

North Shore Middle School

Choir Handbook 2011-2012



North Shore MS Choir Staff

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NSMS CHOIR ROOM

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Also visit us online at
www.nsmschoir.com

Parent Acknowledgement
Galena Park ISD
Standards for Extracurricular Activities

I understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the District’s Student Code of Conduct. I also understand that my child,

shall be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in the Standards for District Extracurricular Activities at school, and at school sponsored or school district activities. This shall include, but not be limited to school sponsored as well as school related travel or activity regardless of time and location.

Students who represent the district by wearing uniforms of the district shall be responsible for conducting themselves as outlined by the Standards for District Extracurricular Activities during the entire time they are wearing such uniform. Reports of violations shall be subject to the principal/sponsors review and be made within twenty-four hours of the alleged offense or first school day. Subsequent action or non-action will be based on the principal’s decision and shall be final.

Students involved in extracurricular activities are expected to exhibit the highest standard of conduct. Galena Park ISD views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege, not a right. I understand that any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes any misconduct, regardless of time or location, that reflects upon GPISD in an extracurricular activity. Students involved in major disciplinary infraction, (i.e. including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, use of profanity, and violent behavior) will be removed temporarily or permanently from extracurricular activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

This form must be returned to the designated sponsor and verified by the principal. Signatures must be obtained before students may participate in extracurricular activities.

Dear Choir Students and Parents,

Welcome, or welcome back, to the NSMS Choir Program. We are so happy that you will be along for the exciting year we have ahead of us.

This handbook will inform you of our plans for the year and should answer many questions. If anything is unclear, please feel free to call or e-mail us at anytime.

We hope this will be a year of learning and growth for your children, and a wonderful experience for you parents as well.

Thank you for sharing your children with us!

Sincerely,

The NSMS Choral Department

NSMS CHOIR BOOSTERS

OUR SUCCESS DEPENDS ON PARENT SUPPORT.

IF YOU ARE THE PARENT OF A CHOIR STUDENT,
YOU ARE A MEMBER OF OUR BOOSTER CLUB!!!

OUR BOOSTER CLUB WILL HAVE AT LEAST THREE
ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS.

IN ADDITION, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING TO HELP
WITH FUNDRAISING, UNIFORMS, CHAPERONING, TRIP
COORDINATION, AND EVENT PLANNING.

IF YOU FEEL YOUR TALENTS CAN BE USED TO SUPPORT US
IN THIS WAY, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS,
BUT STILL WANT TO HELP,
PLEASE CONTACT US!!

MEETING SCHEDULE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
All meetings are in the NSMS Choir Room

**PARENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING
BOOSTER BOARD ELECTION
THURSDAY 9/15 @ 6:00**

**BOOSTER CLUB MEETINGS
THURSDAY 10/6 @ 6:00
THURSDAY 3/22 @ 6:00
THURSDAY 5/3 @ 6:00**

*CHOIR STUDENTS RECEIVE A FREE 100 IN THE GRADE BOOK
WHENEVER YOU ATTEND A BOOSTER CLUB MEETING!*

GRADING POLICY

We will follow the GPISD grading policy for nine week grading periods.

Test Grades

Concert Performance
Written and/or Performance Tests
Solo Project and all related Tests
Home Practice Projects

Daily Grades

Concert Attendance
Rehearsal Attendance
Material Checks
Weekly participation
Daily class work, including Instructional Focus Activities
Responsibility Assignments: (Permission Slips, etc.)

MATERIALS

This will be part of your grade EVERYDAY!
The first materials grade will be taken September 1st and 2nd.

Be in your seat BY THE BELL with the following:

Choir Folder:

**Containing Choir Handbook,
Paper, Pencil,
Music and additional materials given to you.**

DO NOT write on or decorate the outside of your Choir Folder!!!!!!

