

Niceville Senior High School



Choral Music Department



2011-2012 Chorus Syllabus and Handbook

Niceville High School

Choral Music Department

800 East John Sims Parkway
Niceville, Florida 32578
(850) 833-4262

August 22, 2011

Dear Chorus Member, Parents and Boosters,

We are excited to welcome you back to a new school year, one that has begun later than anticipated, causing some adjustments to the calendar published last May. But we are in school now and I am glad that you are a member of our choral music program, both our singers and the adults who support them. We are continuing our legacy of outstanding learning, performing and touring experiences with all the fun that comes with them this year. On Monday, August 29, we will host our annual potluck supper in the cafeteria and auditorium, an event that has raised the curtain to our chorus year for the past two decades.

Our rules and policies are in this packet. They are simple, yet comprehensive to protect our music program and everyone who sings there. The Chorus has a long, proud tradition, a legacy that deserves to be protected and experienced with all the richness of the past by this generation. Each student deserves the best choral music education possible. Organizational policies are necessary. If you are anything like me, you want all the rules and policies so you know what to expect in and out of the chorus room. Be aware that these are rules that I will enforce.

Chorus is an elective. You do not have to sing to graduate. If you take Chorus you will have to participate in all activities listed on the attached calendar. This includes all concerts, rehearsals and music assessments. I will expect you to do every activity that pertains to you. At the high school level, we work as a team and depend on each other. Here, membership means you will be expected to responsible to your chorus. You will be required to exhibit the same level of investment as you would as a starter in a varsity sport.

This year we have initiated a necessary materials and activity fee of \$45 a semester to cover the costs of running a program with no budgeted funds from our school. This fee will eliminate several event participation fees that have "nickel and dimed" our students for years. It will pay for music, supplies and entry fees as well as dozens of other program expenses. You have to purchase a uniform. The boosters will give you opportunities to make funds for uniforms and travel as well as other activities that require money. I have included a contract for you to read and return to let me know how serious you are about what is required of you in Chorus. You can read the contract on your own and decide whether you, as a parent or student, want to take on the responsibility of being a part of our Chorus. I will hold you, parents and students, to everything you say you will do when you sign the chorus contract and promise to deliver the best choral music education we can give you. I have to have the contract back by the Friday, September 2 for you to stay in chorus. Without a commitment from you by that day, you will be sent to guidance for a schedule change.

I mentioned earlier the annual potluck supper. Look at the attached calendar. On it you will see what food you need to bring. On Monday evening, August 29, our annual Chorus Booster Potluck Supper will happen. It will begin with the singers eating at 4:45 PM, everyone else immediately afterwards. Remember, this event is for your family. Our booster president, Ken Pickler, has prepared a letter that in handbook. In his letter he describes the potluck. The cafeteria opens at 4:00 PM for parents to bring their food and to begin getting required forms notarized. All singers will perform at this mandatory performance, you will learn what plans we have for the Chorus this year, see a PowerPoint presentation in the auditorium and the Boosters will be looking for parents who want to help us build on their tradition of excellence service. In addition, the Boosters will provide notary publics for the district-required Medical Release Forms, forms that if notarized now, will be good all year.

It is my privilege to welcome Megan James to NHS. Ms. James will be serving her choral music education internship with our department during the fall semester. An Indiana native, Megan is a senior at Florida State University.

I am ready to begin learning and making music. I hope you are too. See you at the potluck.

Michael Dye, Choral Director
dyem@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us
(850) 833-4262

NHS CHORUS BOOSTERS ASSOCIATION

Niceville High School

800 East John Sims Parkway

Niceville, Florida 32578

Kenneth Pickler, President

Janet Simpson, Vice-President - Alice Scruggs, Secretary - Julie Burrell, Treasurer/Bookkeeper

2011-2012

Potluck Dinner

Chorus Parents,

The annual Chorus potluck dinner will be held this year on Monday, August 29, at 5:00 PM **in the Niceville High School cafeteria**. This event is a wonderful way to kick off the yearly Chorus activities, give parents a chance to volunteer for events and distribute information important to your student's success in Chorus.

