

Niceville Senior High School

Niceville, Florida



Choral Music Department

Camerata * Bel Canto * Select Women

Opus One * Niceville Singers * Jazz Girlz * Barbershop Boys

2026-2027 Chorus Handbook

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Dear Chorus Members, Parents, Friends and Boosters,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to a new school year. I am glad that you are a member of our chorus family. The choral program at Niceville High School has enjoyed a vast amount of success, which is a result of hard work, dedication, and discipline. Everyone involved with the choral program at NHS enjoys both the honor and the responsibility of continuing this tradition.

My goal is to teach students vocal techniques they can use for a lifetime, and to make them independent musicians who have a solid grasp of music literacy and theory. While our academic focus is important, it is the life skills that students learn ‘behind the scenes’ that make choral music participation truly worthwhile. The “team” aspect of being involved in a chorus teaches students skills that will serve them well in any future endeavor.

The **expectations** for singers in our program are high. Concerts and assessments are mandatory, and constitute a major portion of each student’s grade in this performing arts course. In the event of a legitimate conflict, there are procedures outlined in the handbook for requesting an absence. Please read the handbook carefully and become familiar with these important policies.

Music is an academic subject, and regular assessment is a key part of rehearsals. I believe in a growth mindset, that musical ability is not fixed, and can be improved through disciplined study and practice. Chorus students are gaining skills, both musical and non-musical, that they will be able to use throughout their lifetime.

There are **financial obligations** that are required as a member of the chorus. Each student is required to pay a \$50 fair share fee per semester. For the fall, this fee is due Friday, September 4. This fee is used for supplies, music, equipment, transportation, and more. Each student is also required to purchase a chorus spirit shirt and uniform.

The **forms packet** contains the chorus contract, as well as other forms needed for chorus travel throughout the year. This packet is also due September 4. The forms do require notarization. Forms can be notarized in the NHS front office, and we will have notaries available at the back to school concert.

Parents, your help and support are invaluable to the success of the choral program. Any large chorus event is dependent on a team of volunteers to make it successful. I look forward to getting to meet each of you and having the opportunity to teach your child. Please feel free to communicate with me at any time. The fastest and easiest way to reach me is through email. I am looking forward to a great year of music making.

My Best,
Catherine Feazell, Choral Director

Hello NHS Chorus Families,

My name is Brian Barker and I have the privilege of serving as the Chorus Booster Club President for the 2026-27 school year. My wife, Mary Beth, and I are both thrilled to be part of the NHS Chorus Family for the past three years, where we have chaperoned numerous trips including local, regional, and state events. We are the proud parents of Jack, who will be entering his senior year at NHS, and is very excited about being part of the chorus program again this year. Whether you are a veteran of this program or this is your first year, please receive our warmest welcome on behalf of the Booster Club membership!

Your student has truly joined the best of the best choral music program in the State of Florida. This level of success is directly traced to three instrumental factors: 1) our esteemed Director, Mrs. Catherine Feazell, 2) the unwavering, rock-solid support from Niceville High School's administration; and 3) the tremendous generosity and support of family members, friends, sponsors, and the broader Niceville community.

This is Catherine Feazell's seventh year as our chorus director, and as a NHS and Opus One alum she understands the standard of excellence that we have in this program. For the last three years, we continued to observe the tremendous legacy of success Ms. Feazell is building as the NHS Chorus had the largest number of All-State students out of any public high school in the state of Florida! Your students will have the opportunity to share their talent all throughout the community this year. Opus One, Niceville Singers, Barbershop Boys, and Jazz Girlz will continue their wonderful tradition of performing all across the Emerald Coast, and as far away as New York City!

Mrs. Feazell pours her full heart into this program but she cannot bear the weight alone. It takes a village. The *FREE* Booster Club exists to serve and support her and ensure all of the students have everything they need to perform at their best. From chaperoning events and out of town trips, to serving as a Booster Club officer, to fundraising throughout our community, we could use your help. We would love to invite you to join us for the Booster Club meeting. This is such a great way to serve and be on the frontlines of this remarkable chorus program.

The 2026-27 NHS Chorus Booster Meeting Dates and Times are as follows:

Monday, September 14

Monday, October 19

Monday, November 16

Monday, January 25

Monday, April 12

Additionally, you will receive a sponsorship letter and we encourage you to help us raise money for our chorus program throughout this generous community. I have been humbled by how much money it takes to run an elite chorus program.

Please mark **Monday August 31** on your calendar for our popular Back-to-School Concert. We look forward to meeting everyone. Please do not hesitate to give me a call with any questions you may have about how you can serve in the Booster Club. My number is **703-628-7931**. We are so excited about this school year and all of the wonderful music our students are going to produce.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Barker

NHS Chorus Booster President

Chorus Communication

Email

Email is the main form of chorus communication. All parents and students fill out an online information form at the beginning of the year, which collects email addresses for our mailing list.

Remind

The director uses Remind texts for courtesy reminders of events and deadlines. Chorus members and parents are encouraged to sign up for Remind texts. You will go to the “Messages” section of your cell phone, and send the applicable class code seen below to **81010**.

Chorus parents:	@2526eagles
Camerata (2nd period):	@98ae7k
Bel Canto (3rd period):	@e46kbbk
Select Women (4th period):	@nhselect2
Jazz Girlz (5th period):	@jazzgrlz23
Barbershop Boys (5th period):	@barberboy2
Opus One (6th period):	@opusaud
Singers (8th period):	@nicesing25

Social Media

Facebook:	Niceville High School Chorus
X:	@chorus_nhs
Instagram:	@nicevillechorus
Youtube:	Niceville High School Chorus

Chorus Room Expectations

1. Be Respectful

- Treat others with courtesy and kindness at all times.
- Show interest in your fellow singers. One person alone does not make a chorus.
- Refrain from disruptive talking and all gum chewing during rehearsal.
- Discipline yourself so others don't have to discipline you.

2. Be Positive

- If you think you can, you can. If you think you can't, you can't.
- Leave your troubles at the door. Nothing productive can be done to solve personal problems during rehearsal.
- Your attitude affects the success of the entire ensemble.

3. Be Prepared

- Have your folder and pencil in hand and be in your spot when the bell rings.

4. Be a Team Player

- Be eager and willing to learn.
- Strive to make each rehearsal better than the last.
- Realize your actions affect other members of the chorus.

Rehearsal Guidelines

Our class is unique in the sense that the success of the group is dependent on each individual person. It takes everyone working together to make rehearsal the enjoyable environment it is capable of being. The guidelines below will guide in an understanding of the behaviors necessary for a productive rehearsal environment.

