

Norwalk High School Vocal Music

Honors Chamber Singers

Course Outline 2021-2022

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Overview

Norwalk High School's Chamber Singers will learn, rehearse, and perform a wide range of music as an ensemble. Our repertoire will include many different genres (from classical to contemporary, both sacred and secular) and languages. We will also develop a solid technical foundation for singing and fundamental music skills (including but not limited to ear training, sight singing, and improvisation). Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and participate fully in all activities during that time period.

As members of an elite performance ensemble, the expectations of your effort, participation, and concert attendance are significantly higher than others. It is expected that you are working on your pieces outside of our rehearsal time together. There will be additional performances and rehearsals to those listed in the NHS concert dates: some during the school day, on weekends, or in the evenings. You will be expected to be there.

Chamber Singers are also required to audition for the Western Region High School Festival as well. Rehearsal times and after school lessons will be arranged shortly. This year, auditions will be by video submission and the festival will be **January 14-15** at Greenwich High School (snow dates: 1/21-22). Acceptance into the regional festival will provide eligibility to audition for the All State Festival (auditions 2/5, festival: 3/31-4/2 at the Hartford Convention Center).

Poor attendance or participation will not only affect your grade, it will jeopardize your chances of returning to this ensemble next year.

Materials

Black 3 ring binder

Pencil

Copies of all pieces

Recording Device w/internet access

Concert and Rehearsal Attendance

There will be several concerts and rehearsals throughout the year that take place outside of the regular school day. Your attendance is mandatory. Because concerts makes up 50% of your grade, an absence will result in a failing grade for the marking period. The dates are as follows:

Candlelight

Rehearsals:

December 7 & 8 (after school), 2:30-4:30)

December 12 (SUNDAY, 1:00-5:00--*mandatory*)

Performances

December 13, 14, & 15 (evening and school day performances)

Tree Lighting at City Hall (TBD)

Winter & Spring Concerts

MLK Community Performance (1/17)

All City Choir Festival, February TBD

May 10 (*Advanced Choir & Treble Ensemble*)

May 24

June 1, Footpath Rehearsal (afterschool)

June 2, Footpath, 7PM

Graduation, 6/14 or 15

Concert Attire

Option A

A tuxedo (pants and jacket) provided by the music department. They will be handed out prior to Candlelight and the student is expected to return it, dry cleaned and in its bag, by graduation. If it is not returned or cleaned, you will receive a bill from the school. You will need to provide your own white shirt, black bowtie, and black cummerbund. Black shoes and black socks are required as well.

Option B

A black dress provided by the music department. They will be handed out prior to Candlelight and the student is expected to return it, dry cleaned and in its bag, by graduation. If it is not returned or cleaned, you will receive a bill for its replacement. Please see me immediately with questions regarding the rental fee.

ALL: NO SNEAKERS, SLIPPERS, OR FLIP FLOPS.

If you are not dressed appropriately, you will not be allowed to perform and will receive a "o" for the concert. If you have any questions at all about the dress code, please see me ASAP. Do not wait until the last minute.

Exams

During a marking period that does not have a scheduled concert, you will be required to take an exam that will assess different aspects of your work. The requirements and rubrics will be available well in advance to ensure your successful performance. ***There will also be a midterm and a final exam.***

Quizzes

You will have a variety of different assessments during the year including (but not limited to) written quizzes, singing evaluations, at home sight singing homeworks, and binder checks.

Grading

50%	Participation
25%	Classwork and Quizzes
25%	Concert or Exam

Extra Help is available after school on Thursdays and by appointment.

Classroom Expectations:

The following are the general expectations for the vocal music classroom:

1. Arrive to class on time with all required materials.
2. Raise your hand to ask questions or comment.
3. Listen to and follow directions the first time they are given.
4. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself.
5. Show respect for your teacher and classmates at all times.

Attendance:

This course follows the attendance policies of Norwalk High School. Make sure that you are aware of its requirements and the effect absences or tardiness may have on your grades. Unexcused lateness to class will result in the loss of a participation point for the day.

Participation Grades:

For each rehearsal, the students receive one (1) participation point. These will be tallied up at the end of the marking period and make up the Participation segment of the final grade (50%). If a student breaks one of the above rules (lateness, unprepared, disruptive), they will lose that point. A student may earn back their point for the day by following appropriate procedures for the rest of class.

In the event of an infraction, the student will receive a verbal warning. If the student continues the behavior, s/he will lose their participation point for the day.

Note on technology use: At times, we will be making use of personal electronic devices. When this is necessary, students are required to stay on task and only visit sites or open apps that are needed at the time. Any student caught using technology in an inappropriate manner or at an inappropriate time will risk losing their participation point for the day. *Absolutely no photos, videos, or unauthorized recording of classroom activities are allowed and taking them will incur serious consequences.*

Please note: any policy or grading criteria listed here in this outline may be subject to change as the year progresses.

Norwalk High School Chamber Singers

Initial each statement below:

_____ I have read the above course outline and agree to all of its terms. I am aware of the grading practices, classroom expectations, the attendance policy, and the concert attire. *I am also aware that I am required to attend performances that may not be listed here.*

_____ I understand that I am required to attend all scheduled after school and weekend rehearsals and performances (including the Candlelight dress rehearsal on **Sunday, December 12th from 1:00-5:00**) and that if I do not, I will receive a "0" for my grade.*

_____ I understand that my rehearsal and performance commitments extend to *Graduation*. Internships, college courses, and other spring events/activities do not excuse a student from their Chamber Singers obligations. Absences will affect final grades.

_____ I understand that I must wear the appropriate attire for my ensemble for each performance and that, if I do not, my grade will be lowered significantly. It is also my responsibility to return any department issues wardrobe clean and in its plastic dry cleaning bag.

_____ I also understand the classroom policy regarding technology use.

Student's Name

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

* There are very few exceptions (e.g. illness, death in the family). In the event of such a scenario, a parent/guardian phone call (NOT an email) will be necessary and, in the case of illness, a doctor's note. Another extra-curricular or family event (sports, dance, vacation, etc.) is NOT an acceptable excuse.