The dish you will bring depends on which Choral ensemble your student is in. Please check the Chorus calendar for this event or check with your student; they will know what to bring! You will need to bring enough to feed your family plus four more servings. Please cut casseroles, desserts, etc. into serving size portions before you get to the dinner. **Include a disposable serving utensil for all dishes that require one.** We will have no utensils available to us in the cafeteria. If possible, bring your **dish in a disposable container**. If your container and its lid are not disposable it must be well **marked with your name**. We have no way to wash dishes and no place to store dishes left at the school. **Do not plan to leave your dishes at the potluck!**

The cafeteria will be open and ready for you to bring food by 4:00 PM. If you are not familiar with the campus, follow the signs that will be posted along the route from the Chorus room and Auditorium. Notary publics will be available beginning at 4:00 PM so that you can get your student's medical emergency release and volunteer forms notarized. The Pot Luck provides an opportunity to sign up to chaperone and get other vital information that will make your life easier later in the school year (remember – All-County parents must chaperone at least one rehearsal or at the all-county performance.) Also, there will be Chorus Booster officers and chairpersons present to answer any questions you may have about that goes into a successful choral program and how you can help.

The dinner will start no later than 5:00 PM; Chorus students will go through the line first. Your minor children are welcome to attend the supper but there will not be enough food or room for your friends and neighbors. It is our hope to be able to have everyone into the auditorium by 5:45 PM for a performance by our Chorus and an informative PowerPoint presentation.

I trust you will find this event enjoyable...food, music, and lots of useful information...what an evening! See you there and thanks in advance for helping make the Chorus something we, and our community, can be proud of!

Ken Pickler, President

Chorus Room Rules

1. STUDENTS WILL BE IN THE CHORUS ROOM, IN THEIR ASSIGNED PLACES, READY TO WARM UP WITH ALL MATERIALS (INCLUDING MUSIC FOLDERS, PENCILS, HOMEWORK) BEFORE THE LAST BELL RINGS. **IPWFBBR** (*In place with folder before bell rings*)
2. BY THE WAY THEY SPEAK AND ACT, STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE RESPECT AND COURTESY FOR THEIR FELLOW SINGERS AND THEIR TEACHERS.
3. STUDENTS WILL NOT CHEW GUM, EAT, BRING COLD DRINKS INTO THE CLASSROOM, TALK, PLAY, USE CELL PHONES/TEXT, WORK ON/BRING MATERIALS FROM OTHER CLASSES OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT WOULD KEEP THEM OR THE OTHER SINGERS FROM LEARNING WHILE IN REHEARSAL.
4. EVERY STUDENT WILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES OF THE REHEARSAL.
5. STUDENTS SHOULD NEVER LEAVE THE CLASSROOM OR THE BUILDING DURING THE CLASS PERIOD WITHOUT PERMISSION AND A PASS FROM THE DIRECTOR.
6. NO STUDENT WILL USE THE CLASSROOM COMPUTER OR OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, PIANOS OR OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE CHORAL DIRECTOR.

Student Name _____

Chorus _____

STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACTS
NICEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

STUDENT CONTRACT

This agreement must be signed by student and parent and returned by SEPTEMBER 2nd at 2 PM for you to remain in the chorus.

