**Chorus Course Outline**

**NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL MIXED CHORUS 2022-23**

**Director: Mrs. Laura Bissell**

**Phone: 432-8691 Ext. 2020**

[**https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Domain/1096**](https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Domain/1096)

**Email:** [**lbissell@northernyork.org**](mailto:lbissell@northernyork.org)

Dear Students:

Welcome to Mixed Chorus! I truly am excited to work with each of you this year, to learn more about choral singing and dig deeper into the songs we sing, and also spend some time working on our individual voices (only if you wish). Our main focus is choral singing and below are some of the responsibilities of being a chorus member.

**🎶🎶 Cognitive Knowledge**

Cognitive knowledge is how well you have mastered facts and data that we discuss in class. Some of the information we discuss will be: general knowledge about the types of songs we sing; vocabulary and expressions that are used specifically in music; names of different styles of music; and how to sing, breathe and express yourself vocally during rehearsals and in **preparation for a concert setting.**

**🎶🎶 Skills Development and Performance** - Students may be evaluated on any of the following throughout the school year:

* Posture – Position 0 – slouched back (during announcements); Position 1 – sitting up with backs against chair; Position 2 – sitting up straight with back away from chair; Position 3 – standing up straight, rib cage lifted, arms down at sides, knees unlocked, shoulders back and down, toes forward, etc.
* Breathing – Student uses the correct muscular tension in the abdominal muscles to allow a deep breath to fill the diaphragm: Inhale – abdomen out Exhale – abdomen in
* Music Reading – Student develops knowledge and skills in basic music theory.
* Literature – Student performs various types of musical literature.
* Vocal Production (Style and Tone) – Student sings with an open throat (yawn type) so that the sound floats through the throat rather than is rammed through the vocal cords. Student also produces nice resonance while singing (vibration felt on the nose while singing—inside smile).
* Range – How easily student can sing their lowest note to their highest note.
* Diction – Student should produce words understandably without detracting from the tone quality and musical effect. Sometimes pronunciations need to be exaggerated to be understood.
* Musicality – Student shows interest and motivation when singing. Student sings with appropriate musical expressiveness. SMILE AND ENJOY MAKING MUSIC!
* Preparedness – Student comes to rehearsals with choral music and a pencil
* Singing Tests – Student has learned their voice part and, if applicable, has music memorized. These pre-concert evaluations may involve individual or group testing.
* Worksheets, Written Quizzes and Tests – Based on class discussion and information provided by Mrs. Bissell.
* Warm-ups – Student leads the chorus in physical, breathing and/or vocal warm-ups.
* Post Concert Evaluation – reflection after a concert performance
* Contextual Listening- writing across the curriculum
* Personal Connection – Discover more about yourself and develop friendships through the bonds of music.
* Responsible Behavior, dedication and dependability - students are expected to attend rehearsals, to be on time, to be attentive, to be aware, to TRY YOUR BEST always, to WORK TO IMPROVE EVERY DAY, participate daily with a POSITIVE ATTITUDE, to make performances and extra rehearsals a PRIORITY.
* Sectional Rehearsals – small group rehearsals during students’ study halls each quarter. Students will have a minimum number of sectionals to attend each marking period. Students will have a choice as how to do their sectionals (either in person or recorded).

**🎶🎶 Daily Rehearsals and Concert Participation**

**Rehearsals:** Students will be evaluated on their performance/participation during class and sectional rehearsals. Infractions will be deducted from this evaluation score. (ex. late to seat, unexcused absences)

**Concerts:** Students are required to be present at all mandatory rehearsals and concerts unless Mrs. Bissell has previously excused the student due to a serious illness or emergency family situation.

This year’s concerts are:

**Thursday, December 15th, 2022, at 7 p.m. Holiday Concert (Mandatory Rehearsal Wednesday, Dec. 14 3-6 p.m.)**

**Thursday, May 18th, 2023, at 7 p.m. Spring Chorus Concert (Mandatory Rehearsal Wednesday, May 17 3-6 p.m.)**

**Please m*ark your calendars now!***

*Concerts are considered curricular activities. Therefore, attendance and participation in all concerts are mandatory and part of the student’s grade. Concerts are the ultimate culmination of many weeks of preparation and class work. It is impossible to make up a concert experience. Choir members are expected to be present for the entire duration of each performance.*

‣Any additional concerts will be announced as soon as possible.

‣Students who are involved in extracurricular activities are asked to attend the entire duration of each mandatory rehearsal (unless there is a game/meet scheduled the same day).

‣Please Do NOT wait until the last minute to work out conflicts…be PROACTIVE. Many conflicts can be prevented if you make plans in advance.

‣Since advance notice is given for concerts and mandatory rehearsals, being scheduled to work a job will not be considered an excused absence.

*Excused Absences:*

*1. Personal Illness – If personal illness prevents you from attending a concert or mandatory rehearsal, email Mrs. Bissell ASAP at* [*lbissell@northernyork.org For an illness related absence, a written note from a parent or guardian is required.*](mailto:lbissell@nycsd.k12.pa.us)

*2. Family Emergency/School Conflict- The student is responsible for notifying Mrs.Bissell of a family emergency or school conflict. School conflicts MUST be approved prior to the event.*

*3. In the event of an excused missed performance/rehearsal, the following will be observed: Students will be given the opportunity to make up the missing grade. A make-up assignment/date will be given by the director. It is the student’s responsibility to request a makeup assignment. Students will receive a zero for any missed concert if their absence is unexcused by the director. There is no makeup assignment for an unexcused absence.*

**Concert Attire:** “Chorus, Men’s Chorus, Women’s Chorus” attire - Choir robes and stoles (provided), black pants/skirts/dresses, black shoes (ladies - no open toed shoes or flip flops, and no sneakers), black socks, shirts/ties for men, lightweight tops for the ladies (see school dress code).

