

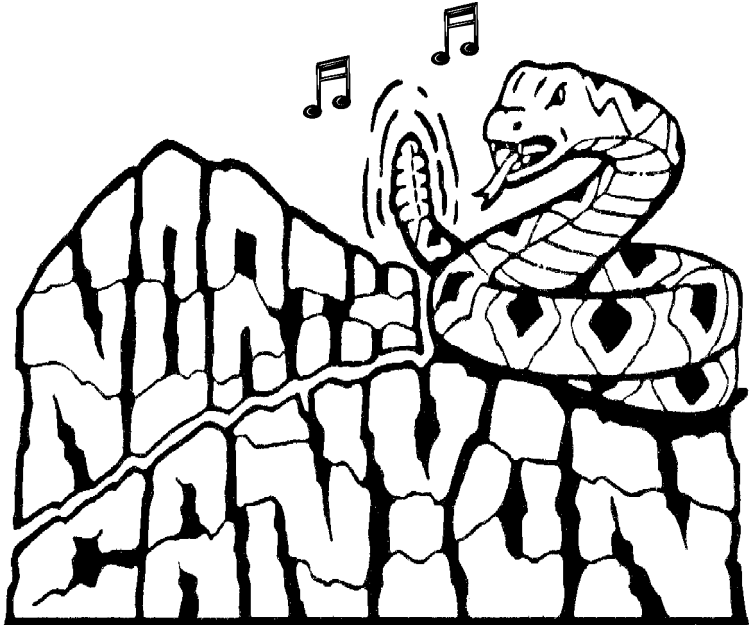
North Canyon High School
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 nchschoir.org

North Canyon High School Choir Department

2011-2012 Handbook

"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



Principal Elaine Jacobs
 Asst. Principal David Appleman
 Asst. Principal..... Craig Lahlum
 Asst. Principal Eric Comer

nchschoir.org

Attention Parents: We need *your* HELP!



A vibrant and successful choral program involves a cooperative effort between the director, students, and parents. Please consider how you will help to make this a prosperous year.

In what way(s) can we count on you this year?

- _____ Assisting @ concert (ticket or flower sales, programs, usher, etc.)
- _____ Assist Silent Auction chairperson
- _____ Uniform repair (can be done from home)
- _____ Uniform checkout (concert nights only)
- _____ Assist with Social Events
- _____ Publicity
- _____ Attend all concerts to show your support for your child
- _____ Anywhere help is needed

I have read the North Canyon High School Choral Handbook and understand the policies and procedures outlined in it. I will do my best to support my child in all concerts and activities.

Periodically student’s names/pictures are used on the NCHS Choir website or by PVUSD for marketing purposes. Please indicate your preference. Full last names will not appear.

I DO _____ DO NOT _____ give permission for my child’s name and picture to appear on the choir website or in PVUSD publications.

Parent’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Detach and return completed form no later than August 17. Meeting this deadline will earn you an “A” on your first assignment.

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Purpose

This handbook has been written for choir parents and students to acquaint you with important information regarding the choral program at North Canyon. The handbook contains vital information about the policies regarding grading, attendance, expectations, and uniforms, as well as a complete calendar of choral events for the year. All choral parents and students are responsible for reading the handbook in its entirety to help avoid any conflicts and misunderstandings regarding the policies stated herein.

Philosophy

The NCHS choral program is based on a sequential development of musical experiences designed to promote the continuous growth of students in musical understanding, skills, and knowledge so that they can discover, understand, enjoy, and evaluate music as art and as a healthy means of self-expression.

In conjunction with the musical skills learned, the students will be given opportunities to acquire and demonstrate the important life skills of responsibility, teamwork, dedication, loyalty, and self-discipline.

Message from the Director

Welcome to another exciting year in the North Canyon High School Choral Department. If you are looking for the ultimate challenge, you'll find it everyday in the choir room. As choir members we will find that hard work, teamwork, and even more hard work will make us the choir we want to be. Choir is more than just a class, it is a part of our lives - just ask our returning students. We are all here because we love music and want to learn more about it. The way we perform depends on the way *WE* work in class and the way we think. If we think positively, we can achieve anything. If we think we can, we will! Remember that we are a family. Let's work together and try our hardest to make the 2011-12 choirs the best that North Canyon has ever had.