I have carefully read and understand the policies of the Niceville High School Choral Music Department contained in this handbook. I know that I must return this agreement by SEPTEMBER 2nd at 2 PM to remain in the chorus. I know that this contract is a binding agreement between the high school, my director, my fellow singers and me. I know that I must earn a grade in chorus in accordance with the Sunshine State Standards just as I do in any of my other classes. I accept the fact that in the case where I do not fully abide by chorus policy, this contract can be an instrument used by the director or the principal to dismiss me from the choral program, alter my grade, used as a basis for disciplinary action or employed as a lever to encourage me to do what I have promised to do. I agree to abide by these policies anytime I represent the chorus, whether that is at school or anywhere in the world the Chorus represents Niceville High School. In signing this contract I am agreeing to abide by the chorus dates on the chorus calendar, the rehearsal schedule, to perform each time my chorus performs and to follow the published policies and rules of the Chorus. Furthermore, I promise to represent the Niceville Chorus to the best of my abilities. I am aware that I am agreeing to dedicate myself to contributing the best of my talents and efforts to the music while rehearsing and performing. I promise to keep my commitment to my director and my chorus throughout the entire year and confirm with my signature that I realize that I can be removed from my assigned ensemble or the chorus program if I do not contribute musically in the fashion my director sets for me. I promise to come to school every day except when I am sick or unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by the director, prevent me from doing so. I promise to make up the practice time I miss when absent. I promise to practice outside of class and will keep a written record to be presented to the director at anytime for a grade. I also am aware and support the fact that the chorus uses a merit system that is used for rewarding students with spring trip privileges and taking away privileges for misbehavior or other infractions. If I decide not to follow the rules and policies of the Chorus, or if I decide not to do as I have promised my director and my fellow singers with my signature I would do, I realize that I will receive a lower grade (*failure if justified under policy*) and/or can be removed from the choral program after a conference with my parents, my director and an administrator.

Chorus Member

Date

PARENT CONTRACT

This agreement must be signed by student and parent and returned by SEPTEMBER 2nd at 2 PM for him/her to remain in the chorus.

I have carefully read and understand all the policies by which my student-singer has agreed to abide in the Student Contract. By signing this parent contract, I confirm that I will support my singer's commitment to Chorus and the policies of the Chorus in the same fashion my singer has agreed to do. My signature at the bottom of this contract also signifies that I have read, understand and agree to support all of the rules and policies of the Chorus printed in the handbook, (*even when I do not agree with or fully understand why the policy exists*), and that I have discussed these policies with my singer and confirmed to him/her that I require him/her to abide by the policies of the Chorus. I agree that I will be responsible for seeing that my singer has all necessary uniforms, supplies and pays his/her fees in a timely manner. I agree that my singer, as a member of an elective class at Niceville H.S. will be expected to participate in all applicable rehearsals, chorus concerts, festivals, clinics and travel and that I understand that some of these events will cause me to incur costs as described in the handbook of the Chorus. I will help my singer to be a good chorus member and together we will be committed to Chorus membership and its activities for the entire year. I understand that my singer can be removed from the Chorus if he/she does not follow the letter or intent of the policies of the Chorus. I understand that when I sign this contract that I am agreeing that my singer and I will abide by the rules and policies as articulated in this handbook and that these policies will not be re-interpreted or changed for my singer. I understand that if there is an area of the rules and regulations that I do not think are clearly defined, as they relate to a specific issue involving my singer, I have a right to ask for clarification. I also am aware and support the fact that the chorus uses a merit system that is used for rewarding students with spring trip privileges and taking away privileges for misbehavior or other infractions. During the year, I agree that if I have questions or concerns with matters pertaining to Chorus, I will first address my concerns with the choral director, just as I can expect the choral director to first communicate with me before taking major disciplinary action concerning my child. I understand that I am eligible to be a member of the Niceville High School Chorus Boosters Association with all the privileges afforded a member under that organization's constitution and by-laws at no cost to me.

