

The Viking Voices

Northwest Guilford High School Chorus

Beverly Alt, Conductor

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The Northwest High School Concert Choir exists to:

- Help students develop musical skills such as a precise sense of rhythm, proper vocal tone, an accurate sense of pitch, appropriate response to conductor, and a fundamental understanding of music notation and reading.
- Expose the student to a variety of musical styles in order to develop interests and appreciation for those styles.
- Expose students to advanced choral literature and a cappella singing.
- To cultivate in each student a love for singing in a choral situation which will in turn produce a self-motivation on the part of the student to work and learn in the rehearsals.
- Provide concert, festival, and competition performance opportunities.
- To provide opportunities which prepare students for collegiate level singing.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil for daily note-taking (NO PENS, HIGHLIGHTERS, etc. for writing in music)

GRADING

Members of the Concert Choir will receive their grade for the nine-weeks based on their participation, actions, and attitudes in the following areas:

- Daily Grades / Participation: 40%
- Performances/Required Dress Rehearsals: 50%
- Written Assignments / Tests: 10%

1. **Daily Grades:** Students receive a daily grade of 20 points per day for actively participating. This equals a total of 100 points for each 5-day week. Please refer to the classroom participation grading rubric. A list of proper behavior and actions in a choral rehearsal are provided for you. Points are deducted in 5 point increments for infractions.
 - a. If a student is unable to perform vocally, he or she is still expected to follow along during rehearsal with music in hand and participate in all activities possible. If this occurs on an ongoing basis, make up work will be assigned. Each student will be responsible to have his or her **music folder** and a **pencil** at their seat at the beginning of class each day. Folders will be checked periodically to ensure that materials are in their proper order. **When we are learning choreography you will be expected to wear the appropriate attire to dance in rehearsal each day.**
2. **Written Assignments:** Students will occasionally have written assignments and quizzes. These will be part of the overall grade.
3. **Performances:** BE THERE. BE ON TIME. BE READY.

- a. This is a performance-based class, so preparing for concerts and other performances is the purpose of our work together each day. We enjoy making music together and our goal is to share it with the audience. In order for us to do that, you have to be present when the music-making happens!

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED, including performance dates which have been changed from the date on the syllabus. *Performance dates that are changed with less than three weeks' notice will not be required.* Students who have an **UNEXCUSED** absence from a required concert will have their nine weeks grade lowered two letter grades. The dress rehearsal grade will be lowered as well. Excused absences from performances are due to illness, death in the family, or other family emergencies.

*In order for an absence to be excused for any reason, parent communication to the director is ***required***.*

- If the absence is not due to an emergency, (i.e., family trips, etc.), parental notification must be made to the director at least **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE**.
- If the director is not notified *at least two weeks before a required performance*, then the absence will not be excused.
- Mrs. Alt can be reached via telephone or email and *must* hear from a parent regarding absences.

ABSENCES DUE TO FAMILY TRIPS THAT HAVE NOT HAD PRIOR APPROVAL WILL NOT BE EXCUSED. EXCUSING THESE AND ANY OTHER ABSENCE IS TOTALLY AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR. MAKE UP WORK/MAKE UP TIME AFTER SCHOOL WITH MRS. ALT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL EXCUSED ABSENCES. MAKEUP WORK/TIME WILL NOT BE GIVEN FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTENDANCE AT GRADUATION IS A REQUIREMENT OF THIS COURSE. Please plan now for this date.

Students in this course are earning a credit toward graduation. Choral Music is an academic subject and attendance at performances is an imperative factor in earning grades each quarter. Just as it is in any other academic subject, when a major test is missed, it must be made up. Making up excused absences from missed performances is the same as making up a test in another academic subject. It is a requirement and at the conductor's discretion.

COMING LATE & LEAVING EARLY:

2. If you arrive late to the call time of a performance, your grade may be lowered up to one letter.
 - The director also reserves the option to not allow late students to perform.
3. Students who leave performances early without being excused by Mrs. Alt will receive a "0".
 - Leaving early is unprofessional, disrespectful to those performing, is not exemplary of Northwest behavior, and does not merit full credit for a performance.