1. Singers are expected to treat the conductor/teacher and each other with utmost respect. Singing is a very personal and often vulnerable activity. Be supportive of your fellow singers. You are working with them, not against them.
2. Singers are expected to remain actively engaged in the rehearsal at all times. There is always room for improvement in individual performance. Hard work is expected. It is not optional. If the conductor is not working with your part, it is still your responsibility to be following along with your score.
3. Class starts with the bell. The school's tardy policy will be enforced at all times. It is the student's responsibility to have music in rehearsal order before the bell rings. Bookbags and cell phones are not allowed in the chorus room. Since music is an academic subject, students may not miss class to do makeup work for another subject.
4. Students are responsible for any information they may have missed following an absence.
5. With the exception of extreme emergencies, students are expected to remain in rehearsal the entire period. Students will not be permitted to leave the classroom for personal issues. Students are encouraged to keep a bottle of water with them during class.
6. Gum and food are strictly prohibited during rehearsal.
7. Silence is an absolute necessity during rehearsals. The better we hear, and the more we hear, the better we sing. The director will not hesitate to dismiss students from rehearsal if their talking causes a disruption.
8. Mark all musical directives in your score with a pencil. Professionals mark their scores. Amateurs say they will remember, and later forget.
9. Speak well of the group, and the group will speak well of you. This includes comments both verbalized and written (ie – social media).
10. Keep an open mind about all musical selections. Each piece was selected for a reason, and is part of a larger plan to help you grow as a singer and a musician. Commit to fully learning a piece of music before passing judgment. Remember, *entertainment* is meant to be easily accessible and instantly gratifying. *Art* is designed to have greater substance and to become more meaningful through study and exposure.

Niceville High School Choral Music Department

General Rules, Regulations, and Policies

1 - General Chorus Membership Policies

- a. Every student, and one of their parents/guardians, must sign and return a chorus contract to be in any NHS chorus.
- b. Every chorus student must sing in one of the following “primary” choirs: Camerata, Select Women, or Bel Canto. Students may only sing in the primary group designed for them.
 - i. Camerata meets 2nd period and is for tenor/bass voices in grades 9-12, as well as unchanged male voices. The juniors and seniors in Camerata are awarded a weighted-credit grade.
 - ii. Bel Canto meets 3rd period and is for soprano/alto voices in grades 9 and 10. Sopranos/altos in grades 11 or 12 may participate if their schedule does not allow them to enroll in Select Women.
 - iii. Select Women meets 4th period and is for soprano/alto voices in grades 11 or 12. The juniors and seniors in Select Women are awarded a weighted-credit grade.
- c. A student must be a member of one of the choral program’s “primary” choruses to audition for Opus One, the Niceville Singers, Jazz Girlz, or Barbershop Boys. Any student who drops their primary class will also be dropped from these advanced ensembles.
 - i. Opus One meets 6th period, and membership is limited to 10th-12th grade students.
 - ii. Any student is eligible for membership in Singers, Jazz Girlz, or Barbershop Boys, as long as they are also a member of a primary chorus. An audition is required.
 - iii. Members auditioning for these groups should be aware that they may be asked to perform during the school day, after school, at night, weekends, and sometimes, during holidays and the summer.
 - iv. Niceville Singers is a chorus that meets each day during 8th period from 1:55-2:45 PM, Monday through Thursday. The ensemble may rehearse until 3:00 or on Fridays, with advance notice from the director.

2 - Policies for School Day Attendance

- a. Chorus membership requires that students attend all of their classes except when ill, on school leave, in cases of emergency, or when pre-excused by the school or the Director.
- b. Students who miss more than **fifteen times in any class**, per semester, except for school leave, can be required to pass a comprehensive theory and vocal examination and will not be allowed to make any trips with the chorus unless granted special permission by the director and the principal.
- c. There is no substitute for face to face instruction. Families are very strongly discouraged from taking family vacations during school time. Opportunities or ensemble membership may be forfeited if attendance is an issue. Student attendance is a factor in ensemble placement as well as in determining solos and other special opportunities.
- d. Students will be considered tardy for class unless they are in the chorus room when the tardy bell rings. Passes to class will only be accepted from teachers or from the administrative office. The director will not write passes for students to another class who are tardy because of their own negligence.
- e. Since music is an academic subject, students may not miss class to do makeup work for another subject.

3 - Policies for After School Rehearsal

- a. Students may be expected to attend after school rehearsals throughout the school year, especially prior to the Holiday Concert and District MPA. These rehearsals will be announced with at least two weeks notice.

- b. School sponsored performances or games take precedence over after-school chorus rehearsals. The student is required to communicate the conflict to the director two weeks **before** the rehearsal for it to qualify as excused.
- c. Personal, church, or community-organized, and any other non-school related activities that conflict with a chorus activity will be considered secondary to the obligation of the student to the Chorus, and will not be excused.
- d. **Only the director can excuse a student from rehearsal. Students and parents are responsible for all dates published on the chorus calendar. Absences or tardies must be pre-excused by the director PRIOR to the event.**
 - i. An unexcused rehearsal absence will result in a grade of “0.”
 - ii. To request an absence in advance, a student must submit an Absence Request Form, a document that can be found on the chorus website or outside the chorus office, with a minimum of two weeks notice.
 - iii. Absences resulting from illness or family emergency must be communicated to the Director by a parent in writing BEFORE the event occurs. The director will determine the validity of the absence on a case by case basis.

4 - Policies for Attendance at Concerts, Performances, and Chorus Retreats

- a. All performances are mandatory. ANY performance absence must be communicated to the director via email prior to the call time of the performance. Guidelines for excused absences are listed below, and all other absences are unexcused. It is the responsibility of each student and parent to be aware of the dates published on the online chorus calendar, which is the “official” chorus calendar. The Niceville Choral Music Department typically presents the following required events: a back-to-school concert, a holiday concert, district and state music performance assessments, and a spring concert. Other required concerts may be added to the online calendar with two weeks advance notice. There may be additional opportunities for performance involving domestic or international travel. These trips are not required, but are highly encouraged.
- b. Opus One, Jazz Girlz, Barbershop Boys, and Niceville Singers will have additional performance opportunities that are a requirement of these ensembles. Every effort will be made to give students and parents two-week's notice of a performance, but this may not always be possible.
- c. When a performance and an NHS school activity (such as a game) occur at the same time, the student can make a choice of the activity in which he/she wants to participate as long as the student/family decision aligns with OCSD policy and chorus rules regarding conflicting events.
- d. **Only the director can excuse a student from performing. Students and parents are responsible for all dates published on the online calendar. Absences or tardies must be pre-excused by the director PRIOR to the event.**
 - i. Excused absences include student illness, death of a family member, or pre-excused conflict with a school-related activity. Excused absences (other than illness) must be communicated to the director by a parent two weeks prior to the start of the event, and can be made up for full credit.
 - ii. All other absences are considered unexcused. Unexcused absences may be made up for partial credit only, at the discretion of the director. For students in an auditioned ensemble, an unexcused absence from a performance is grounds for dismissal from an auditioned ensemble.
 - iii. Family travel, college visits, and transportation issues do not constitute excused performance absences. In the event of an extenuating circumstance, students may submit an Absence Request Form for consideration. A minimum two week notice is required.

- iv. Absences resulting from school suspension or expulsion are unexcused and the student will receive a “0” for any assessments given during the time of absence.

5 - Grading Policies - *Please refer to grading rubrics at end of handbook

- a. Grades can be seen online at any time. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to check their grades, in each of their classes, on a regular basis.
- b. If an absence is unexcused, students may not make up any work missed during the absence.
- c. Chorus grades are based on knowledge of chorus skills and techniques, based on the Florida B.E.S.T. standards - Choral Music 9-12.
- d. It is possible and practical to assess a student in a group setting. Specific portions of music may be designated for assessment.
- e. If a skills grade from an ensemble setting is disputed by a student or parent, a request may be made by a parent for an individual evaluation of that assignment.
- f. The following categories and percentages will be used when determining student grades:
 - i. 20% - Performances
 - 1. Concerts, MPAs, or any event where the student demonstrates public knowledge of repertoire.
 - ii. 10% - Singing Evaluation
 - 1. In class evaluations - please see rubric at end of handbook
 - iii. 40% - Daily Rehearsal Participation
 - 1. In class evaluation - please see rubric at end of handbook
 - 2. Any student who is absent from rehearsal will lose their daily participation grade. They may makeup this daily grade by filling out a rehearsal makeup form, which can be found on the chorus website or outside the chorus room office.
 - iv. 20% - Sightreading Factory
 - 1. Weekly assignment based on practice time
 - v. 10% - Quizzes and Homework Assignments
 - 1. Periodically the director will give quizzes or tests, typically to assess written theory knowledge covered in class.

