

**North Andover Choral Program
2016 - 2017**



Sara Durkin
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North Andover High School
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NAMA Membership Letter



**North Andover Public
Schools
Music Department**

Dear NAHS Choral Department Members and Parents,

Welcome to an exciting year in the North Andover High School Choral Department. My name is Sara Durkin, and I am very excited to begin my ninth year as the Choral Director at North Andover High School. It is my hope that you will not only gain musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but also discipline, self-confidence, and a sense of pride and accomplishment through setting high standards and working toward our goal of excellence. Through our efforts, we will develop together as musicians and as people.

This handbook will outline the commitments and responsibilities that are necessary to maintain and grow in our pursuit of choral excellence. Please read the contents together to find information on policies, expectations, rules, activities, the organizational structure, and calendar.

This handbook, updated schedules, health and order forms for the 2016 - 2017 school year will be updated and available on the North Andover Music Association (NAMA) website at <http://www.northandovermusic.org> Please mark the dates on your calendar as attendance of every member is essential and mandatory in order to continue to achieve success. Please note this year all forms will be done on google docs.

Becoming and being a member of the NAHS music program requires commitment, hard work and a positive attitude. The reward of being a member in this organization is not only your association with other students who share a sense of camaraderie and friendship, but also participating in the creation of a professional quality musical experience. We welcome you to the pride, excitement, and fun of the North Andover High School Music Program!

Sincerely,

Sara Durkin
Choral Director
Fine Arts Department Coordinator
North Andover High School
durkins@Northandoverpublicschools.com

North Andover Choral Department Handbook

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the North Andover High School Music Program is:

1. To develop strong musicianship and ensemble performance skills.
2. To develop character, leadership, teamwork and individual responsibility while maintaining high moral standards.
3. To provide entertainment and promote school spirit in cooperation with school and civic activities.
4. To compete/perform at the ensemble and individual levels.

Choral Department Offerings

All students at North Andover High School are welcomed to participate in the North Andover High School Choral Program.

Scarlet and Black Singers is the award-winning auditioned, honor level choir at North Andover High School. It meets daily during Period 2 for the entire school year. Students in this group perform a variety of college-level traditional, multicultural, folk, and contemporary chamber choral pieces at performances and competitions throughout the school year. All members are expected to attend additional weekly rehearsals. Auditions are held before course registration in March. All students in Scarlet and Black Singers are also members of the Concert Choir.

Concert Choir is one of the largest award-winning school choirs in the northeastern United States. It meet daily during Period 4 throughout the year and is open to all students through signing up during course registration or through speaking with your guidance counselor. Students in this group perform large-ensemble choral music in the traditional, multi-cultural, folk, and contemporary genres. All members of this group are expected to attend additional after-school rehearsals, performances, and competitions throughout the school year.

The extracurricular choirs (Women's Choir and Men's Choir) at different times after school. Women's Choir meets on Mondays from 2:25- 3:00 and Men's Choir meets on Tuesdays from 2:25- 3:00. Students must audition for these choirs. Auditions are open to all students at NAHS and will be held during the middle of September.

The NAHS A Cappella Club is a student-run group that meets after school. This group arranges and performs popular music for their performances at various in-school events.

The annual Musical will be held during the first weekend in February. Auditions will take place in November. All students at NAHS are welcome to audition for this performance.

**North Andover Choral Department Student Leadership
2016– 2017**

Co-Presidents

MacKenzie Cochrane
Joe Paquin

Vice-President

Emily Cummings

Secretary

Lea Chisholm

Treasurer

Hannah Carroll

Fundraising Coordinator

Bronagh LaGrassa

Historian

Gabby Huapaya

Soprano Section Leaders

Graeson Adams
Kate Burba
Abbey Tannatt

Alto Section Leaders

Joanna Lopez
Juliana Motta
Hannah Wood

Tenor Section Leaders

Jason Chen
Will Ferguson
Paolo Geraldez
George Lord

Bass Section Leaders

Ryan Drew
Justin Gaede
Jimmy Lyons

Policies

Classroom Rules and Procedures

Respect your fellow chorus members and the chorus room:

- Use appropriate and courteous language
- Be KIND ALWAYS. No unkind or hurtful words will be tolerated.
- Be ON TIME, be PREPARED. No excuses.
- Be positive! We all like to be around good vibes. Look for creative solutions. Have fun!
- No talking when your section is working. Keep it to whispers when your section is not working.
- Cooperate fully with directors, substitute teachers, guest conductors, and student leadership.
- During school hours, passes are required for tardiness. School policy is strictly adhered to. Students should be in their seats with their music 5 minutes after the late bell.
- YOU are accountable for information given in rehearsal and information that is posted on the bulletin board or in the chorus room. Pay attention!
- Don't use cell phones during rehearsals, while watching performances, etc. It is not polite.
- We all share the same space in the chorus room.
 - No writing on the whiteboards
 - No playing the big piano without asking
 - PICK UP TRASH whether it's yours or not
 - NO EATING or DRINKING ANYTHING OTHER THAN WATER
 - NO GUM
 - Look out for the property of others

Required Materials:

Each student is provided with the following materials. It is the student's responsibility to keep all materials in good condition.

- Black binder (to be kept in school in your designated music slot or be taken home to practice)
- Music
- Choral uniform

Each student must provide the following materials:

- Pencil IN the binder (VERY important)

Homework:

Home practice is required to learn and retain our music. MP3s of every part will be posted on Mrs. Durkin's SoundCloud account, and will be available on the chorus Facebook group. It is expected that students practice their music for at least 5-15 minutes per day at home.

Sectionals

"Sectionals" refer to separate rehearsals for each "section" isolated from the rest of the group. Throughout the year, sectionals occur weekly. Information about sectionals will be determined at the beginning of the year. Typically, a "section" agrees upon a time when all students can meet and this becomes the weekly sectional rehearsal time for the entire school year. Sectionals are usually 20-30 minutes in duration and take place during after-school hours at NAHS. Sectionals are mandatory; sectional rehearsals aid in the development of blend and balance within sections as well as the overall ensemble.

Attendance

Students and their families are asked to strictly adhere to the following rules regarding attendance:

1. Students are graded on their rehearsal and in-class attendance. Please be sure to put all rehearsals, concerts, performances, etc. from the Date Sheet (at the end of this handbook) into your family calendar. Please provide a note for any missed rehearsals.
2. A note from home to excuse an absence from a rehearsal or performance must be given, in writing (and signed by a parent), and approved by the director two weeks before the event.
3. Please be respectful of rehearsal start times. Rehearsals are a critical time to have all members come together to perfect our music. To ensure we can get everything done, we need to start on time so we can end on time.
4. Only excused absences from performance are if you are out of school for at least half of the school day, or if there is a family emergency and Mrs. Durkin is notified.
5. COMMUNICATION IS KEY! Every attempt will be made to be fair and understanding in the event of unusual circumstances. We are here to support you, so you need to be clear and upfront with any attendance concerns.

Regarding the most common attendance issues:

- No verbal excuses are considered 'excused' for any reason.
- Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance results in the lowering of the term grade.
- If a last-minute issue arises that will affect attendance, it is the student's responsibility to contact the director BEFORE rehearsal. Then, the student must bring a note (signed by parent/doctor) upon return.
- Telling someone else to tell Mrs. Durkin that they will not be at rehearsal is not an excused absence.

Work Policy

The director understands the importance of holding employment as a teenager, but also understands that employers will give days off, should they be required, if given enough notice.

- Please make every attempt to schedule work shifts around rehearsals and performances. It is recommended that you give your employer a copy of your chorus schedule.
- If your employer is uncooperative, notify the director who will then speak to the employer.
- Missing performances and dress rehearsals because of work is not acceptable.

Sports and Chorus

- It IS possible to participate in a fall sport and chorus!
- Students who participate in a fall sport MUST provide a practice/game schedule when their chorus schedule contract is returned.
- Conflicts will occur. If forced to choose, pick a performance over a practice, or a game over a rehearsal. If a practice interferes with a rehearsal, you are expected to divide your time evenly.
- With scheduling conflicts in mind, remember that participation in chorus is a component of the academic curriculum and participation in sports is extracurricular.

Appointments

Appointments should be scheduled on non-rehearsal and performance days.

“I didn’t know”

An unacceptable excuse. The entire year’s schedule is sent home, posted in the chorus room on the whiteboard and hallway bulletin board, emailed, posted on the Facebook page and the website. Any changes are made widely available.

Performances, Competitions, and Football Games

These types of performances are the culmination of our hard work throughout the season. It is imperative that all students are present for all events so we can sound our best. Students receive a grade for these performances.