DELAYED START REHEARSALS ARE A REQUIREMENT IN THIS COURSE.
THESE REHEARSALS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE.
FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL RESULT IN A "0".

Students should be prepared for a DELAYED START REHEARSAL on the Wednesday preceding each concert. A dress rehearsal grade will be given for the Wednesday delayed start rehearsal and the Concert Dress Rehearsal.

The following are guidelines which are to be followed in Mrs. Alt's classroom:

1. Follow directions with a good attitude.
2. Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged before speaking.
3. Show respect for yourself and others. When someone who has raised their hand speaks, listen.
4. Be on time and in your seat before the bell rings.
5. Keep unnecessary items put away during class.
(Reading, homework, and the use of any kind of electronic device during a choral rehearsal is unacceptable and will not be permitted. Students' participation grades depend on their decision to listen and follow instructions during rehearsal.)
6. Respect all school property and do not damage it in any way.
 - Do not step in the seats of the chorus chairs!
7. Students will wait to be dismissed at the end of class.
8. Tardies will be addressed in the following manner: *(School tardy policy)*
 - Students with chronic tardies (more than three) will have their daily participation grade lowered 5 pts for each tardy.
 1. First Tardy - Warning
 2. Second Tardy – 15 Minutes After School Detention
 3. Third Tardy – Referral to Administration
9. Use of perfume, perfumed lotions, hairspray, nail polish, etc. is not allowed in class. This can cause serious breathing issues for some students, which inhibits their ability to sing properly. Be aware of food allergies that may need to be addressed in our classes.
10. **Keep your phones and any other electronic devices put away while Mrs. Alt is teaching.** These devices will be taken and sent to the front office, in accordance with the NW electronics policy.
Cell phones may also be charged at the charging station during class, but cannot be retrieved until the end of the rehearsal.
Refusal to give a phone or an electronic device to a teacher or an administrator merits up to 2 days of OSS.
11. All Northwest High School and Guilford County School rules apply.
12. **Do not eat or drink during rehearsal. ONLY WATER IS PERMITTED.**
13. We will follow the Northwest High School Dress code at all times, including field trips.

The student's daily participation grade will suffer for each infraction of a guideline. Parental contact will be initiated if grade cuts begin to accumulate. Office referrals will also be made when necessary.

If a student consistently chooses not to adhere to classroom guidelines, then field trip privileges will be revoked.

***** CONDUCT/PROMPTNESS WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION/AUDITION IN HONORS LEVEL CHORUSES. *****

CLASS ATTENDANCE

All students are encouraged to be familiar with the Guilford County High School Attendance Policy for the 2017-2018 school year. Students are responsible for keeping up with their absences. The attendance policy must be reflected in the student's grade. **Students with more than 3 unexcused absences per quarter will receive a "0" daily grade for each additional unexcused absence.**

STUDENTS WHO HAVE CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY FIELD TRIPS OR PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES. THIS WILL BE DETERMINED BY MRS. ALT WITHOUT NEGOTIATION.

***** ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE PARTICIPATION/AUDITION IN HONORS LEVEL CHORUSES. *****

***** HONORS CREDIT *****

Any student who is registered for "Beginning" or "Intermediate" Vocal Music is eligible to apply for Honors credit by completing one project and presentation assigned by Mrs. Alt. Upon completion of the assignment, the Honors credit will be retroactively adjusted for qualifying students and reflected as Honors – Proficient.

THE CHORAL BOOSTERS

The Choral Boosters is led by a group of parents who help with organizing trips, events, chaperoning, fundraising, etc. We invite your generous tax-deductible donation to sponsor the program. 100% of your support will directly benefit our students. Please refer to the forthcoming packet of information from the Choral Boosters.

SERVICE LEARNING

The Guilford County Schools central administration has placed an emphasis on community service for all students. Students may document their service hours through the x2VOL system. Our class offers many opportunities for community service hours. Students who are interested in earning hours should contact Mrs. Alt for available opportunities and with ideas for service learning. These activities include student-led fund raising, after-school tutoring, and community performances.

