

**North Andover Choral Program
2021 - 2022**



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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 inspire an understanding of other cultures, time periods, and people through music.
4. To provide entertainment and promote school spirit in cooperation with school and civic activities.
5. 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.

Concert Choir is one of the largest award-winning school choirs in the northeastern United States. It meets daily during Period 7 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, multicultural, folk, and contemporary genres. All members of this group are expected to attend additional after-school rehearsals, performances, and competitions throughout the school year.

Scarlet and Black Singers is one of the two award-winning auditioned, honor level choirs at North Andover High School. It meets daily during Period 5 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.

Treble Choir is the second of our two award-winning auditioned, honor level choir meets daily during Period 1 for the entire school year. Students will perform a variety of music representing different cultures, time periods, and styles in SSA (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto) and SSAA (soprano 1, soprano 2, alto 1, alto 2) voicings. Members are expected to attend weekly rehearsals. Auditions for this group are held in March. All students in the Treble Choir are also members of the Concert Choir.

Men's Choir is our after-school choir for any of our male singers wanting to enhance and expand their choral experience. This group meets weekly after school and is open without audition. No previous singing experience is necessary.

**North Andover Choral Department Student Leadership
2021– 2022**

Presidents: Courtney Igbinosa & Bianca Muñoz

Choir Executive Board: Stephanie Carpenito, Meg Murphy, Sydney Phillips, Ethan Wlodyka

NAHS Live Coordinator: Leo Nachamie

Soprano Section Leaders: Bridget Bernard, Emma Cirame, Mia Gouveia, Sabrina Martin

Alto Section Leaders: Jenna Bard, Mikaela Pomfret, Amanda Travers

Tenor Section Leaders: Fritz Loth, Josh Rosa

Bass Section Leaders: Jacob Nevins, Will Palavicini, Henry Wright

Classroom and Rehearsal Expectations

General:

Respect your fellow chorus members and the chorus room:

- Be KIND ALWAYS.
- 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.
- We all share the same space in the chorus room.
 - No writing on the whiteboards!
 - The big piano is off limits unless it's being used during sectionals
 - PICK UP TRASH whether it's yours or not
 - Water only, please
 - NO GUM

Classroom Attendance:

- Students should be IN their seats WITH their music 5 minutes after the late bell.
- Bathroom, Water, etc. must be completed before or after class, or between pieces if it is an emergency. Since we are such a large group, please do not disrupt the flow of class unless it is necessary.

Information:

- Dates and times for all performances, rehearsals, and events will be posted in the front of the room and will also be accessible through the GoogleClassroom link.
- YOU are accountable for information given in rehearsal and information that is posted on the bulletin board or in the chorus room. Cell Phones:
- **Cell phones are not allowed in the risers during class, rehearsals, or in any performance setting.**

Required Materials:

Provided Materials:

- **Music-- students are responsible for having their OWN music in class EVERY DAY**
- Choral uniform (components listed below)

Each student must provide the following materials:

- Black Binder (1" for S&B and TC members, ½" for CC members)
- Pencil IN the binder (VERY important)

Homework:

- Home practice is required to learn, retain, and memorize our music. MP3s of every part will be posted in GoogleClassroom.
 - It is expected to practice and solidify what we worked on in class that day, regardless of whether or not you are in class that day.
 - **THIS WILL LOOK DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE!** Some will be able to perfect the music in 20 minutes, while it might take some longer.

Rehearsal and Sectional Attendance

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

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY AS IT CONTAINS UPDATED POLICIES:

Students are **GRADED** on their attendance at our **REHEARSALS, SECTIONALS, EVENTS, AND PERFORMANCES.**

1. Performances/ Events:

- All performances and events are considered to be mandatory and are the culmination of our work throughout a set period of time unless otherwise noted.
- Students receive a **GRADE** for their attendance at performances and events.
- We are only as strong as when we are all together.

2. Rehearsals

- Since we have three choirs and we all sing together, it is important to rehearse together. The only time everyone can be together is after school hours.
- All rehearsals are mandatory and are part of student grades.
- All students are expected to stay for the full length of rehearsals. Please work this out with any coaches, club advisors, or with your boss.
- Regular Concert Choir rehearsals are scheduled typically once every 2 weeks.
- Dress Rehearsals are in preparation for our larger-scale performances and competitions. These are held in the late afternoon/ evening, which allows for longer and more in depth practice time. These are **MANDATORY** for all and cannot be excused unless the director is notified at least a month in advance or in case of an emergency.

3. Sectionals:

- “Sectionals” refer to separate rehearsals for each “section” isolated from the rest of the group. Throughout the year, sectionals occur weekly. Each “section” will agree upon a 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.
- Sectional rehearsals aid in the development of blend and balance within sections as well as the overall ensemble.
- Sectionals are mandatory; Concert Choir students must attend a minimum of **2 SECTIONALS PER MONTH as part of their GRADE.** Small Group students must attend a minimum of 3.

4. Scheduling:

- **READ** the date sheets and Week at a Glances **CAREFULLY** when they are sent out and put all rehearsals, performances, etc. into family and personal calendars.
- **WORK SCHEDULES** to be fixed around our rehearsals. **ALL** students need to be held to the **SAME** standard out of fairness to the group.
- **APPOINTMENTS** should be scheduled around our rehearsals.
- If a student needs a ride to/ from rehearsal, they should ask their **SECTION LEADER** who will help find them a ride from a responsible student.
- In addition to the date sheet (provided soon!), schedules will be posted on the bulletin board in the front of the chorus room and on the whiteboard in the classroom, on the North Andover Music Association (NAMA) website (www.northandovermusic.org), and the Week at a Glance will be sent out through the **REMIND APP** (instructions provided

at the end of this handbook). Students are responsible for their knowledge of and attendance at all required activities.