PARTICIPATION

All students are expected to participate fully in classroom activities at all times.
***If a student cannot participate on a given day because of health problems,
the student should present the teacher with a note from his/her parent or doctor
before the class begins.***

CHOIR COUNCIL

This leadership team will be made up of representatives from each choir class period.
They will serve as leaders in class and at concerts and trips. These students will
meet on a regular basis to help plan fun Choir activities and will also be expected to
attend all Booster Club meetings. Application for the council are available and are
due September 2nd.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

All financial transactions for UIL Contest Choir fees, fundraising, and trips will be recorded using the Charms system. You can view this information online at anytime. Printed receipts will be given to students as well. Cash is accepted. **Checks and Money Orders should be made out to “North Shore Middle School Choir.”** Please place all payments in an envelope with your name, choir period, amount enclosed, and what the payment is for. **Never leave money in a teacher’s mail box, on the piano, or on a teacher’s desk. Hand this envelope directly to one of the directors.**

FUNDRAISING

There will be one choir student fundraiser to help the choir raise money for the affordability of uniforms, competitions, Pop Show, End of Year Awards Party, and scholarships to Choir Camp. Fundraising is an exciting part of being enthusiastic about choir, but it takes a high level of responsibility. The fundraiser will include many incentives for star sellers. This year we will be selling Discount Cards. Donations are also accepted in lieu of fundraising. Students are not required to fundraise. Additional fundraisers may be sponsored by the booster club as needed.

PERFORMANCE TRIPS

This fall we will be attending the musical *Guys and Dolls* on **Wednesday, October 5th**, during the school day. Tickets are \$10 and students also need \$10 for lunch. Parents are invited to join us for this trip, simply send an additional \$25 for your ticket and bring an additional \$10 for your lunch.

SCHLITTERBAHN

All Choir students who are academically eligible, have no school fines, and have attended all required Choir Concerts will be allowed to attend this trip. This trip will be on Friday, May 25th during the school day. The cost is \$25, students may bring their lunch or extra money to purchase food. Parents are invited to join us for this trip, simply send an additional \$25 for your ticket.

END OF THE YEAR AWARDS PARTY

Every year we have an awards party to celebrate our success and recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Expect food, fun, dancing, and awards. **To be invited you must participate fully in choir activities including daily class participation, concerts, competitions, and have no school fines. This year’s party is Thursday, May 31st from 5-9PM.**

CONCERTS AND REHEARSALS

According to state law, concerts are curricular activities and are graded. Performance dates are included in this handbook.

Performances may be added through the year, but students and parents will receive ample notice. **All performances are mandatory and count as a large portion of the grade.**

You are responsible for making arrangements to be on time for each performance. Failure to attend will be considered an unexcused absence. There are many people involved in each activity who will help with transportation if needed. We are willing to contact them when necessary. Missing a concert due to not having a ride is considered unexcused.

There are rehearsals that happen outside of the school day. These rehearsals are also curricular and graded. Ample notice will be given in order for you to make arrangements with your parents and sponsors of other activities. Outside rehearsals to be called to prepare for Region Choir Auditions, Solo and Ensemble Contest, UIL Concert and Sight-reading, and Pop Show.

We realize many students are involved in multiple activities. We suggest you keep all activities on a single calendar. It is your responsibility to communicate with your sponsors and parents regarding Choir events. These people will work with you if they have ample notice.

School related conflict: student should write a note as soon as possible, and we will work out compromise with the other sponsor.

Family related conflict: parent or guardian should write a note prior to scheduled event if possible, or the next school day following event.

An alternative assignment will be given to make up the missing grade.

CHOIR PLACEMENT

Placement in the choral ensembles of North Shore Middle School is based on vocal ability, musicianship, sight-reading skill, leadership, conduct, dedication, and academic eligibility.

Non-Competition Choirs are periods 5, 6, 9

UIL Contest Choirs are periods 2, 3, 4, 7, 8

Being placed in a UIL Contest Choir is an honor and a responsibility.