Parent (Custodial) or Legal Guardian of Chorus Member

Date

POLICES OF THE NICEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

Revised – August, 2011

1 - ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY to DAILY REHEARSALS

- a. It is important for students to be in all their classes and in rehearsals each day.
 1. Students who miss more than nine (9) hours of class for any reason except for school leave, will be required to pass a comprehensive examination and will not be allowed to make the spring trip with the Chorus unless granted special permission by the director and the principal. Students who miss more than fifteen hours of classroom instruction will not receive credit for the class for the semester in which the absences occur. (*School-leave does not count as missed instructional time*)
 2. Families are strongly discouraged from taking vacations during school time. *Rehearsal time can never be made up. Individual practice cannot substitute for group rehearsal. The knowledge of music cannot substitute for rehearsal experience with the ensemble.*
- b. Be aware that students returning from family vacations will be assessed using the same criteria as those students who attended all rehearsals.
- c. Any absence can cause a student to miss selection to a particular ensemble or chorus for a particular performance.
- d. Lack of musical knowledge can cause a singer to be prohibited for performing with the group, including unfamiliarity due to family vacations, extended sick leave or unexcused absences.
- e. The amount of absenteeism is a strong factor in determining chorus assignments for the next school year.
- f. Students will be tardy for class unless they are in the chorus room in their assigned area when the last bell rings. Students are allowed two (2) tardies each 9-week period. After each tardy parents will receive an automated call from the school to inform them of the tardy. A third tardy will result in a referral.
- g. Absence or tardiness resulting from other activities, not pre-excused, will be considered unexcused.
- h. Admits to class from any source except the administrative offices may not be excused. *The director will not write passes for students to another class who are tardy by their own negligence.*

2 - AFTER-SCHOOL REHEARSALS, PERFORMANCES, and CONFLICTS

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and observe the dates published in the chorus calendar and subsequent printed updates or dates published on-line at new.SchoolNotes.com. An "Absence Request" form – available on SchoolNotes, is required to be submitted in advance for all rehearsals or performance to be missed.

Rehearsal conflict guidelines:

- a. Students are required to sing in all performances of their choir or ensemble.
- b. It will be the Choral Music Department's policy, reflected in grades earned by students that:
 1. Performances or games take precedence over a practice or rehearsal.
 2. A district event takes precedence over a local event; a state event takes precedence over a district event, etc.
- c. When a performance and a game occur at the same time the student can make a choice of the activity in which he/she wants to participate. However, the director will observe the policy located above in Section 2, paragraph a., #2.
 1. However, the student must make the director aware of the choice at least two weeks in advance of the event or the absence will be unexcused.
- d. Personal or organized non-school related activities will be considered secondary to the educational (choral) obligation of the student.
- e. Students are to perform at all events listed on the Chorus Calendar and for attending all rehearsals or performances scheduled at least one week in advance (even when these do not appear first edition of the chorus calendar).
- f. Monday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 or Monday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 are designated chorus rehearsal blocks. Chorus students must be available upon demand for performances or rehearsals during these times.
- g. Singers will not be excused from "8th period" Niceville Singers (a graded, academic subject) to make up work, be tutored or take exams for other classes under any circumstances without a one-day notice and permission from the director. Students are responsible for informing their other teachers that Mondays through Thursdays Singer days.
- h. Monday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 PM and Thursday evenings from 8:00-6:00 are also reserved for special rehearsals to prepare for concerts for Music Performance Assessments (MPAs) when one week's notice is given either orally or via new.SchoolNotes.com/nicevillechorus.com.
 1. All students should reserve Monday afternoons from mid-November through mid-December for Holiday Concert preparations.
- i. To be excused from any after school rehearsal or performance, students must present a note from their parent/guardian to the director or contact the chorus office by telephone (833-4262) or e-mail (dyem@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us) before the rehearsal or performance commences.
 1. The director will make decisions regarding whether an absence from a rehearsal or performance is excused.
 2. Missed work or rehearsal time will be required to be made up within one week of an absence. You may be required to submit a recording to the director to prove that you practiced the music that your missed equal to the amount of time missed from the rehearsal.
- j. The Niceville Choral Music Department presents a back-to-school supper where students are required to perform. The chorus may have other required concerts such as December concerts, district level Music Performance Assessments (MPAs), festivals and festival preparatory concerts, concerts for the student body; concerts with visiting choruses, a spring concert as well as any other performances on the chorus calendar or that might be scheduled and announced one week in advance of the event.