3. Sports:

- REHEARSALS take priority over a sport practice, GAMES take priority over a regular rehearsal, DRESS REHEARSALS and PERFORMANCES are priority over practices, and if a conflict with a GAME, please discuss ASAP with Mrs. Durkin to figure out a plan.
- Since our rehearsals are so infrequent compared to sport practices, students are expected to attend rehearsal and THEN go to their sport. Mrs. Durkin will speak with coaches if necessary.
- Also, remember that chorus is a graded class and sports are extracurricular.
- Please stay on top of this and stay in communication with coaches and directors about rehearsals/ games/ practices/ performances. **Ignoring the schedule conflicts will not make them go away.**

4. Not In Class:

- If you are not in class for the semester, you are still welcome and encouraged to participate in our choir activities.
- In order to be eligible to participate, you must attend sectionals and rehearsals as outlined in our policies, or you will not be able to perform with the group.
- Make sure you join the GoogleClassroom for practice mp3s and information!

5. Unable to Attend:

- As described above, every effort must be made to attend all rehearsals and events. Work, sports, and appointments should be adjusted to work around rehearsals and performances.
- In the event of a non-movable conflict (family event, etc.), a note FROM HOME describing the absence must be provided with the date sheet, or at least ONE WEEK before a rehearsal or TWO WEEKS before a dress rehearsal to be excused. **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POLICY!**
- Verbal or telling a friend to “tell Mrs. Durkin that I can’t come” are not valid excuses.
- 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.
- 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.
- Any unexcused absence (or late notice) from a rehearsal or performance results in the lowering of the term grade.
- **Unexcused absences from dress rehearsals may result in becoming ineligible to participate in the upcoming performance out of fairness to the rest of the choir.**
 - **Rationale:** if we know about the absence ahead of time, we can work around the conflict (change rehearsal timing/ days/ etc.). If it is too late notice, we cannot make any adjustments. We are strongest when we are together, and everyone is responsible for their equal contribution to our group. Your absence means that you miss important information, changes, and corrections to our music that everyone else has worked hard to implement. Having EVERY MEMBER present is crucial to ensure that one person does not make mistakes that everyone else

worked hard to correct, having a negative impact on the rest of the group. Please be fair to your fellow chorus members and classmates and know that this is **about the WE, not the ME.**

Dress Code

Casual Performances

Jeans and NICE black, red, or white shirts.

T-shirts, leggings, sweatpants, etc. are not acceptable for any performance.

Concerts, Competitions, and Formal Performances

Dresses:

Uniform dresses (provided, hemmed to the top of the shoe)

Red ribbon (provided)

Black tights/ knee highs

Black FLATS (heels, sneakers, boots, and sandals are not acceptable)

No JEWELRY other than earrings

Hair pulled off of face

Tuxedos:

Tuxedo (provided: black pants, white dress shirt, black vest, red tie, jacket for small group 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.

Report:

- All members are to report to the chorus room at the designated time, warm-up, and load the bus.
- It is important to arrive by the designated time so you do not miss the bus. We cannot always wait for everyone because of set performance times, etc. Be considerate of your fellow choir members and please be on time.

Transportation:

- Transportation will be provided by bus if needed. Unless otherwise designated, every student will be expected to ride the bus to all choral events.

- 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.

Events:

- 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.
- Enter and exit performance halls only in between group performances. If you must leave the performance hall before a performance is over, ONLY do so in between pieces. Leaving while someone else is considered disrespectful to the performers.
- NO CELL PHONES in the auditorium or performance venue.

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.

Google Classroom & REMIND

We use the Remind App for weekly newsletters and reminders. Please sign up using the following codes:

Concert Choir: @9f6688c

Choir PARENTS: @8aac368

All rehearsal tracks and other information for class will be posted in GoogleClassroom. Please use the following codes to get into the Classroom:

Treble Choir: 7rex5bv

Scarlet and Black Singers: 3qttf47

Concert Choir: gayouix

VISIT www.northandovermusic.org for updates!

Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Inspiring.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

.....I have read and agree to the policies outlined in the NAHS Choral Department Handbook.

.....I have read and understand the **GRADED** attendance expectations outlined in the handbook.

.....I understand that I will be held responsible to the outlined policies, including the outside of school rehearsals and performances.

.....I have read and understand the performance dress code. I understand there is a uniform fee payable to the North Andover Music Association for all new choral students for maintenance of the uniform.

.....I have signed up for the Concert Choir and Parent REMIND to receive schedule notifications.

..... I have logged into the GoogleClassroom for the choir(s) I sing in.

..... I have printed and filled out the Health Card:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/186Ekq89Q3BAU3eGT7yBYYW-E5rgxEXiN/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115418606081591943110&rtpof=true&sd=true>

..... I have filled out the North Andover Music Association Choir Registration Card:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6gabFI_2Gny-IH1kwwZhqihHeMVSZTcYybxAf-wuQcXrR_g/viewform

.....

Student Printed Name

.....

Student Signature

.....

Parent Printed Name

.....

Parent Signature

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. DURKIN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th for a grade