6 - Policies regarding Uniforms and Grooming for Performers

- a. All chorus members are required to purchase a chorus shirt and a formal uniform. Members of Opus One, Jazz Girlz, and Barbershop Boys are also required to purchase an informal performance uniform. Additional “spirit attire” items may be available for purchase throughout the year; these are optional.
- b. No member of the chorus may participate in any chorus activity unless they wear the clothing that the Director has designated for the event. Failure to wear the proper uniform, or failure to abide by the grooming standards listed below, will cause the singer to be ineligible to perform with the ensemble, resulting in a “0” for that concert and possible dismissal from the Chorus. The director may designate a chaperone to enforce the grooming and uniform standards listed below.
- c. The following uniform and grooming standards apply to all singers:
 - i. Students and their families are responsible for the care and cleaning of the chorus uniform. Uniforms (both formal and informal) should be kept free from odor, lint, stains, wrinkles, or unauthorized alterations, and should be the appropriate size/fit for the singer.
 - ii. The student/family is solely responsible for any uniform (or parts of a uniform), including any informal uniforms, when they are dropped off in the front office, left hanging in the chorus room/lobby, loaned to another student, abandoned in restrooms, or when handled in any other irresponsible way.

- iii. Any visible tattoos must be covered so they are inconspicuous (as determined by the Director or her designee).
- iv. Tongue, lip, and nose bolts/studs/rings impede proper vocal techniques and tone production, and are considered non-complying parts of the uniform. Piercings that impede vocal production are also not allowed in rehearsal.
- v. Bracelets, necklaces, and watches are not allowed to be worn with the uniform. A single stud of a neutral color is allowed in the ear. Rings are allowed, so long as the size/number does not prove to be a distraction from the uniform. This is at the discretion of the director or uniform chair.
- vi. Fingernail polish should be natural, as determined at the discretion of the director or uniform chair.
- vii. Students must remain in uniform the entire time they are at a performance venue. This includes men keeping all parts of their tuxedo on, and girls keeping their hair up.
- d. The following uniform and grooming standards apply to the chorus dress:
 - i. Students must wear the designated black concert dress. It should be hemmed to the floor.
 - ii. Jet-black sheer panty hose or jet-black sheer knee-high hose are required to be worn with the formal dress. Socks may not be worn.
 - iii. Flat black ballet shoes are required.
 - iv. Hair must be worn up, on the crown of the head; all hair must be completely off the face, neck, and ears. Hair color must not be unnatural, as determined at the discretion of the director.
 - v. Lipstick and makeup are part of the uniform, just as these are parts of an actor's or dancer's performance costume. Red lipstick, of a shade approved by the Director or her designee, is required. The student is responsible for keeping the lipstick fresh for the duration of the performance event.
- e. The following uniform and grooming standards apply to the chorus tuxedo:
 - i. Students must wear a standard black tuxedo coat and pant that is purchased by the chorus, or that exactly matches the one the chorus purchases. White, long-sleeved, wing-tipped collared tuxedo shirts with back studs (that replace the white button that are standard to most shirts) will be the only shirt allowed to be worn. A solid-white crewneck tee shirt should be worn under the tuxedo shirt.
 - ii. Solid black, calf-length socks are required to be worn with the chorus tuxedo.
 - iii. Black leather, lace up dress shoes are required to be worn with the chorus tuxedo.
 - iv. Hair should be kept neat and facial hair should be trimmed. All hair must be completely off the face, neck, and ears. Hair color must not be unnatural, as determined at the discretion of the director.

7 - Audition Policies for Choruses, Solos, and Special Opportunities

- a. The goal of the audition process is to place each singer in the chorus that will best allow them to grow as a musician. Placement in a chorus is determined by equal consideration of both musical as well as non-musical attributes. Areas evaluated include, but are not limited to, the following: Vocal technique, vocal tone, aural skills, music reading ability, responsibility, attitude, attendance, behavior, and academic performance. The director uses a rubric to evaluate each candidate. These score sheets are confidential and are destroyed following auditions.
- b. Only the director will assign students to a chorus, ensemble, or to a solo. All students will receive audition information in the spring. The audition process will typically consist of sight-reading, as well as performing a familiar song such as "America." Students should be prepared to sing both alone and in small groups as part of the audition process.
- c. Voice placement, or the vocal part to be sung by any student in a choir or ensemble, will be assigned by the director as she deems necessary to vocally balance the group's vocal parts.

- d. Upper level groups (i.e. Opus One, Jazz Girlz, and Barbershop Boys) will often require a call back audition to determine final membership.
- e. The director reserves the right to assign solos, small group opportunities, and speaking roles to students without an audition. The director may elect to use professionals or individuals not members of the chorus to enhance the performances or student learning.
- f. No student, parent, voice teacher, or other individual shall attempt to influence or bring undue pressure during any part of the selection process.

8 - Financial Obligations for all Chorus Members

- a. All chorus members are required to purchase a formal uniform and spirit shirt, as outlined in the “Uniform” section of the handbook.
- b. Chorus is an elective with expenses funded by its members. Each chorus student will be assessed a required \$50.00 per semester Fair Share fee for consumable supplies and/or services.
- c. No student may participate in any activity of the chorus who has not paid their Fair Share fees.
- d. **Students are expected to pay their chorus fees on time. If an emergency prevents a student from paying a fee on time, the student’s parent should contact the director to request an extension, prior to the payment deadline. Scholarships are available for any student with financial difficulties.**
- e. All debts must be paid before a student can travel with the chorus to activities such as all-county, all-state, or any overnight trip.
- f. Any existing debt not settled by the end of the year will be reported to the high school for collection.
- g. Fair Share goes to consumables such as music, supplies, equipment, event fees, buses, and more.
- h. Expenses associated with chorus membership are estimated each year by the Choral Director and the Executive Committee of the Chorus Boosters Association in the form of a budget. This budget includes estimated costs of music, travel, MPA assessments, hiring of instrumentalists, and other expenses involved in educating each chorus student. This budget is presented at the September Chorus Booster Association (CBA) meeting each year, is available upon written request.
- i. The following are examples of some of the expenses a student may incur as a chorus member:
 - i. Fair Share - \$50 per semester
 - ii. Formal Uniform - Dress (\$115 - estimated), Tuxedo (\$125 - estimated, plus alteration fees, if needed)
 - iii. Chorus t-shirt (“spirit shirt”) - Short sleeve (approx \$15) or Long sleeve (approx \$20)
 - iv. Opus Colors Uniform - \$75 (approx)
 - v. Jazz Girlz black performance uniform - \$50
 - vi. All-State/All-County Music Packet - \$25 (if not returned intact)
 - vii. All-State Reading Chorus Packet - \$55 (if not returned in its entirety)
 - viii. All-County Participation Fee - \$40 (includes transportation)
 - ix. All-State Trip to Tampa - approx \$500-\$550 plus food and personal expenses
 - x. Yearly trip - Varies

9 - Chorus Room Management Policies

- a. Book bags and other personal belongings may not be brought into the chorus room during rehearsal times. They should be left in the chorus lobby.
- b. Cell phones are not allowed in the chorus room. If a cell phone is seen or heard in the chorus room, it will be taken and turned in to administration. No other electronic devices (iPods, MP3 players, laptops, etc.) are allowed in the chorus room without director approval.
- c. Cell phones may be left in the lobby. It is advised that they be placed in a bookbag or hidden from sight.
- d. No drinks, except water, are allowed in the chorus room.