Be sure to maintain your academic eligibility.

Welcome

NSMS Mustang Choir!

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**I love to hear a choir.
I love the humanity to see the faces of real
people
devoting themselves to a piece of music.
I like the teamwork.
It makes me feel optimistic about the human
race
when I see them cooperating like that.**

~Paul McCartney

Choir Calendar 2011-2012

Dates may be added and are subject to change, ample notice will be provided.

September

Thurs.-Fri., September 1-2, 2011
Thursday, September 15, 2011
 Tues.-Fri., September 6-30, 2011
 Friday, September 16, 2011
 Friday, September 23, 2011

Materials Check, Handbook Signature Page
Choir Parent Information Meeting
 Region Rehearsals
 UIL Choir Fees and Shoes Due Date
 6 wk Grade Check

During Class
6:00 PM
 Before/After School
 During Class
 Be Eligible!!!

Choir Rm
Choir Rm
 Choir Rm.
 Choir Rm.

October

Mon.-Fri., October 3-28, 2011
 Tues.-Wed., October 4-5, 2011
 Wednesday, October 5, 2011
 Thursday, October 6, 2011
 Friday, October 7, 2011
 Wednesday, October 12, 2011
Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Region Rehearsals
 Region Candidate Auditions
 Choir Trip to *Guys and Dolls*
 Choir Booster Meeting
 Region Candidate Clinic
 NSSH Choir Concert (Region Candidates)
Fall Concert
Choir students must arrive at 5PM
 Region Auditions (Region Candidates)

Before/After School
 After School
 During School
 6:00 PM
 2:30-5:00PM
 7:00 PM
7:00 PM

Choir Rm.
 Choir Rm.
 Hobby Center
 Choir Rm.
 NSSH
 NSSH
NSSH

Saturday, October 29, 2011

November

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Ms. Huston's Birthday

ALL DAY

NOT AT SCHOOL

December

Monday, December 12, 2011
Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mixed Choir Performs for School Board
NSMS Winter Concert
Choir students must arrive at 5PM
 Holiday Performances (Varsity)

6:00 PM
7:00 PM

Admin. Bldg.
NSSH

Friday, December 16, 2011

MPR

January

Friday, January 13, 2012
 Saturday, January 14, 2012
 Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Region Choir Rehearsal/Dance
 Region Clinic & Concert
 Miss Plitt's Birthday

4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
 ALL DAY

Deer Park HS
 Deer Park HS
 AT SCHOOL

February

Saturday, February 4, 2012

GPISD Choir Solo & Ensemble
Mandatory for UIL Contest Choirs

7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

NSSH

March

Tuesday, March 6, 2012
 Thursday, March 22, 2012

Pre-UIL Contest
 Choir Booster Meeting

During School
 6:00 PM

NSSH
 Choir Rm.

April

Thurs.-Fri., April 12-13, 2012

UIL Concert & Sight-Reading
Mandatory for UIL Contest Choirs

8:00 AM-6:00 PM

NSSH

May

Thursday, May 3, 2012
 Thursday, May 3, 2012
 Thurs.-Fri., May 17-18, 2012
Monday, May 21, 2012
 Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Pop Show Auditions
 Choir Booster Meeting
 Deer Park Festival
Pop Show Dress Rehearsal
Pop Show
Mandatory for all Choirs
Schlitterbahn Trip
 End Of Year Party

After School
 6:00 PM
 During School
After School
5:00-9:00PM

Choir Rm.
 Choir Rm.
 Deer Park HS
 NSSH
 NSSH

Friday, May 25, 2012
 Thursday, May 31, 2012

8:30 to 6:30 PM
 5:30PM to 9:00 PM

Schlitterbahn
 NSMS Café

July

Wed.-Sun., July 11-14, 2012

Hill Country Choral Camp
Scholarships Available

All Day, All Night

Texas State University,
 San Marcos

Student's Name _____

Guardian's Name(s) _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone(s) _____

Guardian Cell Phone(s) _____

Guardian E-Mail(s) _____

Student E-Mail(s) opt. _____

Are you able to help out with Chaperoning Choir Events? Yes No

Can you chaperone for our Fall Concert? Yes No

(If Yes, arrive at NSSH at 4:45PM **Wednesday, October 19th**.)