This handbook will give you some important information for becoming a successful member of the NCHS Choir. Students who are most successful in both their personal life and their music have some things in common. Those common attributes which contribute to their success are:

- They have a strong personal desire to succeed no matter how hard they have to work.
- They are never afraid to keep trying, even if they fail the first few times.
- They pay no attention to "peer pressure" but instead concern themselves with what they believe is a moral and beneficial course of action.
- They show excellent personal discipline and make every attempt to do as they are instructed by their director.
- They are involved in all of their school studies and are committed to excellence in their total life.

In short, they are *DISCIPLINED*, *DEDICATED* and *RESPONSIBLE*.

All I ask of you is to give me your *BEST* on a daily basis while in our classroom. Try, even if you make mistakes, and try not to make the same mistake a second time. Rely on yourself and not your neighbor. If you apply the principles listed above, you will be successful, both in music and in life. I care deeply about your learning and I expect that you care also! I will push you to achieve your very best. Welcome back and let's have an awesome year!

Joyce Bertilson
Director of Choirs

Student Information

Please print the following information:

Student's Name _____

Home phone # _____

Mother's name _____

Father's name _____

Student lives with (circle one): Mother Father Both

Other _____

Address _____

Zip code _____

Mother's work phone _____

Father's work phone _____

Parent's email address _____

***(Email is the primary source of communication with parents.
Please give your current email address so you can stay informed
of important information effecting your student.)***

I have read the North Canyon High School Choral Handbook and understand the policies and procedures outlined in it. I agree that I will participate in all rehearsals and performances of the choir and will comply with the polices of the handbook. I understand that all school rules apply to all activities of the choir whether on or off campus.

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____ School ID#: _____

(continued on back)

***Be sure to check our website at nchschoir.org for all
the latest choir information***

CHOIR CALENDAR

(Not all dates will apply to everyone. Please check with teacher)

September

- 02 - All choir fees due
- 02 - All-State Jazz/Show registration due
- 24 - All-State Jazz/Show Auditions, Central HS
- 27 - Dress Rehearsal, 2-4:15 pm *

October

- 04 - NCHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm *

November

- 3-5 - All-State Jazz/Show Festival
- 17 - PVUSD District Choral Festival
- 18 - Regional registrations due

December

- 01 - Dress Rehearsal, 2-4:15 pm *
- 06 - NCHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm *

January

- 27 & 28 - Regional Auditions

* required of all students

February

- 10 & 11 - NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival
- 17 & 18 - Regional Festival

March

- 01 - Dress Rehearsal, 2-4:15 pm *
- 05 - NCHS Feeder Festival, 7:00 pm
- 06 - NCHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm *
- 09 & 10 - All-State auditions

April

- 18 - 22 - Choir Tour NYC
- 26-28 - All-State @ U of A

May

- 03 - Dress Rehearsal, 2-4:15 pm *
- 08 - NCHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm *
- 24 - Graduation (Show/Mixed sing)

What You Can Expect From Choir

The NCHS Choral Department is committed to excellence in the performance of a variety of choral music literature. Each year we study a variety of outstanding compositions from all periods and styles of music. You owe it to yourself to approach each composition with an open mind and heart, ready to discover what it has to offer. Sacred music is performed for its historical and artistic merit and not for its theological content.

Instructional curriculum includes methods for developing appropriate vocal production, choral blend and articulation, sight singing and theory, and performance and rehearsal decorum.

Students are afforded the opportunity to develop their individual vocal talents in a positive, encouraging, ensemble setting. Several concerts are given in a public performance throughout the year in which all students are expected to participate. *If you cannot support your team members and attend performances, please find a different class to be involved with.*

We will emphasize the art of working together and caring for others. Singing in choir is much more than teamwork; it's like being part of a family. Whether through daily rehearsals, performances, participation in choir governance, social events or travel, there is ongoing opportunity and expectation for you to improve your interpersonal skills.

Sure, it's hard work. It takes discipline. But we think it's worthwhile, and we have fun at it. As with many things in life, you only get out of choir in proportion to what you put into it.