- e. Students should not touch chorus property (computers, sound system, pianos, keyboard) without permission.
- f. Chewing gum is not allowed in the chorus room.
- g. Students are required to have music and a pencil in rehearsal at all times.

10 - Payment Policies for Chorus Trips and International Tours

- a. Deposit payments for any chorus trip are non-refundable. This travel policy is in place to protect other people committed to the tour or trip from losing money or having to pay more funds to make a trip. Trip planning and pricing on everything from buses to rooms is based on the number of participants who pay a deposit for an event.
- b. Subsequent trip/tour payments, once made, are also nonrefundable, except in special instances determined on an individual basis solely by the Director. The chorus cannot afford to lose funds because individual families or students withdraw from their commitment.
- c. Failure to make payments when they are due gives cause for the chorus to forfeit your place on a tour/trip and loss of all funds paid to date for the trip/activity.
 - i. The Director will consider a payment “grace period” of three days before a student’s/chaperone’s trip is cancelled, but will work with families for a one-time extended payment schedule when a parent communicates with him/her before the scheduled payment is to be made.

11 - Solo and Ensemble Performance Opportunities and Responsibilities

- a. **All Opus One members are required to sing a solo at the solo and ensemble event, and members of Jazz Girlz and Barbershop Boys will perform as an ensemble.**
- b. Entry costs for solos or ensembles at the district level will be covered by “Fair Share” fees. Students may be asked to pay solo entry fees at the state level.
 - i. Students withdrawing from the event will be charged the cost of the time slot vacated for which an adjudicator has been contracted.
- c. While music to be performed may be selected by the student or his/her voice teacher, all songs must be approved by the director.
 - i. Music to be performed must be presented for review and submission by the deadline set by the director.
- d. To assess their readiness to perform for an adjudicator, soloists and ensembles may be required to perform for the director before the event and can be disqualified, and required to pay for the vacated time slot, if determined to be unprepared for any reason.
- e. Soloists and/or ensemble members are responsible for obtaining and paying a pianist to play for their solo and/or ensemble, a cost not covered by “Fair Share” fees.
- f. Any soloist desiring to perform at a Solo and Ensemble event is recommended to have consistently and successfully studied with a director-approved voice teacher for at least one semester.

12 - Policies regarding The Okaloosa County All-County Chorus

- a. Members of Niceville Singers are expected to participate in All-County. Any deviations from this policy must be approved by the director.
- b. Students who desire to sing in the All-County Chorus are required to perform all music determined for performance by the county’s directors.
 - i. Any student, or whose parents/guardians, who cannot agree to this musical literature stipulation, or to the attendance policies to sing in this purely elective event, should not sign up to be considered for membership.

1. If a student quits the honor chorus once registered and paid for to sing in the choir for any reason whatsoever, that student will not be given a refund for the registration fee and in the case where they have yet to pay the participation fee, the student will be assessed for the charge to the NHS chorus. Students who withdraw may also be barred from participating in an honor choir in future years.
- c. **Student participants will be assessed \$40.00 each** (due by the first All-County rehearsal) by the All-County Honor Chorus to defray his/her expenses for music, participation, and transportation.
- d. **Students will be allowed no absences from any all-county Monday evening or clinic day rehearsals.**
 - i. The Director, the all-county chorus coordinator, and the other senior high all-county directors will make decisions regarding what will be considered “emergency absences.”
 1. Only one “emergency absence” for an illness will be allowed, and then only under the circumstances described by all-county guidelines.
 - ii. Students must attend all parts of the rehearsals with the all-county clinician, including a Sunday afternoon rehearsal (1:30 PM-4:30 PM) and the entire rehearsal on “all-county Monday” (8:00 AM-2:15 PM).
 1. Failure to attend a clinic rehearsal, for any reason, will result in elimination from the all-county chorus and its performances.
 - iii. Students who quit, or are disqualified from all-county chorus due to unexcused absences or disciplinary reasons, will be unable to participate in any future all-county honor chorus opportunities, of any type, while at NHS unless approved to do so by the director.
- e. All-County students from Niceville H.S. must wear their chorus spirit shirt to every all-county rehearsal.

13 - The Florida Vocal Association’s All-State Chorus

- a. A student who wants to audition for the all-state chorus must first be a member of the all-county chorus during the same school year. Any exceptions must be approved by the director.
- b. Preparations for auditions begin in August and will last until October. Appropriate instruction opportunities will be held during class and after school to prepare students for the test. Because music learning links will be made available to students qualified for the Vocal Quality Audition, those singers will be primarily responsible for using those on-line links to learn the music on their own. The director is solely responsible for choosing the most qualified students to audition for all-state.
 - i. Each school may audition up to 12 soprano/alto singers, and an unlimited number of tenor/bass singers. The 12 soprano/alto slots will be selected by the director, taking into account data from musicianship, sightreading, and, if necessary, vocal quality testing at the school level.
 - ii. The top 100 sight-readers in the state will automatically qualify for the state Reading Chorus and do not have to compete for a seat in the Concert, SSAA, or TTBB Chorus.
 - iii. After passing the Musicianship Exam, a student must pass the Sight-Reading Exam to qualify to record a Vocal Quality Exam (VQ test). All three tests must be passed to be eligible for All-State.
 - iv. Not every student who passes all three exams is guaranteed or can expect a seat in an all-state chorus. The state’s top composite scorers, as well as representative singers from Florida’s schools, are seated first.
 - v. All-state seats are based on musicianship test scores, sight-reading scores, vocal quality scores and the knowledge of the all-state music. Students who score less than 80% on the musicianship exam and/or read less than 20 measures on the sight-reading exam, will only audition on the Men’s Chorus or Women’s Chorus music, respectively. Students must score at least 70% on the musicianship exam and read at least 10 measures on the sight-reading exam to be eligible for all-state consideration. A low passing score on any test is very detrimental to a student’s chance to earn an all-state seat, even when a student passes all three exams.

- c. **Any Niceville chorus student selected to audition for the all-state chorus is required to participate in the all-state clinic as an all-state chorus member if selected by the FVA to do so.** Failure to do so will forfeit all future opportunities for all-state chorus participation while enrolled at NHS and negatively impact the Director's recommendation for any college recommendation the student might request. There will be severe repercussions, including possible removal from Opus One, Niceville Singers, Jazz Girlz, or Barbershop Boys, if a student fails to follow through with their obligation to sing in an all-state chorus if they are chosen to do so.
- d. **While a student may also audition for all-state band or orchestra, once they have agreed to audition for the all-state chorus, they are committed to sing if they make an all-state chorus.**
- e. Students selected for the all-state chorus are required to pay for their own meals and provide spending money for FMEA convention in Tampa in January. Each student will be assessed between \$500.00-\$550.00 to help pay for all-state registration, transportation, and hotel. "Fair Share" fees are not applied to all-state costs. (The actual cost per all-state chorus student is more than \$600.00 per student).
- f. A student may opt out of the All-State Reading Chorus only if they have participated in the Reading Chorus at least one year. The request to opt out must be made before Labor Day weekend.