3 - GRADING

Grades can be checked on-line at any time.

Chorus grades are based on knowledge of choral skills and techniques, cultural and historical connections, aesthetic and critical analysis and applications to life, components of the Sunshine State Standards – Choral Music – evaluated using the standards listed below, demonstrated by students and assessed by the director. Daily assessments are converted to a grade based on the rubric that follows in this section. Performances, written examinations, and specific vocal and musical skills and techniques are also evaluated using the rubric. For the sake of assigning grades, certain activities tied to the SSS will be given greater value than other standards. Grades will come from the following:

- o Knowledge of Sunshine State Standards concepts as exhibited on written or oral tests (9-week exam).
- o Continuous demonstration of the following SSS related choral skills in rehearsal and during performance as observed by the director:
 - a. *correct singing posture while standing or sitting,*
 - b) *good breath support and breathing technique,*
 - c) *use of good vocal technique as taught in class,*
 - d) *control of tone to blend and tune,*
 - e) *good diction (clarity of consonants and purity of vowels),*
 - f) *phrasing of the musical line with breath and dynamics,*
 - g) *vocal and facial expression,*
 - h) *stage presence and attention to the director and*
 - i) *rhythmic and melodic sight reading accuracy*
- o Participation in and/or practice of the following classroom activities and procedures observed by the director and defined by the Florida Department of Education's curriculum guide for choral music and the SSS:
 - a. *all parts of the daily warm-up routine,*
 - b) *bringing all music, completed assignments, and other materials to class each day,*
 - c) *having a pencil in music folder at all times,*
 - d) *placing non-choral materials in designated areas,*
 - e) *following instructions immediately and*
 - f) *participation in all classroom activities...including physical movement exercises.*

Skills and Techniques – Sunshine State Standards for Choral Music

Standard 1

The student sings, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. (MU.A.1.4)

1. sings accurately, with and without accompaniment, standard choral repertoire (e.g., music written in four, five, or six-part madrigal or double choir) with appropriate vocal technique.
2. uses appropriate vocal styles and techniques of various musical literature (e.g., jazz, Baroque, gospel, and swing)
3. uses ensemble skills (e.g., balance, intonation, and rhythmic unity) in both formal and informal settings with choral groups of various sizes and styles (e.g., concert choir, show choir, barbershop quartet, octet, madrigal).

Rubric assessment:

Level	Description
4	Vibrant tone is well supported with properly formed vowels. Consonants are clear and communicate the text. Register consistency is maintained. Production of varied vocal styles, tone quality, and tone color. Intonation, pitch accuracy, and balance are consistently maintained through various dynamics, range and texture.
3	Tone is focused and energized with vowel placement and formation fairly consistent. Most consonants are audible. Register consistency is often maintained. Adjustments in balance and volume are made. Intonation is often accurate.
2	Tone is sometimes breathy or tense. Consonants are sometimes audible and diphthongs are inconsistent. Individual voices are sometimes heard. Intonation is sometimes accurate.
1	Tone seldom maintains space, resonance or focus. Vowel formation is incorrect. Consonants are not clear and diphthongs lack definition. Individual voices are heard above the ensemble.

Standard 2:

The student reads music. (MU.A.3.4.)

- a. sight-reads one's part in a four-part (or three-part/two part SSA/TTB) vocal score.

Rubric assessment: (2A)

Level	Description
4	Pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, and pulse awareness are achieved through a consistent system.
3	Pitch, rhythm, and pulse systems are often accurate with a few minor problems.
2	Rhythm and/or pitch accuracy, steady pulse systems are at times accurate.
1	Rhythmic and/or pitch accuracy is seldom achieved. Pulse is dragging or rushing most of the time.