How To Succeed in Choir by REALLY Trying

1. Be where you are supposed to be WHEN you are supposed to be there.
2. Have the proper materials for every rehearsal: pencil and music.
3. Always leave gum, food or drinks in the garbage can on your way in. Water is the only acceptable beverage in class.
4. Use the restroom *BEFORE* class.
5. Be in school daily. Choir is a team effort. If one misses a rehearsal, the entire choir will suffer. That one student will hold up the choir's progress because he/she will miss crucial directions that will make the choir better.
6. Use your pencil often and your speaking voice rarely.
7. Give the director your full attention.

Remember, all rehearsals and concerts are mandatory. If there is a conflict with a school event, let Mrs. Bertilson know WELL IN ADVANCE. School conflicts can almost always be worked out. Plan accordingly 😊

Be sure to check our website at nchschoir.org for all the latest choir information

8. Be cooperative and respectful to your peers as well as to the teacher.
9. Be there for every performance, on time and dressed appropriately.
10. Try to achieve. Audition for solos. Participate in competitions and remember, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

Remember, your actions and attitude reflect on you, your choir, and your school. The success of the choir is your individual responsibility.

Choral Fees

All fees are set by the school district and I have no control over them. No child should be denied the opportunity to participate in choir due to a financial hardship. If these fees do cause a hardship, please speak with an assistant principal to see if any other arrangements can be made.

There is a \$30.00 class fee for all students participating in any choir as well as a \$100.00 activity fee for those students enrolled in Advanced Choir, Women's Vocal Ensemble (formally called Show Choir) or AP/IB Music Theory. In addition all students must purchase a choir t-shirt which will be worn for informal occasions. The class fee helps pay for music, field trips, and misc. costs supplies. The activity fee is charged by the district to *all* co-curricular and extra-curricular activity participants. All fees must be paid (or arrangements for a payment plan) at the bookstore no later than September 2nd. Uniforms will not be checked out to students until class fees are paid. The \$100 *Activity Fee* is eligible for the extra curricular activity tax credit as allowed by Arizona Revised Statute §43-1089.01. The tax credit is limited to \$200/single individual or \$400/married couple. If you desire to use a tax credit for the activity fee, please inform the bookstore at the time of payment. **NO** refunds can be given for fees paid with tax credits. A tax credit receipt must be issued to be eligible for the credit. The class fee of \$30.00 and t-shirt cost are NOT tax deductible. For those students who are in more than one choir, you will need to pay a class fee for BOTH classes, however you only need to pay for ONE activity fee. Fees need to be paid each year - do not expect to put off fees until your senior year. In addition, if a student is going on tour and still has fees to pay, tour money that is paid will first go to pay any outstanding fees. In addition, our bookstore is happy to work out payment plans if that would work best with your budget.

Of What Value Is My Choir Experience After High School?

Personally: In every major civilization, music has had a role in the general education of every student. Indeed, long after other things have vanished, civilizations are long remembered for their arts, including music. Brain

Concert Solos - generally auditions are held several weeks prior to each concert for select students to perform solos at the concert. You might want to check out the audition tips video on our choir website for additional help.

Choir Auditions - auditions for next year take place during the spring. Students will sing a song and sight-read to determine correct placement. Those interested in show choir must also perform a dance audition.

Regional Choir - 100 students are selected from the West Region to participate in this honor choir. Live auditions consisting of a solo and sight-reading take place in January. Those accepted take part in a two-day festival in February and are then eligible to audition for All-State.

All-State Jazz Choir - approximately 40 students are chosen throughout Arizona. Live auditions consisting of a pre-selected vocal solo and scales are held in November. Those accepted take part in a two-day festival in January.

All-State-State Show Choir - approximately 40 students are chosen throughout Arizona. Live auditions consisting of a pre-selected vocal solo, scales and dance are held in November. Those accepted take part in a two-day festival in January.

Our Choirs

Women's/Men's Choir - open to all students. Four major concerts per year. Basic musicianship skills covered including vocal training and sight-reading.

Advanced Women's Choir - audition required. Four major concerts per year. Intermediated musicianship skills stressed.

Women's Vocal Ensemble - audition required. Four major concerts per year. Advanced musicianship skills stressed. Solo opportunities encouraged through Regional and All-State auditions. This ensemble frequently performs at school and community functions and has the opportunity to participate in a spring tour.