14 - Fundraisers and Student Monies

Opportunities for students to raise money for chorus activities will be provided throughout the year by the Boosters, when parent-sponsors are available to organize, run, and account for them under the auspices of the chorus.

- a. All monies will be deposited with the high school bookkeeper and placed into the high school's internal chorus account.
- b. Any money earned in the name of the chorus becomes property of the chorus. No money raised in the name of the chorus is allowed to be refunded to any student.
- c. No money may be transferred to any other chorus student.

15 - School Leave

A "School Leave Form" is a document required by the school board for every student who misses school for school business.

When a student is on school leave, the days missed do not count against them. They are excused from all the classes that they miss for as long as they are on school leave. Students are required to make up work that they miss in the time allowed by the high school to make up work for any excused absence. To maintain good relationships with their teachers, students should, however, make up the work they missed while on school leave as soon as possible.

- a. Parents will be required to complete a "blanket" school leave form for their student, and must have that form legally notarized by the deadline published on the chorus calendar, a time when receipt of all student paperwork necessary for chorus membership is due.
- b. This leave form will reflect the activity published on the official chorus calendar found on the chorus website.
- c. No student may participate in any off-campus activity without a parent-signed and legally notarized School Leave Form.
- d. **Before a student misses any class for a chorus activity, they are expected to ask their teacher what assignments will be missed. It is the responsibility of the student to make-up the work in a timely manner, as determined by the teacher issuing the work.**

16 - Academic Responsibility - State GPA Legal Requirements - Participation Penalties Levied by Parents in Context with Chorus Policy

Participation in an MPA event no longer requires a 2.0 GPA as student participation is directly tied to the same type state curriculum requirements as the other curriculum/academic classes at our school.

- a. To be academically eligible to participate in all-state, unlike MPA, a student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- b. Freshman students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher to be eligible for any all-state during the second semester. All students in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades may choose to use their overall cumulative GPA since entering the 9th grade, or their last semester GPA, whichever is highest, for all-state participation.
- c. Any sophomore or freshman who has not earned a 2.0 unweighted GPA may sign a FSMA contract for all-state and turn the contract in to their director so they can participate in what the Florida Legislature describes as “extracurricular activity” participation. In signing the FSMA contract, the student promises to work to raise and maintain their GPA to or above 2.0. A student may participate under an FSMA contract in all-state for only one semester if they do not achieve a 2.0 or better GPA.

17 - Music Costs

Students will be issued a large amount of expensive sheet music throughout the school year.

- a. “Fair Share” chorus fees (\$50/semester) help pay for classroom music that the OCSD does not. When district money is not available, the chorus must pay for 100% of all music costs and those costs must be passed on to members of the elective course.
 - i. Students may choose to participate in extra chorus activities during the school year that may incur extra expenses for them (i.e. All-County/All-State).
- b. All-State/All-County music must be paid for if it is not turned back in by the date set by the director, usually the week after the all-county clinic or the all-state convention.
- c. All-State Reading Chorus packets do not belong to its members, but may be purchased by Reading Chorus members at the discretion of the director.

18 - Chorus Travel

Chorus students participate in events that may require them to spend the night(s) away from home, often several times during the school year. These overnight trips require the following of the student and his/her parent(s):

- a. The student must have a notarized school-leave/medical form on file with the chorus.
- b. The student must pay the designated amount of money to cover his/her part of the expenses for the trip before the trip begins.
- c. The student and his/her parents must agree to abide by the rules and regulations associated with travel published in this handbook.
- d. The student and his/her parents agree by signing the school leave/trip permission form to accept the consequences pertaining to the breaking of any rules and/or regulation to travel with the NHS chorus.
- e. The director may require the student and his/her parent(s) legal guardian(s) to attend an orientation meeting before an overnight chorus trip.
- f. The director reserves the right to not allow a student to participate in an overnight trip if they are not maintaining grades in their academic classes or if they have received STP or suspension during the school year.

19 - Concert Ticket Sales Policies

Selling tickets for chorus concerts is a vital revenue generating activity of the chorus. Singers are encouraged to sell as many tickets as they can for concerts.

- a. Each year the choral director and the Executive Board of the Niceville Chorus Boosters set the price of concert tickets based on the projected costs associated with the concert and the need for funds to run the chorus program.

- i. Ticket prices for children and senior adults are the same as for everyone else; there is no discounted ticket pricing.
 - ii. People who donate money to the chorus often receive complimentary tickets, as do businesses and individuals who contribute goods or services and dignitaries in the community who support the chorus program.
- b. Based on when or where a ticket is purchased for a concert, it is possible that some tickets for the same concert will be priced differently from others.
 - i. Tickets that are sold at the door or box office are often costlier than those that are pre-sold.
 - ii. Reserved seating tickets are frequently costlier than general admission seating.
- c. The NHS Chorus does not share ticket profits with students. All money is used to support the operation of the chorus.

20 - How the Use of Illegal Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and/or Vaping Affects Chorus Membership

- a. The use of illegal drugs, consumption of alcohol, and use of tobacco products by minors is against the law. It is not allowed and is punishable as defined by school policy. It is grounds for dismissal from the choral music program. It is not only highly detrimental to the student, but also reflects poorly on the choral music department.
- b. If a student uses illegal substances while on a chorus trip, his/her parents will be called; he/she will be removed from contact with other students, and returned home as soon as reasonably possible at his/her parents' expense. The student will be referred to administration for further discipline.

21 - Policies for Chorus Photos

- a. Every chorus student is required to take an individual photo on the day designated "chorus photo day." The framed composite picture will be displayed in the chorus room. Students will have the option to purchase photos.
- b. Students will wear their formal black concert uniforms for the photo.

22 - Social Media Policies

- a. Chorus members have the responsibility to portray themselves, the chorus, and the school in a positive light. Students should refrain from posting any material on social media that is inappropriate, harassing, demeaning, threatening or offensive. The director has the ability to restrict chorus member privileges or remove a student from the program on the first inappropriate action. Students should be aware these social media rules apply even if their account is set to private. Cyber bullying will also not be tolerated.

23 - Chorus Trip/Tour/MPA Policies and Rules

When traveling off campus, student safety is the highest priority. All parents and students should be aware of the following procedures, as well as consequences for breaking them, before participating in off campus activities.