- b. describes how traditional and nontraditional notation and symbols of a written score provide information to the performer (e.g. repeats, key and meter changes, themes, and motifs).

Rubric assessment: (2B)

Level	Description
4	Expresses composer's intent regarding tempo, style, dynamics, phrasing, form, articulations, and interpretative nuances
3	Often delivers an understanding of proper tempo and style, dynamics contrast, artistically shaped line, and appropriate articulations.
2	Sometimes identifies information given on tempo, style, phrasing, use of dynamics, articulations are correct.
1	Seldom imparts proper tempo and style, or follow dynamics, phrasing, or composer's intent.

Cultural and Historical Connections

Standard 3:

The student understands music in relation to culture and history. (MU.C.1.4)

1. describes and classifies unfamiliar music according to style, period, composer, culture, or performer.
2. understands the development of American music (e.g. country, blues, folk, stage or film, and gospel).
3. understands the influence of significant composers and performers on musical styles, traditions, and performance practices.

Rubric assessment:

Level Description

When presented with a piece of unfamiliar music, the student will:

4	Identify all of the following: style characteristics or genre historical period or cultural significance representative composer cultural significance of the artist or composer	2	Identify two of the following: style characteristics or genre historical period or cultural significance representative composer cultural significance of the artist or composer
3	Identify three of the following: style characteristics or genre historical period or cultural significance representative composer cultural significance of the artist or composer	1	Identify one of the following: style characteristics or genre historical period or cultural significance representative composer cultural significance of the artist or composer

Aesthetic and Critical Analysis

Standard 4:

The student listens to, analyzes, and describes music. (MU.D.1.4)

1. perceives and remembers significant music events within a composition.
2. analyzes music events within a composition using appropriate music principles and technical vocabulary.
3. understands the musical elements and expressive techniques (e.g., tension and release, tempo, dynamics, and harmonic and melodic movement) that generate aesthetic responses.

Rubric assessment:

Level Description

- 4 Consistently identifies the appropriate form, texture, and sequence within a selection using correct terminology and understands the desired interpretation from indicators in the music.
- 3 Usually identifies the appropriate form, texture, and sequence within a selection using correct terminology and often understands the desired interpretation from indicators in the music.
- 2 Sometimes identifies the appropriate form, texture, and sequence within a selection using correct terminology and occasionally understands the desired interpretation from indicators in the music.
- 1 Seldom identifies the appropriate form, texture, and sequence within a piece using correct terminology and almost never understands the desired interpretation from indicators in the music.

Standard 5:

The student evaluates music and music performance. (MU.D.2.4)

1. Establishes a strategy for making informed, critical evaluations of the quality and/or the effectiveness of a performance.
2. Understands the criteria used in the critical evaluation of one's own and others' performances, arrangements, and improvisations.

Rubric assessment

Level Description

- 4 Demonstrates understanding of programming music selected for performance (weakest to strongest selection).
 - Develops knowledge of the text and composers/arrangers intent regarding style, appropriate tone production, blend and balance.
 - Understands ensemble precision, stage presence and audience reaction.
- 3 Often understands the order in which music is programmed for performance (weakest to strongest).
 - Has general knowledge of text and composer/arranger intent regarding style, appropriate tone production, blend and balance.
 - Often understands ensemble precision, stage presence and audience response.
- 2 Sometimes demonstrates an understanding of programming music selected for performance (weakest to strongest).
 - Has some knowledge of the text and composer/arranger intent regarding style, appropriate tone production, blend and balance.
 - Occasionally understands ensemble precision, stage presence and audience reaction.
- 1 Seldom demonstrates an understanding of programming music for performance (weakest to strongest)
 - Seldom exhibits knowledge of the text and composer/arranger intent regarding style, appropriate tone production, blend and balance.
 - Has limited knowledge of ensemble precision, stage presence and audience reaction.