2017-2018 PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

This schedule is subject to change; if the dates of required events have to be changed, the performance is still required within up to three weeks of the performance.

(This would only happen in case of emergency and sufficient notice would be given.)

All evening concerts are **required** (See **Grading** above).

Performances set up at this time are listed below. Details will be given for each event as soon as they are available. Any changes in this schedule will be announced as soon as possible.

Some community events are not and cannot be scheduled yet.

Once they are scheduled, they will be required events.

You will be given ample time to make plans to attend.

- Events in **BOLD PRINT** are **REQUIRED** events for **ALL STUDENTS**
- Events marked with an asterisk (*) are required for Honors Vocal Ensemble members only
- **GRADUATION IS A REQUIRED EVENT FOR ALL CHORAL MUSIC STUDENTS**

Students should be prepared for a **DELAYED START REHEARSAL** on the **WEDNESDAY MORNING** before each concert.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time (Call Time)</u>	<u>Location</u>
Uniform Fitting	September 12, 2017	5-8PM	Cultural Arts wing
Honors Chorus auditions	September 28, 2017	Morning	UNCG
Mars Hill auditions	October 12, 2017	Afternoon	Wheatmore High School
All County Chorus	October 20-21, 2017	all day	Grimsley High School
Fall Concert	October 16, 2017	7:00PM (6PM)	NWHS Auditorium
NC Honors Chorus	November 10-11, 2017	All day	Benton Center, W-S, NC
*Summerfield Tree Lighting	November 18, 2017	5:30PM (5PM)	Athletic Park
*NWMS Winter Concert	December 5, 2017	7:00PM	NWHS Auditorium
*Oak Ridge Elementary	TBD	9AM	Oak Ridge Elementary
Pancake Breakfast	December 9, 2017	7AM-11AM	TBD
Christmas Caroling Women's Ensemble only)	December 14	5:00 PM (4:00)	Brighton Gardens (Honors
Winter Concert	December 11, 2017	7:00PM (5PM)	NWHS Auditorium
(Weather Date)	December 18, 2017	same as above	same as above
*Summit Rotary Club	December 15, 2017	TBA	Starmount Country Club
*Kernodle MS Concert	December 2017	TBA	Kernodle MS
*NWMS Winter Concert	December 2017	TBA	NWHS Auditorium
Mars Hill Rehearsal	January, 2018	4:30-7:30PM	Wheatmore High School
Mars Hill Festival	February 2-3, 2018	All Day	Mars Hill University
Festival Concert	February 26, 2018	7:00PM (6PM)	NWHS Auditorium
(Weather Date)	March 1, 2018	same as above	same as above
NC MPA	March 5-8, 2017	TBD	Wake Forest University
All State Zone Rehearsal	March 18, 2018	5-8PM	NWHS Cultural Arts wing
(Weather Date)	March 26, 2018	5-8PM	NWHS Cultural Arts wing
Spring Trip	March 21-25, 2018	TBD	TBD
All State Festival	April 15-16, 2018	All Day	Duke Energy Center
*NWMS Spring Concert	May 7	7:00	Auditorium
Spring Show Rehearsal	May 16, 2018	4:30PM	NWHS Auditorium
Spring Show	May 17-18, 2018	7:00PM (6PM)	NWHS Auditorium
*Summerfield Founders Day	May, 2018 (TBD)	(TBD)	Summerfield NC
Tuxedo Return	May 22, 2018	In Class	In Class
End of Year Cookout	June 2, 2017	TBD	Bur-Mil Park
Graduation	June 13, 2018	9:00 AM (8:15 AM)	Greensboro Coliseum

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CHORUS CALENDAR FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR. IT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF A PERFORMANCE. ALL EVENTS MARKED REQUIRED WILL BE REQUIRED, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE MARK THESE DATES AND TIMES INTO YOUR PERSONAL CALENDARS NOW SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE THEM.