Advanced Mixed Choir - audition required. Four major concerts per year. Advanced musicianship skills stressed. Solo opportunities encouraged through Regional and All-State auditions. This ensemble frequently performs at school and community functions, competes in festivals, and has the opportunity to participate in a spring tour.

Jazz Ensemble - audition required. Rehearses outside the school day. Four major concerts per year. Advanced musicianship skills stressed. Solo opportunities encouraged through Regional and All-State auditions. Ensemble frequently performs at school and community functions, competes in festivals, and has the opportunity to participate in a spring tour.

Earning Your Grade

Grades will be based on the following areas:

Participation, Contribution & Focus: All singers are expected to fully participate in class each day according to the director's instructions. There is never a reason to be doing other schoolwork, reading a book, or using electronic devices during class. If a student is too ill to sing, the problem must be addressed with the director prior to the start of class. In such cases, students are expected to follow along in their music, listen and participate in the rehearsal. Classroom rehearsals cannot be recreated for students who are absent, therefore good attendance is essential in succeeding in this performance based class. Students who are habitually absent will see a lowering of their grade due to lack of participation.

Concert/Rehearsal Attendance: Concerts and dress rehearsals are an extension of our class. Concerts demonstrate the understanding of the concepts taught in daily rehearsals. Therefore, a concert is equivalent to an exam in other academic courses. In addition, in day-to-day rehearsals, singers become dependent on each other in musical matters of blend, balance, style and dynamics. It is unfair to the majority of the singers present for a rehearsal or performance when individual singers are absent, thereby affecting the quality of the performance. The only excuse for missing a performance/rehearsal is if you are seriously ill or there is a death in your family. In such cases, I must receive a *written note* from your parent within two days of your return to school explaining your absence so that make-up work can be given. Work is NOT a legitimate excuse to miss a performance. Your first obligation is to your school and its activities, not work. Employers should be notified well in advance of your obligations. Students leaving early from a performance will NOT receive credit for attendance. *In order to receive credit for a concert you must be in attendance for the entire concert, not just your portion of the concert.* The attendance policy is designed to maximize your success and that of the whole choir. An unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal or concert will result in a drop of two letter grades.

Note: Advanced/Women's Vocal Ensemble members - Failure to sing in required performances is cause for automatic removal from the class at semester's end, in addition to any grading penalties involved.

Classwork: Written assignments completed in class or given as homework as well as meeting fee and uniform deadlines and outside concert reviews. Assignments could include practice records, choral journals, theory worksheets, quizzes, etc. If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to make up these assignments. Assignments not made up within seven days, will no longer be eligible for makeup. Returning of music and uniforms and wearing proper concert/rehearsal attire are also calculated into this category.

Uniforms

Class fees need to be paid prior to checking out uniforms.

A choral performance is based on a large group of individuals working as one cohesive ensemble. Uniform concert attire promotes unity within the group and keeps the audience focused on the group as a whole rather than on individual students.

Each Advanced Choir/Show Choir student is issued a concert uniform. It is the student's responsibility to keep their uniform cleaned and pressed. Some uniforms may need to be slightly altered (hemmed, taken in, etc.). Under no circumstances should material be cut off of a uniform without prior permission. All dress hems should be 2" off the floor when wearing concert shoes. Please do not wait until the day before a concert to make the necessary alterations. Students who do not have proper clothing or fail to keep their assigned clothing cleaned and pressed will not be allowed to perform. Hair should be neat and out of the face and should be of natural color - no unnatural dyes (green, hot pink, etc). Students may not wear large jewelry items with their uniform. In addition, students must remove all visible piercings (except small earrings for girls). Failure to do so will result in removal from the concert and the grade will be lowered. Students are responsible for providing the following items that compliment our formal attire:

- Boys - Black dress shoes (no exceptions - tennis shoes are NOT acceptable); Black socks
- Girls - Black, closed toe, low 1-2" heel dress shoe (no flip flops)
- Women's Vocal Ensemble - Black character shoes with a 1 and 1/2" heel; natural colored hose

Beginning Choir members will be assigned a uniform and will change at school one-hour prior to the concert. Uniforms will be returned at the end of each concert.