Applications to Life

Standard 6:

The student understands the relationship between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts. (MU.E.1.4)

1. understands how elements, artistic processes, and organizational principles are used in distinctive ways and provides connections between music and other subjects.
2. understands how the uniqueness of a given work of music serves to define its artistic tradition and its cultural context.

Rubric assessment:

- 4 Comprehends the common elements relating music to other disciplines (i.e. text to literature, rhythmic values to mathematics, style/period to history).
- 3 Often correlates elements of music to literature, mathematics, and history.
- 2 Sometimes relates relationships of literature, mathematics, history to music.
- 1 Seldom are correlations are made between music and other disciplines

Standard 7:

The student understands the relationship between music and the world beyond the school setting. (MU.E.2.4)

1. knows characteristics that make music suitable for specific occasions and purposes and responds appropriately within various musical settings.
2. uses informed consumer choices concerning music based on personal criteria (e.g. rationalizes and defends musical preferences).
3. know the various roles that musicians perform (i.e. entertainer, teacher, or transmitter of cultural tradition), representative individuals who have functioned in these roles, and their achievements.

Rubric assessment:

- 4 List specific music for four occasions (e.g. cultural celebrations, patriotic, religious) and the appropriate response
List four informed reasons for personal choice of music
Identify four roles performed by musicians.
List an individual and his/her achievement for each role.
- 3 List specific music for three occasions (e.g. cultural celebrations, patriotic, religious) and the appropriate response.
List three informed reasons for personal choice of music.
Identify three roles performed by musicians.
List an individual and his/her achievement for each role.
- 2 List specific music for two occasions (e.g. cultural celebrations, patriotic, religious) and the appropriate response
List two informed reasons for personal choice of music
Identify two roles performed by musicians.
List an individual and his/her achievement for each role.
- 1 List specific music for one occasion (e.g. cultural celebrations, patriotic, religious) and the appropriate response
List one informed reasons for personal choice of music
Identify one role performed by musicians. List an individual and his/her achievement for that role.

Written assignment project: 1. Select the music for four occasions – choose from a patriotic program for a middle school, a wedding, a birthday party for your best friend's parents, a birthday party for a six year old with 20 guests, a church/synagogue service, a summer beach party, a high school graduation, a cocktail party for a business convention.

MUSIC ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

SUBJECT _____

Class Period _____

Assessment

4 - exceeds the standard 3 - meets the standard 2 - needs improvement 1 - does not meet the standard

Student Name	1	2a	2b	3	4	5	6	7
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								

SPECIAL REHEARSAL GRADING CLAUSE

1. An unexcused absence from an after-hours rehearsal will result in a “0” for that rehearsal and can be reason for dismissal from the Chorus.
2. An unexcused absence from any performance will result in a “0” for the performance and is grounds for dismissal from the Chorus.
3. A tardy to an after-school rehearsal or a “concert call” counts the same as one for the school day and be recorded as such in the “grade book”.

EXCUSED ABSENCE - One which involves personal illness, a death in the family or an absence in which permission is granted before the absence by the director. Parents must always call (833-4114 x 7100) the chorus room before an afternoon or evening (performance/rehearsal) event if the student is to miss, unless a note is sent beforehand.

4 - UNIFORMS AND GROOMING

A chorus uniform is required of all members of the chorus. Uniforms are required to be worn correctly, in a manner that is neat and represents NHS appropriately, as interpreted by the director. Specifics concerning uniforms are listed within “Attachment A” of this handbook.