CONCERT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to arrive at the concert call time that is announced for each concert. Students should expect to be in place up to one hour before the start of any concert in order to rehearse combined pieces. Predetermined call times have already been listed for some concerts.

The director reserves the right to lower the grade of any student by one letter who is late to a concert call time. These call times are announced well in advance.

STUDENTS MAY NOT USE ANY ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT ANY TIME DURING CONCERTS OR REHEARSALS FOR CONCERTS.

IF YOU ARE FOUND USING YOUR PHONE OR ANOTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE WHEN YOU ARE ASKED NOT TO, THEN THE DEVICE WILL BE TAKEN AND TURNED IN TO THE FRONT OFFICE FOR PICK UP ON THE NEXT SCHOOL DAY.

Students who refuse to comply with this policy to any adult will be subject to 2 days OSS.

FESTIVAL CHORUS PARTICIPATIONS *available to Honors level students*

Throughout the year, selected students will be offered the opportunity to audition for state and county wide festivals such as Mars Hill Choral Festival, All State, NC Honors Chorus, All-County Chorus, etc. The director will offer opportunities for students who display a proper attitude, students who are willing to put in extra time to learn the selected music, and to students who show an interest in learning advanced choral repertoire. Selected students will need to pay applicable fees for these festivals.

All County Chorus - expenses

Honors Chorus Auditions - \$20.00 audition fee, \$20.00 registration fee, plus expenses

Allstate Chorus - \$30.00 registration fee, plus expenses / overnight stay

Mars Hill Choral Festival - \$30.00 registration fee, plus expenses / overnight stay.

If students are selected to participate in these festivals, they will be expected to attend all after-school rehearsals, formal rehearsals, and the festival concerts. They will wear Northwest Chorus concert dress in all festivals. An audition is typically required for these festivals.

CONCERT CLEAN UP

Each class is expected to stay after **one concert** each **year** to assist with clean up. This is considered part of the participation grade for that quarter.

CLEAN UP ASSIGNMENTS

Fall Concert: *Honors Vocal Ensemble (Zero Period)*

Winter Concert: *Honors Women's Ensemble (5th period)*

Festival Concert: **CLEAN-UP CREDIT**

Spring Concert: *Concert Choir (3rd Period)*

ATTIRE

The Northwest Chorus dresses uniformly for all formal and informal performances. **All ladies *new* to the choral program at Northwest will need to purchase a formal dress. Gentlemen rent tuxedos from the Chorus closet and will need to purchase a wing-collar tuxedo shirt, tie, and cummerbund. ALL NEW STUDENTS must purchase a Northwest Chorus polo shirt to wear for informal performances.**

Please refer to the mailing you will receive very soon. **ALL NEW STUDENTS and ALL MEN are required to attend a uniform fitting on Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 5:00-8:00PM to be sized and order concert attire.**

AWARDS

Chorus members may earn a Northwest Letter at the end of their second full year in chorus if they have accumulated no unexcused absences from any required performances and are actively engaged in the choral program. They will earn a pin at the end of each subsequent year.

Additional pins and recognition may be earned by participating in the following:

All-County, All-State, Honors Chorus, Mars Hill, Governor's School, Classroom Piano Accompanying

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising activities are necessary to provide sufficient resources for the Chorus operate successfully.

***Every student needs to fundraise in some way because every student will benefit from fundraising in some way!**

Any student who owes any money to the choral department may not:

- PARTICIPATE IN ANY FIELD TRIPS AT ALL**
- Participate in any outside activities funded by the choral department (i.e. Festival Choruses, etc.)
- Receive any awards or letters.

Students must make all payments on time in the correct order. *For example, a trip payment would not be accepted if a student still owes for a fundraiser. Any money collected would be applied to balance owed by the student.*

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE *NORTHWEST CHORAL BOOSTERS.*

RETURNED CHECKS POLICY: If a check is returned to the Chorus due to insufficient funds, then the following measures will be taken:

- The check will be returned to you and you will be asked to pay in cash.

