include quizzes, writing tasks, and constructed responses.

Practice (10%): Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework to build prerequisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills. Practice assignments may include class discussions, vocabulary graphic organizers, exit tickets and I-Ready.

Classwork/Homework: Classwork and/or homework will be assigned daily primarily in the form of group singing, occasionally in the form of tone savvy, sight-reading factory or theory assignments. Students are expected to show evidence demonstrating their thinking.

Late Work Policy: Assignments are due on the assigned due date. When an assignment is not turned in on the due date a point penalty will be issued.

- 5 points per day will be deducted from an assignment.
- A maximum of 25 points may be deducted.
- Tests are not subject to the late point penalties.

Attendance & Make-Up Work: Regular attendance in this class is essential for each student to be successful.

- Upon returning to school, students will have an equal number of days as they were absent to complete any late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task(s) for full credit.
- After the deadline of an equal number of days a student was absent, teachers may begin deducting points from a late/missing assignment, assessment, and/or task(s) (maximum 25% deduction).
- If a student fails to turn in a late/missing assignment and/or task(s) then a zero may be entered in the grade book.

Concert Attendance: Chorus is a performance class. Performances count as major grades. Attendance is mandatory except in extreme emergency/illness. The full concert schedule is attached.

Recovery Policy: Students will be given the opportunity to recover all major assessments if they score below 75% on the assessment.

- Students are limited to one recovery attempt per major assessment that meets the threshold for recovery.
- Recovery of a test should occur before the next test is given.
- Eligible students can earn a replacement grade that is no higher than 75%.
- If the recovery grade is below the original score, the original score should stand in the grade book.
- Essays and projects are not eligible for recovery.

Conduct & Honor Code:

CONDUCT: All students are expected to be on time, prepared for class, respectful of others and involved in all class activities including before and after school rehearsals and concerts. Appropriate language is always expected. No food or drinks in class except bottled water.

HONOR CODE POLICY: To encourage fair assessments and to authenticate learning, the faculty supports a strong policy against cheating. Cheating can be defined in the following instances:

- Copying or “borrowing” from another source and submitting it as one’s own work.
- Willingly provide other students with access to their work.
- Providing test questions after you have taken a test OR receiving test questions in advance without permission.
- Seeking or accepting unauthorized assistance on tests, projects, or other assignments.
- Using a cell phone or other personal communication device during assessments.
- Turning in another person’s work as your own original work.
- Plagiarism and/or deliberately citing sources incorrectly.
- Altering or forging grades, gradebooks, progress reports, report cards or other academic records.
- Fabricating data, signatures, or resource.

The following will occur when students are found guilty of an honor code violation:

1st Offense: Parent will be contacted, and student may retake the test or resubmit original work earning up to a 70%.

2nd Offense: Parent will be contacted. A zero will be included in Infinite Campus as the student’s grade and a comment for “Cheating” will be included because it is an honor code violation. Disciplinary action will be taken.

We encourage you to talk to your teachers if you are not sure how to use or cite information that is not your own original work.

Checking Grades: Grades are available to view and monitor via **Infinite Campus**. Parents may check grade summaries and dates of upcoming assessments. Assessments may take several days to grade and enter in infinite campus.

Non-Academic Skills: Teachers for Grades 6-12 will provide feedback on the following non-academic skills:

- **Self-Direction:** The student follows directions and procedures, sustains attention during class, and/or resists distractions.
- **Collaboration:** The student works well with others, asks for help when needs it, and/or shares ideas.
- **Problem Solving:** The student can describe a problem, finds more than one way to solve a problem, and/or is aware that all actions have outcomes.
- **Work Habits:** The student comes prepared for class, manages time and materials, and/or stays on task.

Teachers will use the following key to report non-academic skills critical to student success:

- Consistently demonstrates
- Often demonstrates
- Sometimes demonstrates
- Rarely demonstrates

The feedback will be reported in a separate section from academic performance every 9 weeks on the progress report/report card.

Communication to Parents: Communication with parents/guardians on student's academic progress will include:

- Progress Reports (Every 4.5 Weeks)
- Report Cards (End of the Semester: 18-week and 36-week)

Additional communication with parents/guardians will occur when a student is:

- In danger of not meeting expectations and/or their course average goes below a 70.
- In danger of retention and/or will be recommended for retention.
- In danger of receiving an incomplete for the quarter and/or the course.
- In danger of not graduating or failing a class required for graduation.
- Recommended to change a class or placement level.