Dress Code

Football Games and Casual Performances

Jeans on bottom and NICE black, red, or white, or chorus jackets on top. T-shirts are not acceptable for any performance.

Concerts, Competitions, and Formal Performances

Women: Chorus dresses (length is to the top of the shoe), black tights, black flats (sneakers, boots, and sandals are not acceptable), red ribbon tied at the waist, hair pulled off of face, earrings ONLY.

Men: Tuxedo (black pants, white dress shirt, black vest, red tie, jacket for S&B members), black socks, black dress shoes (NO sneakers!)

All students are required to attend one day of uniform fittings. Students are expected to stay in uniform at all performances unless otherwise instructed.

Performance/Trip Conduct

When we are in a performance situation either in or outside of NAHS, every individual is representing the chorus, Mrs. Durkin, our music program, North Andover High School, and the town of North Andover. It is expected that all members behave and conduct themselves in a way that is mature, responsible, courteous, respectful, and professional. The impression set forth impacts the year’s activities and the success of our other musical organizations. Anything done by a single member reflects on the entire organization, our leaders, and the school community.

- Attendance is mandatory, unless previously excused by the director through prior written communication.
- Transportation will be provided by bus if needed. Unless otherwise designated, every student will be expected to ride the bus to all choral events.
- All members are to report to the chorus room at the designated time, warm-up, and load the bus.
- School policy regarding conduct while riding a bus is applicable and will be enforced. Any student who does not follow the bus rules will have his/her parents/guardians contacted immediately and will be subject to consequences per the NAHS school-wide disciplinary policy. Students in violation of such policies may be subject to removal from a musical event and/or removal from the NAHS music department courses and programming.
- At football games, the chorus should meet in the chorus room before the performance and stay with the chorus until after the National Anthem has been performed. Everyone is then free to sit wherever/ with whomever they choose. Remember: you are always representing the NAHS Chorus Department when at a game. Please behave accordingly.

- Students are expected to watch other groups in the auditorium at all performances. Leaving before the concert is over or not coming until your performance is unacceptable since it is disrespectful to the other performers.
- NO CELL PHONES in the auditorium or performance venue.
- No booing, abusive language or obscene gestures will be tolerated at any time.
- Chaperones and parent volunteers are to be treated with the utmost respect at all times.

Disciplinary Code

Any member found to be breaking any rule from the North Andover Choral Handbook or the North Andover High School Handbook will be referred to the director and, when appropriate, the school administration for disciplinary action. Membership in any of the Scarlet Knight music ensembles may be terminated at any time by the director with the approval of the administration.

Stay Updated!!!

North Andover Music Association website: www.northandovermusic.org; **also on Facebook!**
 Calendar Updates, Event Updates, Ways to Get Involved with the North Andover Music Department

North Andover High School Concert Choir Facebook: students ask your section leader to add you. This provides important updates and information to all students.

ONLINE FORM

Please follow this link and fill out the Chorus Information Sheet which collects email addresses for important emails, calendar reminders, etc.:

https://docs.google.com/a/northandoverpublicschools.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZnIGgXrKXIQM_qeWahDSwT8PLMYbtqYLSpo2Fm_M7n-EFHQ/viewform

Student and Parent Acknowledgement

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. DURKIN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 for a grade

I have read the NAHS Choral Department Handbook and understand the expectations, guidelines, and requirements of being in the NAHS Choirs. I understand that I will be held responsible to the outlined policies, including the outside of school rehearsals and performances.

.....

Student Printed Name

.....

Student Signature

.....

Parent Printed Name

.....