- Checks will not be deposited a second time because of the service charge to the chorus.
- You will be asked to pay the bank returned check fee.
- **Students must turn in money directly to the designated location determined by Mrs. Alt**
- **Neither the Booster Board nor Mrs. Alt will take responsibility for money given to someone else.**
- **DO NOT TURN IN MONEY TO THE FRONT OFFICE!**

***** FUNDRAISING * NOTICE *****

IF A STUDENT IS NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OR ALL OF THE CHORAL BOOSTERS' FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, THEN IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LET MRS. ALT KNOW. IF A STUDENT PARTICIPATES AGAINST HIS OR HER PARENTS' WISHES AND MRS. ALT HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED, THE STUDENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BALANCE THAT IS DUE.

HEALTH FORMS

Please complete and return the attached health form. If you have already filled out a health form for a veteran student, then you are not required to complete another. Please remember that the form *must be* **NOTARIZED**. *Students are not permitted to travel with the chorus unless the health form has been filled out in its entirety and notarized.*

HEALTH FORMS ARE DUE BY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017.

Any student who has not turned in their health form by that time will have their grade lowered by one letter.

A notary will be provided at our fall functions to assist.

SOCIAL MEDIA

With the commonplace use of cell phones and other mediums of technology comes the responsibility of taking ownership for the kind of information is that is conveyed.

YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT YOU:

text, email, post, tweet, tumble, pin, instagram, periscope,, record, or anything else that involves sharing through social media.

Anything you post can be screenshot on phones, handheld devices, computers, or copied and pasted. You can delete it, but once you post it, it is immediately available and will always be out there for someone to find!

So do not put out anything in any text or on any site that could negatively affect your future college and/or professional career.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mrs. Alt: (336) 605-3300 ext. 2087 altb@gcsnc.com www.northwestkingvoices.org

All activities will be posted on the Chorus website for your convenience. The website will be updated. All of the class and Choral Boosters information is on it (course syllabi, newsletters, permission slips . . . any information that is needed.) Concert information is always on the website.

Parents, please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, questions, or concerns about your child's education and experience in the Chorus classroom.

Also, the Choral Boosters will be reaching out to you about volunteering this year.

I look forward to working together with you for the good of our students this school year!

Please sign both sides of this page, detach, and return this page to school tomorrow.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS SYLLABUS.
MY CHILD AND I UNDERSTAND THE CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY AND
FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES.

I AM AWARE OF THE CONCERT SCHEDULE.

I understand that ALL CHORAL MUSIC STUDENTS are required to be in attendance at Graduation on
June 8, 2018 at 8:30PM

SIGNED:

PARENT _____

STUDENT _____

DATE _____

HOME PHONE _____

*PARENT E MAIL _____

Please print clearly so that your email can be accurately added to the email list. If you do not begin to receive frequent updates from Mrs. Alt, please email her directly at altb@gcsnc.com so that you can stay informed.

*ALTERNATE EMAIL _____

* To provide effective communications from Mrs. Alt and the Choral Boosters to you, we are asking that you provide us with your email address where we can share information concerning upcoming events, important announcements, etc. Only the Choral Boosters will use this address. No information will be shared with any other organization or business.

*REQUIRED UNIFORM FITTING:

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12 - DROP-IN between 5PM & 8PM – this is for ALL NEW STUDENTS & MEN to be fitted.

We invite you to list your **Harris Teeter VIC Card Number** so we can link you to the *Together in Education* program. A percentage of your grocery receipt will be donated to the Northwest Choral Boosters each time you shop there. This number will only be used to link your Harris Teeter VIC Card with the Northwest Choral Boosters and will not be shared with any other organization or business.

VIC# _____

Please bring a box of KLEENEX tissues & a small bottle of HAND SANITIZER

Thank you!

Video / Photography Release Form

This form is to verify that you authorize that you/your child may be seen in video recordings and photography for the instructional and promotional purposes of the Northwest Viking Voices Choral Program.

Check one:

I DO authorize _____

I do NOT authorize _____

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____