General Trip Policies:

- a. All policies of OCSD, Niceville High School, and the Chorus pertaining to the behavior of students on a school-sponsored activity, will be enforced.
- b. Students are expected to stay with the group and follow the trip schedule at all times. This includes staying in the same hotel as the rest of the group, and utilizing the same transportation as the rest of the group.
- c. **Follow all instructions** of the bus drivers, chaperones, or other adults who are a designated part of the trip. Follow these instructions immediately without argument. *Any supervising adult associated with the trip may give instructions to any student on the chorus trip in order to maintain discipline or protect students.*
- d. The use or possession of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, vaping or alcohol, or **knowingly associating** with person who are using or possessing illegal drugs, vaping, or alcohol while on the chorus trip is unlawful and disqualifies a student from further trip participation. *If use or possession of illegal substances takes place in the presence of a Niceville chorus student, it is that student's responsibility to **report the use or possession** of the illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol immediately to a chaperone or other trip official. All **prescription drugs** must be turned over to the adult designated to keep and distribute these at the start of the trip.*
- e. The use of any **tobacco** product is prohibited at any time on a chorus trip.
- f. Student clothing must meet the regulations and standards as published in the NHS student handbook. Particular rules and exceptions include:
 - i. Girls may wear blouses with *spaghetti-style straps* while in an amusement park, as long as the blouse meets other dress code criteria.
 - ii. *Pajamas* may not be worn outside the student's hotel room at any time, including, but not limited to, in a plane, train, bus, taxi, van or automobile sanctioned for chorus travel, domestic or international.
- g. **Be where you are supposed to be before** you are supposed to be there. You will be considered late if you show up *at* "call-time" with the appropriate consequences applied for holding up the group.
- h. Keep up with your personal belongings.
- i. No NHS chorus chaperone is allowed to keep money for students.
- j. While on the trip it is the student's responsibility to make your chaperone is aware of where you are at all times, no matter when; no matter where.
- k. Use of degrading, profane or "off-color" language can cause loss of trip privileges.
- l. Complaining, pouting, inappropriate displays of anger, or other selfish, immature behavior will have consequences including loss of trip privileges and possibly being sent home at parents' expense.
- m. Stay out of cars, buildings (stores), off streets, or out of hotel rooms where you have no business or permission to be. Never go anywhere outside your room by yourself. Remain in groups of at least three students at all times except as described in "Amusement Park Policies", or when you are: *within sight or sound of your chaperone or, when you are in close proximity (within sight) of the main group or your assigned group and have your chaperone's permission to be there.*
- n. Dangerous or destructive toys or devices are not allowed on trips.
- o. Do not purchase animals, swords, knives (or other weapons) while on the trip. *Do not purchase items that will not fit into your suitcase, items that take up room on the airplane, bus, or van.*
- p. Every student must have a time keeping device.
- q. Students are not allowed to get tattoos or body piercing, and will not cut or color their hair while on the chorus trip.
- r. **Never** go anywhere without permission from your chaperone.
- s. No non-trip, or other unauthorized individual(s) may come to the hotel to visit any student, join a student-member of the trip at an amusement park, or any other location where the chorus goes while it is traveling. *If you are going to have a visitor, you must have told the Director/Lead Chaperone before leaving for the trip.*

- t. Cellular telephones may not be taken into any performance area, or any other place designated as a “no-cell phone/mp3 player area” by the Director/Lead Chaperone.

Bus Policies:

- a. Always stay seated when the bus is in motion to avoid injury to yourself and others.
- b. There is to be no sharing of blankets on the bus.
- c. No sound or music producing device may be used on the bus without earphones, or where others can hear the music. *Offending equipment will be confiscated and returned only when the bus returns to the school.*
- d. Ride only the bus to which you are assigned. *Do not ask to move to another bus.*
- e. Loud talking, singing, and laughing, or any other noise that disturbs others on the bus is inconsiderate to those trying to sleep, study, or talk to others.
- f. Remove all trash that you brought onto the bus each time you get off the bus.
- g. Stay seated until you are told you can leave the bus. *Students will be released from the front of the bus, one row at a time, unless otherwise specified in the itinerary or by a trip official.*
- h. Students who become overly affectionate with each other, including those sharing blankets or other “cover”, will be separated at the discretion of a chaperone.
- i. No coolers are allowed on the bus.
- j. No opened drink cans, coffee cups, energy drinks, or fountain drink containers that could spill their contents if dropped, are allowed on the bus at any time.
- k. No food can be brought onto the bus that should have been consumed in the food court or restaurant. *Pre-packaged snacks are allowed to be eaten on the bus.*

Hotel Policies:

- a. Respect the rights of all other motel guests by remaining quiet in your room and hallways, as well as showing your best manners in hotel dining areas.
- b. Never unlock your room after the designated time for “room lock down” unless directed to do so by a chorus trip adult you know, or until the time designated to leave the room, and only then after calling your chaperone for permission to do so. *Do not unlock your doors for hotel “security” who are not accompanied by an official from the NHS Chorus. Call your chaperone before opening your door for anyone, even someone in a “first-responder” uniform.*
- c. Always dead bolt your door at night and completely close your curtains.
- d. You must be in the bed with the lights out, and the television off, at the designated time for “lights-out”.
- e. No student of the opposite gender is **ever** allowed in any student room.
- f. No person who is not a member of the Niceville chorus group is **ever** allowed in a student’s room and should **never** be on the motel premises without the knowledge of the Lead Chaperone/Director. *As a matter of courtesy, respect, and security, parents should always inform the Director or Lead Chaperone of their presence at the chorus hotel.*
- g. Do not remove towels, pillows, blankets or other hotel property from your room.
- h. Do not order pizza or other delivery items without permission of the Lead Chaperone.
- i. Horseplay or wrestling in the rooms or pool area can cause injury and/or property damage and loss of trip privileges and work detail assignment.
- j. No student will be reassigned to another room at the hotel without the recommendation of the Director, Lead Chaperone, and that student’s chaperone. *Reassignments are rarely, if ever, considered as a resolution for discord.*
- k. For security reasons, keep doors shut and window curtains drawn during shower or dressing times, and doors and windows locked after “lights-out”.
- l. If, in the sole opinion of the Director, a student abuses the privilege to have a room telephone or personal cellphone after “lights-out”, the cellphone will be confiscated and the room telephone turned off.

- m. When it is time to check out, all pillows and bed covers must be placed on the original bed and all dirty towels and wash clothes must be placed in the bathtub.
- n. For safety reasons, the number of people on a hotel elevator must not exceed the number allowed on the certificate posted in the elevator.
- o. When you leave your room, shoes, or other protective footwear must be worn.

Performance Venue Policies:

- a. No cell phones are allowed in any performance venues without the permission of the Director or Lead Chaperone.
- b. Uniforms must be worn in the assigned fashion while in the performance venue, even when you have finished singing.
- c. Do not sleep, lay on seats or pews, or put your head on your friend's shoulder or lap while in a performance venue.
- d. Do not read, talk, write, or play while performances are occurring.
- e. Food and drink are prohibited in all performance venues. *With permission from venue officials, sometimes bottled water is allowed.*
- f. Leave the performance area only with the permission of your chaperone.
- g. Never miss the performance of other Niceville ensembles or another school's performance that falls within your performance block.
- h. Clean up any mess you make; take your trash with you when you leave the venue.
- i. Leave materials on seat backs or in pews alone; straighten books or papers before leaving.
- j. Evaluating the musical performance of each choir at MPA is expected of each student. *At times students will be asked to complete adjudication sheets or take notes about a choir's performance for a grade.*