Parent Signature

Attend?	Date	Time	Event	Group
.....	Thursday, 9/8	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Monday, 9/12	6:30pm	Festival of Gold Trip Info Meeting	Parents and Students
.....	Thursday, 9/15	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Friday, 9/16	6:30 call	Football Game	S&B Singers Only
	Monday, 9/19	2:20- 4:00	Women's Choir Auditions	Those Interested
	Tuesday, 9/20	2:20- 4:00	Men's Choir Auditions	Those Interested
.....	Thursday, 9/22	2:20- 3:00	Full Choral Rehearsal	CC and S&B
	Friday, 9/23	ALL DAY	Trip Deposit and Forms Due	All Music Dept.
.....	Friday, 9/23	6:15 call	Football Game	CC and S&B
.....	Thursday, 9/29	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
	Saturday, 10/1	ALL DAY	NESBA Band Competition Help	Those interested
.....	Saturday, 10/1	3:30 call	National Anthem @ NESBA	S&B Singers Only
.....	Thursday, 10/6	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
	Wednesday, 10/12	6:30pm	Chaperone Info/ Interest Meeting	Those interested
.....	Thursday, 10/13	2:20- 3:00	Full Choral Rehearsal	CC and S&B
.....	Thursday, 10/20	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Friday, 10/21	TIME TBA	Football Game w/ NAMS Chorus	CC and S&B
.....	Thursday, 10/27	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Friday, 10/28	6:15pm call	Football Game	CC and S&B
.....	Thursday, 11/3	2:20- 3:00	Full Choral Rehearsal	CC and S&B
.....	Friday, 11/4	6:15pm call	POSSIBLE Football Game (playoffs)	CC and S&B
	Tuesday, 11/8	ALL DAY	Election Day solo performances	Those interested
.....	Thursday, 11/10	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Friday, 11/11	6:30 call	Football Game	CC and S&B
.....	Thursday, 11/17	2:20- 3:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Thursday, 11/17	6:00pm call	7th and 8th Grade Parent Night	S&B Singers Only
.....	Friday, 11/18	6:30pm call	POSSIBLE Football Game (playoffs)	CC and S&B
	Saturday, 11/19	TIME TBA	Senior District Festival Auditions	Those interested
.....	Wednesday, 11/23	11:30- 1:00	S&B Singers Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
.....	Thursday, 12/1	12:00- 1:00	S&B Rehearsal	S&B Singers Only
	Friday, 12/2	7-10pm	Winter Coffee House	Those interested
.....	Thursday, 12/8	4:30-7:00pm	Concert Rehearsal	CC and S&B
		4:30- 5:30	S&B Singers	
		5:30- 7:00	Concert Choir	
.....	Wednesday, 12/14	4:30- 7:00pr	Concert Dress Rehearsal	CC and S&B
		4:30- 6:00	Concert Choir	
		6:00- 7:00	S&B Singers	
.....	Thursday, 12/16	6:30 call	Winter Concert	CC and S&B
.....	Friday, 12/23	9:30am	Advisory Concert	CC and S&B
	March 24-28	ALL DAY	Los Angeles Festival of Gold Trip	All Music Dept.
	Saturday, April 1	TIME TBA	MICCA Choral Festival	CC and S&B
	April 7-8	TIME TBA	S&B Perform at All-Eastern Conf.	S&B Singers Only



North Andover Music Association



A 501 (c)(3) Corporation

We Believe in Music

430 Osgood St, North Andover MA 01845

<http://www.northandovermusic.org>

NAMA Board

Martin McGrath
President

Mark Bohrer
Vice President

Kim Hearst
Debbie Bohrer
Treasurers

Kristine Murphy
Secretary

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*Volunteer & Chaperone
Coordinator*

Sue Francoeur
*Volunteer Coordinator &
NAMS Liaison*

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Vicki Vissering
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Nancy Koorapaty
Uniform Coordinator

Linda Pegalis
Membership Chair

Erin Murphy
MacKenzie Cochrane
Joe Paquin
Student Members

Hello Music Families,

Our parent run organization provides continuous support for all music students throughout the North Andover Public Schools. The financial and volunteer support that the North Andover Music Association offers to the music program ranges from funding uniforms for band and chorus, scholarships to seniors, band and chorus competition aid and financial support for trips such as Disney, Carnegie Hall in NYC and the WorldStrides Festival of Gold in Los Angeles!

We invite everyone with a student active in music or simply an interest in music to join the North Andover Music Association (NAMA) and help us continue the ongoing growth and success of our programs. You could also support our association by making a tax-deductible donation. NAMA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax deductible membership donation can be made in two (2) ways:

- 1) PayPal at www.northandovermusic.org
- 2) Fill out this form and mail your check payable to: North Andover Music Association
Address: NAMA c/o NAHS, 430 Osgood Street North Andover, MA 01845

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

I/We wish to become a member of NAMA by making a contribution to be acknowledged in programs as:

Sponsor and NAMA member (\$25-\$74)

Patron (\$75-\$199)

Angel (\$200 or more)

Corporate (\$500 or more)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Does your company offer a matching gift program? **Remember Corporate Matching Gifts can double your support for our music programs!**

Please contact Linda Pegalis, Membership Chair at Pegalis@yahoo.com for additional information.

Thank you for supporting the arts!

Music is the universal language of mankind. ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Outre-Mer*