Remind.com will be used to remind parents and students of upcoming deadlines and events. To sign up text your class code 80101. All chorus students and parents should sign up for remind using the following codes:

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| Parent codes: | Student codes: |
| 8 th Grade code: @choruspar8 | 6 th Grade code: @6nmschorus |
| 7 th Grade code: @7choruspar | 7 th Grade code: @nms7chorus |
| 6 th Grade code: @choruspar6 | 8 th Grade code: @nms8chorus |

Tardy Policy: If students do not arrive to class on time the following steps will be followed for disciplinary action:

- Step 1 – 2 Tardies Warning will be given to student.
- Step 2 – 3 Tardies Parent contact, teacher conference, intervention and documentation
- Step 3 – 4 Tardies Parent contact, reflection time, intervention and documentation.
- Step 4 – 5 Tardies After school detention, intervention, and documentation.

- Parent communication will be made throughout this process.
- One-on-one Teacher Conference with student will occur within 24 hours.
- ANY additional tardies will result in a major referral.
- Tardies are per teacher.

Cell Phone Policy: At Northwestern Middle School, instructional time begins at 8:55 am at the start of 1st period. Instructional time ends at 4:05 pm at the conclusion of 8th period. The use of Personal Communication Devices (PCDs) at Northwestern Middle School is not allowed between 8:55 am and 4:05 pm. Students cell phones should be off or silent and placed in their locker during the school day (instructional time). Students may check their PCD during locker breaks for communication from parents/guardians, etc.

When cell phone or other PCD is found out of locker, visible, and/or PD in use by student without permission the following steps will be followed:

1st Offense: Warning – Students puts PCD in their locker.

2nd Offense: Phone confiscated by staff – PCD taken to the front office by staff member. Student may pick up PCD at dismissal. (4:05pm or earlier if checked out early)

3rd Offense: Phone confiscated by staff – PCD taken to the front office by staff member. Parent/Guardian may pick up PCD at their convenience during regular school hours.

4th Offense: Phone confiscated by staff. Phone picked up by parent/guardian. Cell phone agreement between school/parent/student. Possible loss of PCS privilege at school.

*Teacher/Staff Member will notify parents/guardians for each PCD offense in writing or by phone.

School Website: <https://www.fultonschools.org/northwesternms>

Teacher Website: www.northwesternmsmusic.org Please refer to the website as your first resource for program information.

Video Recording: Chorus Performances are video recorded and made available to families via private YouTube link. Pictures are taken at most chorus events and on trips. Participation in these events and performances indicates consent for your child to appear in pictures and videos which may be shared with NMS families.

Performance Attire: We have 2 uniforms used for different types of performances and field trips. Both shirts can be purchased on Online School Payments. Parents are responsible for completing the uniform with their own pants and shoes.

Formal Uniform: Blue polo with black SLACKS and completely black shoes. This is worn for most major performances. The polo is worn tucked in. Leggings and jeans are not to be worn with the formal uniform.

Informal Uniform: Blue music t-shirt – worn for field trips, outdoor concerts and other informal events. Director will specify if blue jeans should be worn as part of a concert uniform or if shorts or other bottoms may be worn in a field trip setting.

Chorus Calendar 2023-2024

*Mandatory events are highlighted. All other events are optional.

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| Friday | 9/8/2023 | MUSICON |
| Friday | 9/15/2023 | 8 th Grade Night at MHS |
| Thursday | 9/21/2023 | Tenor/Bass Chorus Day, Roswell HS |
| Thursday | 10/5/2023 | Chorus Fall Concert |
| Saturday | 11/4/2023 | ASC Region Auditions, Sandy Creek HS |
| Mon/Tues | 11/13-14/2023 | District Honor Chorus, Dunwoody UMC |
| Thursday | 12/7/2023 | Chorus Winter Concert |
| Friday | 12/8/2023 | Sing at North Point Mall |
| Thursday | 1/11/2024 | GMEA pre-Conference Concert, 8thGrade |
| Thursday | 1/18/2024 | ASC 2 nd Round Auditions, Centennial High School |
| Thursday | 1/25/2024 | 8th Grade GMEA In-Service Convention Performance |
| Fri/Sat | 2/9-10/2024 | 6 th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus |
| Thurs-Sat | 2/15-17/2024 | All-State Chorus |
| TBD | | LGPE – during the school day |
| Thurs-Mon | 3/7-11/2024 | Disney, 8 th Grade |
| Fri/Sat | 4/26-27/2024 | Carowinds, 7 th Grade |
| Thursday | 5/9/2024 | Chorus Spring Concert |