24 - Consequences for Breaking Chorus Trip Rules

- a. The **use of alcohol or drugs** or vaping will result in a call to the principal and parents. When appropriate, and logistically possible, and as determined by the director and principal, the student can be flown home at the expense of the parents. When deemed appropriate by the director and principal, law enforcement will be called and the student will be removed from any further contact with the other students.
- b. While involved with a Chorus activity, **failure to report at the designated time** (a "call-time") will cause the director to assume that the student is missing and is in danger. Public safety officials will be notified and the principal and the student's parents will also be called. If the student is simply late for "call," he/she can suffer loss of trip privileges and be given chores to do on the trip.
- c. **Use of tobacco** or vaping will result in the confiscation of the product, loss of some trip privileges, chores, and a disciplinary report upon return to school.
- d. Any student who **leaves a room during the night** without permission, who **opens his/her door after "lock-down" time**, will be immediately disqualified from further participation on the trip and will be sent home at the earliest possible time. **Students having knowledge** of another student(s) leaving a hotel room without permission, but who do not report the offense, will receive a disciplinary referral upon return to school.
- e. **Members of the opposite gender** found in the same motel room without permission will result in a disciplinary referral for all students present in the room, loss of trip privileges, and other sanctions deemed appropriate by the Director and Lead Chaperone. In addition, parents of the students involved in the offense will be contacted at the time of the offense.
- f. When at a hotel or other place where students have been accounted for but are **late for a bus report time** or other meeting "call-time"; that student will suffer the specific consequences described in the trip

itinerary as well as any other chores or loss of privileges as determined by the Director/Lead Chaperone to be appropriate.

- g. Students not adhering to any part of the **uniform dress code** will not be allowed to perform; those not conforming to the **school/chorus dress code** will be required to change into the appropriate attire and can lose trip privileges.
- h. **Non-performing students** attending a performance who do not wear the appropriate concert attire, as described before the trip began, will be required to change clothing, can lose privileges on the trip, and may be required to perform work in the chorus room upon returning from the trip - depending the delay is experienced while the student changes clothes.
- i. **Students who are discovered to be alone** at any time will remain with a chaperone until the end of the activity or until a group of students is found that they can join. If found to be alone a second time, the student will remain with **their** chaperone until reaching the bus/room and can lose trip privileges, assigned chores on the trip and upon returning to NHS.
- j. Any student who **enters an unauthorized vehicle or unauthorized building**, leaves a theme park, hotel, rehearsal room, concert hall, campus, or other designated areas without permission while on a trip/tour, will be remanded to the full-time custody of his/her chaperone, parents will be called, and can be returned home at the expense of their parents. They can also be referred to the principal upon return to school.
- k. The first time a student fails to **follow the instructions of a trip adult** can result in a call to parents, loss of privileges, and assigned chores while on the trip/in the chorus room, as well as other disciplinary measures the director deems appropriate for level of offense committed, including a disciplinary referral to the principal upon return to the school.
- l. **Minor infractions** will first be dealt with by a student's chaperone and, if necessary, by the Lead Chaperone and Director. Loss of privileges, assigned chores on the trip and upon return home, detention time at the park, loss of free time, and any other sanctions as deemed appropriate to the offense, will be given the student.
- m. Any **items in a student's possession deemed inappropriate** by the Lead Chaperone will be confiscated. Students who damage or destroy property belonging to others may receive a disciplinary referral upon return to school as well as any other disciplinary action determined appropriate by the Director/Lead Chaperone, including performing work on the trip and back at the school.
- n. **Animals, fireworks, swords, daggers, or other weapons** purchased during a trip without permission of the Lead Chaperone will be confiscated. The student can lose trip privileges, be assigned work details during the trip or upon returning to school, and be sanctioned by the Director/Lead Chaperone as appropriate to the offense.
- o. If a student who has **knowledge of drug or alcohol usage, or vaping**, of other students leaving a room after evening curfew, leaving the hotel or park grounds, entering areas or vehicles forbidden, or any other wrongdoing that could bring harm to or danger to any student, **they will be considered an accessory** and can suffer similar consequences as the person(s) who committed the offense. While on the trip, these students can also be sent home at the expense of their parents. Withholding evidence or information can be dangerous and result in disciplinary action on many levels as determined by the Director/Lead Chaperone, Principal, and the OCSD School Board.
- p. **Chronic complaining or whining** will not be tolerated. It is suggested that students unhappy on the trip call their parents and fly back home at their parent's expense. Parents of continuously complaining children will be called. They can also lose trip privileges, be assigned chores on the trip and upon return to school, be necessary sanctions to alleviate the complaining.
- q. If any **unauthorized person visits a chorus student** at the hotel or after being told **not** to have contact with that/any chorus student(s) during a Chorus trip, local law enforcement may be contacted and an appropriate complaint filed against the unauthorized visitor by the Director. In addition, a disciplinary referral will be filed upon return to school when a Chorus student knowingly associates with any unauthorized visitor(s), as

well as against the unauthorized visitor if he/she is a student in Okaloosa County. An “unauthorized visitor” includes any person who the student is acquainted with before the trip begins, or who the student becomes acquainted with during the trip and is told by a trip official not to visit or socialize with while the trip. Students may socialize with other students they meet on the trip. However, those new “friends” may not come to the hotel to visit. If they are staying at the same hotel as the chorus, they will not be permitted to visit any chorus student. **Parents cannot authorize visitation after the trip has begun.** Prior permission can be requested by filling out the appropriate forms, that must be received by the director at least 10 days before the start of the trip. A chorus member who disregards visitation policies, or who encourages, or fails to discourage any unauthorized visitor from making contact with them, can lose trip privileges and also be referred to the Principal upon return to school.

- r. **Failure to abide by the rules regarding cellphone usage** can result in the temporary or permanent confiscation of the telephone on the first or any subsequent offense(s). The student’s parents/guardians will be called and the phone taken when the Director deems use of the phone has been used sufficiently inappropriately – *which could fall under a wide range of offenses*. The confiscated phone will be returned to the parent upon return to school. A disciplinary referral **will be filed** upon return to school for any cellphone infractions. Additional referrals and loss of trip privileges can also result from any disrespectful student behavior as a result a student having a phone confiscated.
- s. Failure to follow rules pertaining to **behavior in a performance venue** can result in work details, loss of trip privileges, and dismissal from the trip, and/or an adjusted grade for ignoring concert etiquette protocols.
- t. Consequences for offenses not listed above will be determined by the Choral Director and Lead Chaperone while on the trip, and with the Principal upon returning to the school.

25 - Guidelines for On-Stage Performance

1. **While on stage, you should watch the conductor at all times.** It is inappropriate, and unprofessional, to look around while you pretend to perform.
2. **Never talk while on the stage.** You are performing from the first instant the audience sees you. Everything that you do becomes part of that performance. Focus and character on stage are the first things you should learn to do. You must learn to perform before you ever sing a note on stage.
3. **Keep your hands relaxed and to your sides.** Never fold them in front of you or place them in your pockets. Hands anywhere but at your sides indicates nervousness and a lack of confidence in yourself, your choir, and the job you are doing.
4. **The audience exists only as a listener.** Never signal or attempt to communicate with members of the audience while on stage except through your music, while in character for a particular song.
5. **Avoid touching your face or your hair or fidgeting while in a performance situation.** Remember that every motion you make on stage will be seen and interpreted as a part of the music.
6. **If you become ill or experience coughing or sneezing while performing, exit the stage as quickly and as inconspicuously as possible.** Feeling faint? Sit down immediately. Do not make a scene if you exit. Too, if you are an onstage witness to someone leaving, keep your focus on the conductor. If someone is about to pass out, by all means, help them sit down on the risers.
7. **Never play on stage.** Your job is to make music and people can always see such unprofessional behavior as touching, laughing, or gesturing. Again, remember that everything you do once you can be seen by your audience is a part of your performance.
8. **Always observe good hygiene habits.** Bathe or shower before putting on your uniform. Use deodorant. Avoid scented items, they can irritate those around you.
9. **Keep your uniform clean and pressed.** Uniforms are your costume. You do not have to love wearing your uniform, but you should take pride in the fact that you are identified as a part of a respected ensemble

when you wear your choir's uniform. No performer should ever be seen by the public/audience in anything short of a full stage uniform. Ties should be tied, shoes on, hair concert-ready, hose worn, cummerbunds in place. Never just wear "parts" of your uniform. Wear all of the performance attire or change completely out of the uniform that represents the proud traditions of our school.