“Bear Singers” attire: formal or informal depending on performance venue (those students selected for this ensemble will receive information ASAP)

**Concert Repertoire:** Students will sing different styles and genres of music for each concert as selected by Mrs. Bissell and/or officers or other members of the chorus. All music must be memorized for the concerts.

**🎶🎶 Daily Rehearsal and Classroom Etiquette**

**CHORUS IS MEETING IN THE CHORUS ROOM**

* Please keep you cell phones in your backpacks.
* Have a pencil sharpened and ready for use. Get your chorus folder.
* Be in your assigned seat BEFORE the bell rings.
* LISTEN TO or READ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS!
* Concentrate on choral warm-ups, vocalizes and rehearsal
* Be the model choral student with good posture, attentiveness, and respect for whoever is leading the rehearsal.

***LISTEN AND SILENT*** ***ARE SPELLED WITH THE SAME LETTERS!***

**More Reminders:**

* Per your student handbook (Classroom Disturbance), socializing during music rehearsal is a **VIOLATION** of classroom rules, not to mention distracting to the instructor and fellow classmates. Consequences will be grade reduction; detention; communication with parent; office referral.
* NO ONE may leave his or her seat during class without permission. Have water and tissues with you at each rehearsal.
* NO bathroom privileges during class (***ONLY*** dire emergencies excepted). Please take care of this before class.
* **PLEASE REFER TO THE POLICIES ON CELL PHONES/DEVICES, TARDY TO CLASS, DRESS CODE, and FOOD/DRINKS. (This info is covered in the PowerPoint presentation.)**

**Communication**

**In order to communicate effectively with students and parents, we will present up-to-date chorus information in the following ways:**

School emails from [lbissell@northernyork.org](mailto:lbissell@northernyork.org)

Schoology – Join the 2022-23 Chorus Group on Schoology with Access Code: KV7D-SRCJ-5SHSF

Mrs. Bissell’s Music Website - <https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Domain/1096>

REMIND - sign up by texting @nhspbchoir to 81010 or email [nhspbchoir@mail.remind.com](mailto:nhspbchoir@mail.remind.com)

**MARKING PERIOD GRADES ARE BASED ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING (using a points system):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION/PERFORMANCE** | **HOMEWORK** |
| **CONCERTS** | **WORKSHEETS** |
| **MANDATORY REHEARSALS** | **EXTRA CREDIT** |
| **SELF AND TEACHER EVALUATIONS** | **QUIZZES/TEST** |
| **SINGING TESTS** | **SECTIONAL REHEARSALS** |

Any missing assignments will be marked as a “zero” at the end of the marking period.

**Extra credit** includes active participation from the following: section leaders; Bear Singers; Chorus officers; participation in school related choral festivals; and anyone who regularly helps with Chorus-related activities (robes, setting up, music library, clerical work, etc.)

**Mixed Chorus (this year) has one section:** Student are in class all six days of the cycle.

*Why Music? The benefits of a well-rounded education for all students cannot be overemphasized. The study of Music is one very important area of this complete education. The aesthetic joys of making music cannot be duplicated in any other art form; it is a communication unto itself and is known as the Universal Language. Studies have shown that the study of music strengthens the mind’s learning potential. Students involved in a school music program tend to achieve at higher levels in all areas of their education. Simply put: music makes better students, and music makes students better.*

*Ongoing research continues to offer dramatic statistics concerning children who participate in their school music programs. Research shows that students with course work experience in music performance scored higher on the SAT tests than students with no coursework in the arts. This kind of information positively marks the future of our young people.*

*In correlation with the Northern York County School District’s Profile of a Graduate, music teaches important life skills. Music teaches discipline. Participation in music develops self-confidence (Courageous). Music gives students a feeling of pride and accomplishment (Creativity). Singing in a choir teaches students the importance of working with others as a team (Collaboration) and helps them develop the social skills (Communication) and artistic skills necessary to be part of a performing organization (Competent). It instills values, responsibility, purpose, direction, and devotion to duty (Contributing), the spirit of cooperation and sensitivity to the beauty in our world (Critical Thinking). Not all choir students become great musicians, but all will certainly become more mature, cooperative, self-disciplined, and hardworking members of their communities with an appreciation of the arts (Conscientious).* (read more at NAfME, <https://nafme.org/20-important-benefits-of-music-in-our-schools/>)

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. You will learn to develop, extend and refine your singing skills through performance.
2. You will increase your musical understanding and knowledge of terms, literature and historical background.
3. You will develop your individual singing skills and styles.
4. You will develop an appreciation for music as an art form through listening and performing.
5. You will enhance your communication skills through individual and group performances.
6. You will enhance your vocal skills and knowledge for a lifetime appreciation and/or participation in music.

I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year with you all!

Musically Yours,

Mrs. Bissell

**Signature Page – due August 29th**

**Students and Parents/Guardians:** Please go to the Music Department Link (2 eighth notes) on [www.northernpolarbears.com](http://www.northernpolarbears.com) to visit Mrs. Bissell’s Website or https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Domain/1096 to read and review the Mixed Chorus Course Outline AND the Music Department Handbook (especially pages 3-18 and pg. 22) and complete the form below.

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read the **Course Outline**

(Printed Student’s name)

**AND the Music Department Handbook** for **Mixed Chorus 2022-23**, **have marked my calendar with the concert dates and anticipated mandatory rehearsals,** AND understand the guidelines and rules set forth above.

Students Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_