I am available to help: (Please circle)

During the School Day During Evening Events During Saturday Events

Choir functions will often require your child to use GPISD transportation. Notification will be sent home as a reminder.

My child has permission to use GPISD transportation for choir activities. I understand that all precautions will be made to prevent any accident, and I release GPISD from any liability resulting from an accident. In case of emergency I authorize a school district representative to seek medical attention for my child.

I have read the choir handbook. I understand my child's responsibilities and will be supportive of his/her efforts as a member of the North Shore Middle School Choral Department. If I have questions regarding my child's progress and participation, I will contact the choir director.

Parent Signature _____ date _____

I have read the choir handbook. I understand the opportunities that are available. I also understand my obligation as a member of the North Shore Middle School Choral Department. I will follow the rules to the best of my ability.

Student Signature _____ date _____

Signature Page Due for a Daily Grade
September 1st and 2nd

Be sure to sign both sides!!

Mustang Choir Expectations:**It's a Life Thing:**

- GIVE respect and you'll GET respect.
- Take responsibility for yourself and your actions.
- Put forth your BEST effort.
- Do the RIGHT thing because it's the RIGHT thing.

It's a Mustang Thang:

- Be On Time!!!!
- Be in DRESS CODE!!!!
- DO NOT TALK during announcements or fire drills.
- You are dismissed by the TEACHER and not the BELL!

It's a Choir Thing:

- No Food, No Gum! Water with a lid is OK.
- Don't touch the pianos.
- Backpacks and purses go in the box.
- 2 eyes, 2 ears, 1 mouth...it's that way for a reason!

It's an Us Thing:

- Don't call us MISS!
- Stay out of our offices.
- You're beautiful just as you are....no make-up or grooming.
- We are here for you; let's have a pleasant time together!

You represent the Mustang Choir at all times and in all places.

- Please show respect of all school staff and property.
- Treat substitute teachers, volunteers, and chaperones with the highest respect.
- We expect exemplary behavior at concerts, on school busses, and when we are off campus together.
- Our room is our "home", take care of our space and equipment.
- Your belongings are your responsibility.
- Students are never allowed in the classroom unsupervised.

Every student in choir will be held accountable for their actions.**Consequences:**

- Warning
- Removal from Classroom Activities, Conference with Teacher
- Parent Call and After School Detention
- Office Referral which may result in Friday D-Hall, ISS, etc.

Blatant disrespect, profanity, fighting or theft will result in immediate office referral. Restitution will be required for all destructive behavior.

All electronics will be confiscated upon sight or hearing, and turned in to the AP Office. Parents may contact AP's to retrieve items.

For more information about the NSMS Mustang Choir please visit our website

www.nsmschoir.com

And, feel free to like our page on **facebook** to receive updates and reminders.

Also, you can find useful information about the NSMS Choir using Charms visit

www.charmsoffice.com

Click Enter to Login and select Parents/Students/Members

Enter our School Code: NShoreMSC

You will then see this prompt.

Student Area Password: Enter Show Hint

- If this is the first time you have logged in to Charms, your password is your ID number.

The first time you login your **student password** will be your student's six digit GPISD student ID number. This password can be reset after your first login.

This will allow you access to your student's Charms account. You will be able to see your Choir Financial Record including amounts owed and payments for Choir fees, fundraising, Tickets to Guys and Dolls and Schlitterbahn, etc.

You can view uniforms and materials that have been checked out to your student. Also from this page you can see our calendar and event list, sign up to serve as a chaperone, view and print forms and handouts, and lots more information.