10. **Look professional.** The manner in which you carry yourself will impress your audience and give you confidence. It would be accurate to say that how you look when you step off of the bus or out of your car is how you should look when you take the stage.
11. **If you make a mistake while performing, or hear someone else make a mistake, just ignore it.** One mistake will probably never be noticed but the act of confirming a blunder will.
12. **Always do the best performing job on stage as is physically and mentally possible.** There is no better way to perform than to prepare well in the weeks before a performance. Next, apply what your conductor has taught you about the music you will perform. Treat your instrument (voice), body and mind with respect with sleep, good food, and plenty of water. Do not abuse your body, mind, and talent by abusing drugs and alcohol or using any kind of tobacco or vaping.
13. **Treat every other choir that sings the way you want to be treated.** Clap for that chorus the entire time they are entering the stage. Clap for their conductor. Clap when that choir is introduced. At the end of each song, thank that choir for singing, no matter how good or bad, with applause the way you would want to be congratulated. Respect the efforts of those you feel need improvement. They need your encouragement and appreciation the same as you like acknowledgement of your work. **Standing ovations should be saved for only the very "best of the best" performances.** Do not give away your most special show of gratitude and respect for lesser performances, especially if the undeserving choir is from your school. A performing choir must earn Standing "O's"; they are worth a million bucks.

Rehearsal Grading Rubric

Category Definitions:	Proficient - 3 The student demonstrates proficient evident of the knowledge necessary to rehearse effectively. Minor omissions may exist, but do not detract from the effectiveness of the individual and their contribution to the rehearsal.	Advancing - 2 The response demonstrates adequate knowledge necessary to rehearse effectively. The student can improve their rehearsal effectiveness with verbal and visual cues from the director.	Inconsistent - 1 The response demonstrates some knowledge necessary to rehearse effectively. The student needs frequent verbal redirection.	Unsatisfactory - 0 The response demonstrates little to no ability to rehearse effectively.
Assessment area 1:	The student consistently demonstrates proper body alignment.	The student usually demonstrates proper body alignment.	The student rarely demonstrates proper body alignment.	The student does not demonstrate proper body alignment.
Assessment area 2:	The student consistently makes adjustments to the vocal score through the use of a system of rehearsal markings.	The student usually makes adjustments to the vocal score through the use of a system of rehearsal markings.	The student rarely makes adjustments to the vocal score through the use of a system of rehearsal markings.	The student does not make adjustments to the score through a system of rehearsal markings.
Assessment area 3:	The student consistently demonstrates an understanding of sound and silence and the role of each in an effective rehearsal or performance.	The student usually demonstrates an understanding of sound and silence and the role of each in an effective rehearsal or performance.	The student lacks a consistent understanding of sound and silence and the role of each in an effective rehearsal or performance.	The student does not have an understanding of sound and silence and the role of each in an effective rehearsal or performance.
Assessment area 4:	The student is consistently engaged in the rehearsal.	The student is usually engaged in the rehearsal.	The student is inconsistently engaged in the rehearsal.	The student is not engaged in the rehearsal.

3 = 5 points 2 = 4 points 1 = 3 points 0 = 2 or less
20 points available per day, 100 points per week

Singing Test Grading Rubric

	Proficient The performance demonstrates proficient evidence of the skills necessary to complete the prompted purpose as it relates to the criterion. <i>Student consistently demonstrates success in performance.</i>	Advancing The performance demonstrates adequate knowledge necessary to complete the prompted purpose as it relates to the criterion. Minor omissions may exist, but do not detract from the correctness of the response related to the criterion. <i>Student frequently demonstrates success in performance.</i>	Emerging The performance demonstrates partial evidence of knowledge but lacks adequate evidence of learning and strategic tools that are needed to accomplish the prompted purpose as it relates to the criterion. <i>Student sometimes demonstrates success in performance.</i>	Developing The performance demonstrates some evidence of knowledge that is appropriate to the intent of the prompted purpose as it relates to the criterion. An effort was made to accomplish the task, but with little success as it relates to the criterion. <i>Student infrequently demonstrates success in performance.</i>	Unsatisfactory The performance lacks any evidence of knowledge that is appropriate to the intent of the task or related to the criterion. Student seldom created audible sound, and displayed little visible effort.
Assessment area 1:	No errors in pitch and rhythm.	Few errors in pitch and rhythmic accuracy.	Occasional minor errors or omissions of pitch and rhythm.	Frequent critical errors or omissions of pitch and rhythm.	
Assessment area 2:	Advanced skills of proper tone production, vowel shapes, diction, and expression.	Proficient skills of proper tone production, vowel shapes, diction, and expression.	Emerging skills of proper tone production, vowel shapes, diction, and expression.	Consistent lack of proper tone production, vowel shapes, diction, and expression.	
Assessment area 3:	Consistently shows evidence of ensemble singing skills (balance, blend, ensemble intonation)	Frequently shows evidence of ensemble singing skills (balance, blend, ensemble intonation)	Occasional evidence of ensemble singing skills (balance, blend, ensemble intonation)	Little evidence of ensemble singing skills (balance, blend, ensemble intonation)	

Third and fourth year chorus students in auditioned ensembles:

12=98, 11=95, 10=90, 9=88, 8 = 85, 7=80, 6=75, 5=70, 4=65, 3=60, 2 or less=59-0

All second year chorus students or third and fourth year students not in auditioned ensembles:

12=98, 11=95, 10=93, 9=90, 8 = 88, 7=85, 6=80, 5=75, 4=70, 3=65, 2 or less=59-0

All first year chorus students:

12=98, 11=96, 10=94, 9=92, 8 = 90, 7=88, 6=83, 5=78, 4=73, 3=65, 2 or less=59-0

Concert Attendance and Performance

	Satisfactory Concert performance and etiquette reflects the communicated standard.	Unsatisfactory Concert performance and etiquette does not meet the communicated standard.
25 points	Student arrives on-time with correct concert attire.	Student does not arrive on-time and/or is missing required uniform elements. One point is deducted for each minute late.
25 points	Student demonstrates appropriate audience behavior throughout entire concert, including, but not limited to, staying for the duration, talking, cell phone usage, or other distracting behavior.	Student does not demonstrate appropriate audience behavior throughout entire concert, including, but not limited to, staying for the duration, taking, cell phone usage, or other distracting behavior.
50 points	Student demonstrates appropriate level of engagement in the performance.	Student does not demonstrate appropriate level of engagement in the performance, including, but no limited to, distracting behavior, inappropriate interaction with audience and lack of attention to the director.