

**Choir**

Music Directors:  Mrs. Jamieson/Mrs. Deems

Room G-133

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**Music Dept. Website:** <https://pantherpridemusic.weebly.com/>

Welcome to a new year of Choir!  This is an exciting and fun course in which your child will be learning about music through performance in a choral ensemble setting.  Students will be learning to read music notation, sing with proper vocal technique, use their bodies and voices to communicate and express themselves, and develop an overall appreciation and understanding of music. We look forward to helping your student discover and grow from the many benefits that can be gained from an education in the performing arts!

**Benefits**

Participation in music has many benefits including:

1. Self-expression 4. Listening skills 7. Sense of responsibility
2. Self-awareness 5. Memory skills 8. Collaboration
3. Focus and concentration 6. Problem solving ability 9. Self-regulation skills

**Assignments:**

Every Monday, assignments will be posted for the week, and students will copy this into their agenda. Class time is spent going over concepts and teaching the skills necessary to complete the assignment. Practicing the assignment for the week **IS** our homework. Every Friday we will have a performance, allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge and musical skills. Missed tests can be made up at lunch or after school.  It is the student’s responsibility to make up tests.

**Concerts:**  If and when concerts take place, students will participate in a minimum of two concerts per year which will be counted towards their final grade. In order for a student to be eligible to perform in a concert, they must meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate proper concert etiquette during class time/rehearsals (acting appropriately)
2. Demonstrate the ability to work within an ensemble setting (collaboration)
3. Demonstrate the willingness to do their best and work hard. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior, lack of effort or practicing, and failing to earn a passing grade, will result in a probationary period during which the student’s concert eligibility will be reevaluated.  If the problem continues during this probationary period, a parent/guardian will be notified that the student is no longer eligible to perform in the concert.  Three phone calls home or a failing grade within a semester will automatically result in the student’s ineligibility to perform and the student will be given an alternative assignment to complete in place of the concert.  Please see the attached Performance Contract for more information.

**Concert Attire:** Boys: black dress pants and white dress shirt (with collar and no logos); Girls: black dress pants or black skirt (at or below the knee) with white dress shirt

**Grading Scale:** A = 90-100%  B = 80–89%  C = 70–79% D = 69–60%  F = below 59%

**Grading & Assignments (see alternative grading scale for Distance Learning under the Distance Learning Contract Below)**

35% Daily Performance (5 points per day based on quality of performance during class)

25% Weekly Performance Tests (every Friday)

20%  Written Tests/Reflections/Assignments

20% Concert Performances (based on attendance and quality of performance)

**MYP IB Scale:**

7-8: Excellent Performance

5-6: Substantial Performance

3-4: Adequate Performance

1-2: Limited Performance

0: No Evidence of Performance

**How You Can Help**

Keep in mind that your interest, support, and encouragement are key elements that contribute to the success of your child.  Help your child succeed in music by:

* providing a quiet place to practice
* helping your child to schedule a consistent time for practice
* encouraging your child to play for family and friends
* making sure your child’s instrument is always in good playing condition
* listening to your child practice and acknowledging improvement
* taking time to attend and enjoy any recitals/concerts (when able)

**Communication**

Please email us if you ever have questions or concerns. If you would like to speak over the phone, please send an email with a couple of options of days/times that work for you (after 3:30pm).

**COVID Resources**.

As you already know, all students need to be fully masked while at school. Unfortunately, trying to take fast deep breaths and sing in a mask can be quite uncomfortable.  Listed below are links to several types of masks designed for singing/choir that you may want to consider purchasing for your musician. These masks are designed to stay away from the mouth to allow for much easier breathing and singing.

**Vocal masks** (be sure to double-check on size of the mask before ordering):

Performance vocal mask - jwpepper.com

<https://www.jwpepper.com/Performance-Series-Face-Mask---Vocal/11313938.item>

Protec singer’s face mask:

<https://www.amazon.com/Protec-Singers-Model-A343-Small/dp/B08RN5YQBK/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=Singer%27s+face+mask&qid=1627958968&sr=8-4>

KYT Music Singer’s Mask:

<https://www.amazon.com/KYT-Music-Singers-Teaching-Traveling/dp/B08ZCZ3C5M/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=Singer%27s+face+mask&qid=1627958968&sr=8-9>

Performance Contract

Please review the information, sign at the bottom, and return this form with your student to school.

As we are preparing for a performance, we feel it is important to share our expectations for each student in order to provide the best experience for everyone involved.  While it is our goal to provide every student with the opportunity to experience a performance, it is important to remember that this is a setting used to display the teamwork and effort that has taken place during the course of each semester (a reward for hard work and good behavior/effort).  Therefore, in order to preserve this experience as such, we have outlined specific criteria that must be met in order for a student to be eligible to participate in a performance.

In order for a student to be eligible to perform in a performance, a student must meet the following criteria:

1.) Demonstrate and maintain concert etiquette (shown during class time/rehearsals)

2.) Demonstrate the ability to work effectively within an ensemble setting

3.) Demonstrate the willingness to do their best and work hard

Disruptive or disrespectful behavior, lack of effort or practicing, and failing to earn a passing grade, will result in a probationary period during which the student’s concert eligibility will be reevaluated.  If the problem continues during this probationary period, a parent/guardian will be notified that the student is no longer eligible to perform in the concert.  Three phone calls home or a failing grade within a semester will automatically result in the student’s ineligibility to perform and the student will be given an alternative assignment to complete in place of the concert.

All students are expected and required to participate in concerts and performances. Besides being worth 20% of their grade, being in orchestra is the same as being on a sports team- every team member counts! The performances are our state championships, and every student is necessary to make our performances successful.

I have read and understand all information regarding the NMS Music Dept. concerts:

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  Student Name (print clearly)

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Student Signature   Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature   Date

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Parent/Guardian Email

Music Program

Important Dates

**Parent Information Night for Band & Orchestra:**

Thursday, August 19th at 6:00pm – Zoom (link will be sent via email/google classroom)

**Kline Music Instrument Rental and Supplies Night (Band & Orchestra):**

Thursday, August 26th at 5:30 – 7:30pm in the MPR (for band and orchestra only)

**Winter Concerts:**

Tuesday, December 7th: 6:00pm:  Beginning Orchestra

6:30pm: Advanced Orchestra

7:00pm: Choir

Thursday, December 9th: 6:00pm: Beginning Band

  6:30pm:  Advanced Band

**Spring Concerts**

Thursday, May 10th: 6:00pm Beginning Band

6:45pm Advanced Band

Tuesday, May 12th: 6:00pm: Beginning Orchestra

6:30pm: Advanced Orchestra

7:00pm: Choir

All concerts and performances are held at Natomas Middle School.

Performances are required and part of the performing arts grade.

Additional events/performances TBD pending COVID restrictions.