Students/Parents in Varsity Choir (Periods 2, 3, 8) are required to log in to Charms and update their contact information for a grade by September 2nd. If you need access to the internet you may use computers in the Choir Room before and after school.

UNIFORMS**All Choir Members**

- Ladies: No jewelry (except one pair of small stud earrings)
Body decoration and excessive make-up may not be worn.
Hair must be worn up and away from the face.
- Men: No jewelry / Hair must be neat and out of the eyes

Informal Uniform

- Full length, plain BLUE Jeans (not capri length)
 (must fit appropriately and may not have decoration)
- Choir Uniform Shirt
 Shirts will be provided for Concert Choirs,
 UIL Contest Choirs will purchase Uniform Shirt (see below)
 This shirt is for uniform purposes only and may not be worn as a spirit shirt

Formal Uniform for UIL Contest Choirs

- Ladies:
Black Formal Dress (provided)
Black flats (closed toe, low heels)
Flesh-tone hose
- Men:
3 piece Black and White Uniform (provided)
Black socks and Black dress shoes (low heel, plain and simple)

Your formal uniform is issued to you from the school like a textbook. Uniforms will be issued clean, and will be cleaned through the year. Please do not attempt to wash or use home Dry Cleaning kits. Fines will be assessed for damage or loss.

Please purchase your formal shoes ASAP.

They will be important when tailor fitting your uniform. You will be required to turn them in (in a box clearly marked with student's name) for a grade by **September 16th**.

Should this pose a financial strain, please contact the director.

UIL Contest Choir Fees \$25 Due September 16th

- Includes:
 Informal Uniform T-Shirt
 Formal Uniform Alteration Fee
 Dry Cleaning Fee

***Should this pose a financial strain,
 please contact the director to arrange payment options.***

ALL-REGION AUDITIONS

TMEA sponsors a process by which students are auditioned to earn a place in the All-Region choirs. This competition is considered extra-curricular and requires academic eligibility. All students in Varsity UIL Choirs will audition to be considered as a Region Candidate, but all Choir students may audition.

Region Rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 6th.

Region Candidate Auditions are Tues.-Wed., October 4th and 5th.

Region Candidate Clinic at NSSH Friday, October 7th.

Region Candidate Concert at NSSH on Wednesday, October 12th

Region Auditions are Saturday, October 29th

Those students who earn a place in the All-Region Choir get to attend the All-Region Clinic and Concert on January 13th and 14th including the Region Dance and other fun times! **All fees for this contest are provided by GPISD. Failure to attend after being entered in the contest will result in repayment of all entry fees.**

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Galena Park ISD sponsors a contest for solo and group performance. All choir students will learn a solo to be performed for a judge. Students in UIL Choirs will also compete as a group. This event is classified as extra-curricular and requires academic eligibility. **This year's contest will be held on Saturday, February 4th at NSSH. All fees for this contest are provided by GPISD. Failure to attend after being entered in the contest will result in repayment of all entry fees.**

U.I.L. CONCERT AND SIGHT-READING

The University Interscholastic League sponsors a contest for choral groups. U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading Contest requires academic eligibility and is gradable. Each choir performs three pieces for three judges who rate the performance (I through V, I being the best). Choirs also sight-read for a different panel of judges who rate them with the same scale. Each judge submits a written critique so that both the choir and the director may benefit from the contest. Choirs receiving a I in both concert and sight-reading are awarded the coveted ***Sweepstakes Trophy***. **This year's contest will be held April 12th and 13th at NSSH.** Pre-UIL is a school-sponsored event where students will get a chance to perform all of their UIL music and sight-read for judges. **Pre-UIL is March 6th at NSSH, during the school day. UIL Contest Choirs should add these important dates to family calendars!**

DEER PARK HS FESTIVAL

UIL Contest Choirs will compete at the Deer Park Festival. This competition requires eligibility and is gradable. Students will sing UIL music for judges and have the opportunity to earn Best in Class and Best in Show Trophies.