Lost Uniforms: Students are responsible for loss or damage so PLEASE treat your uniform with the utmost care. If a student loses or fails to return clothing, you will be assessed the full replacement cost of the item.

Cleaning: *All tuxes and Advanced Women's dresses are to be professionally dry cleaned prior to turning in at the end of the year.* Failure to return uniforms properly cleaned will result in a \$25.00 cleaning fee being assessed. Home dry cleaning kits are not satisfactory. Uniforms are NEVER to be washed in a washing machine unless the tag specifically says to. Women's Ensemble and Jazz Choir dresses MUST be hand washed and hung dry! Advanced Mixed dresses can be machine-washed.

Music and Folders

Music costs a small fortune. With tax and shipping, the average piece of music costs approximately \$4.00. You will be assigned your own music and a folder. Treat it with care and do not remove it from the classroom unless you have permission to do so. If your music is lost or damaged, you will be responsible for paying to replace it. When marking in your music, use pencil only! Folders are to be properly put away at the end of each class period. Any folder left out will be “jailed”. You must pay a 25-cent fine to get it back.

Parent Involvement

Now that your children are in high school, you don't have to stop being involved in their school activities. In fact, its just the opposite - ***I want you to be involved*** and so do your children (even if they don't ask)! There are many ways that you can be involved in our choir program. You might consider helping out by chaperoning field trips, assisting with fundraisers, doing uniform alterations, seeking donations, or helping at concerts. Each year the choir also hosts a silent auction and our chairperson can always use your assistance with this event. Even something as simple as attending the concert is an easy way to show your child that you care and are proud of their accomplishments.

The choir is also very fortunate to be supported by our parent boosters organization, VOICES (Valuing Our Choral Students). This group of parents meets monthly and supports our choir through volunteerism, enthusiasm, and fundraising. Meetings are generally held the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Due to the continued budget cuts to education, the financial support we will receive from the district this year will be minimal at best, therefore, the fundraising efforts of VOICES will be even more vital to our program. Getting involved in VOICES is a not only a way to support your child, but also a great way to meet other parents. You can find out more information about this group on our website - nchschoir.org.

No matter where your interests lie, or the time limitations that you might have, there are countless ways that you can become involved. Please support our children and their activities – they need you! Be sure to also watch for upcoming information from our VOICES parents.

Audition Opportunities

Through the choir program at North Canyon, students are given many opportunities to audition. You are encouraged to audition for as many of these learning opportunities as possible.

research today is underscoring the presence of a musical-aesthetic intelligence in human beings, a capacity to learn to be musical. These factors suggest to us that whatever your eventual career or life course, music study contributes to being a well-rounded person and realizing your potential as a human being. It can also provide a source of personal joy and pleasure available to you throughout your life.

Practically: Vocal study is one of the most practical things you can do as your voice is always a part of you. You will have learned to use it properly and take care of it, so that throughout your life you have the choice of speaking with greater quality and clarity, being comfortable in front of people, participating in your college or community chorus, church choir, doing amateur theatre, and becoming a more mature appreciator of the beautiful. Your experience now is the start of a lifelong skill.

Academically: The College Board and most universities strongly urge high school music study - many even require it - no matter your vocational or academic goals. Research shows that students involved in music score higher on standardized tests.

Career Skills: A strong choral program cannot exist without the prompt attendance of all members at all events. This helps reinforce the idea that every individual is very important to the whole. One absent or late member has an adverse effect on the whole group. This is a valuable life skill for all students to learn to aid in the success of whatever they do in life. Attendance and promptness is one of the most important aspects of your future careers.

Awards

Students who are dedicated to choral excellence will be able to earn their varsity letter in choir. A student must earn 250 point to receive their letter and points will be carried over from year to year. You will tally your points at the end of the year so keep track of what you have done.

Points can be earned in many ways such as auditioning for solos or select ensembles, participating in choir activities and fundraising events, attending outside concerts, taking private voice lessons, or having perfect attendance. The more involved you are, the faster you will earn your letter.

Choral Officers

Students will be elected from the Advanced Choirs to serve as officers for the NCHS Choir. Meetings will be held biweekly or as otherwise necessary. Elections will take place in May to take effect for the following school year with the exception of class representatives who will be elected in the fall.