- a. Each chorus student must purchase a chorus shirt.
- b. Opus One members are required to purchase an Opus sweatshirt. Sweatshirts may also be available for purchase for every Niceville chorus.
- c. Opus One and some other advanced ensembles may be required to purchase special or additional uniforms.
- d. The director will decide what is appropriate in terms of grooming. Failure to abide by these standards will cause the singer to be ineligible to perform with the ensemble resulting in a “0” for that concert.
- e. Because tongue, lip or nose bolts/studs/rings impede vocal production and are also considered non-complying accessories to the chorus uniform, students with such body piecing will not be allowed to perform with the Chorus and will receive a rehearsal grade of “0” for every practice/class period in which the tongue, lip or nose bolt/stud/ring is worn.
- f. A singer wearing his/her uniform with a visible tattoo at a Chorus event will not be permitted to perform with the Chorus and will receive a performance grade of “0”.
- g. Lipstick and makeup are part of each girl’s uniform. Specifically, red lipstick of a shade approved by the director or his designee is required and is considered to be part of the on-stage costume. Failure to wear required lipstick or makeup will result in removal from the performance and a grade of “0”.
- h. Students/students parents are solely responsible for their uniforms. Once a uniform is in a student’s possession the Chorus will not be responsible for securing the uniform at any time including when the uniform is dropped off, for later use, or left unattended in the Chorus area for any reason. The chorus staff or its designated chaperones will not be responsible for loss or theft of an unattended uniform.

5 – AUDITIONS

All students will audition for the chorus in the fashion designated by the director and assigned by the director to the chorus the director feels is appropriate. Assignment to choruses and ensembles is based on a vocal/musicianship-based audition and/or what the director has observed regarding dependability and attitude throughout the year as well as citizenship and academic performance in his/her other classes.

6 – MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS, FESTIVALS, CONTESTS or TOURS

The choruses from NHS can enter the FVA Music Performance Assessments throughout the year as scheduled on the chorus calendar as well as a performance trip/contest/festival/tour.

- a. All students are required to participate in all festivals/mpas unless pre-excused by the director.
 1. In addition to receiving a failing grade for lack of participation at district or state music performance assessments, students will not be considered for advancement to a “higher” level chorus the next school year.
 2. A singer’s primary chorus (choruses that meet 1st -7th period) responsibilities and requirements are extended to all other choruses and ensembles of which they are a member. Consequences for failing to fulfill responsibilities in one chorus can be extended to all other choruses of the N.H.S. choral program (*i.e. dismissal from Camerata for failing to perform can result in dismissal from the Singers as well*).
- b. A student may be excused from an mpa by the director for only the most extreme of reasons, “extreme” to be interpreted by the director. Failure to notify the director of an absence using the **Absent Request Form** found on SchoolNotes in the timeline described on the form, will result in a grade of “0” and can result in removal from the choral music program.
 1. Absences that are a result of illness or family emergencies must be communicated by telephone to the director before the event occurs. The director will determine the validity of the absence.
- c. The annual spring performance trip, while not required due to the expense and the time taken from school for travel, is an activity where participation is strongly encouraged. It is an enriching activity which allows for additional performance and adjudication. The trip also valuable for the musical and social experience it affords the student as well as an indication to the director of the level of commitment the student has to the advanced choral study and to the other members of the Chorus.
 1. Because the spring trip is a “team” activity where members depend on each other to produce the best music they can to represent their chorus and school, students who choose not to travel with the chorus may not be moved to a higher level chorus the next school year.
 2. Students who do not participate on the spring trip may be required to complete a research project defined as by the director to substitute for the graded musical activity of the students who perform while on the trip.
 3. Deposits for the spring trip are nonrefundable.

4. Funds paid according to a payment schedule will not be reimbursed after the due date for that payment has passed.
- d. As Chorus is an elective course, each student will be assessed a festival fee for each festival in which he/she participates to pay for entry fees as well as music and other expenses related to performing with the chorus. (*Solo and Ensemble-\$20 soloists/District Choral-\$15/ Spring Trip- \$480/State MPA (TBA-if NHS participates)*).
- e. All chorus members can be required to perform in an ensemble at the Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- f. Students who want to perform a solo at the solo and ensemble festival must submit his or her literature to the director by the deadline selected by the director. Opus One singers are required to sing a solo (or alternative performance as dictated by the director) at the District S&E MPA.
 1. Students withdrawing from solo or independent ensemble after the registration has been mailed must repay the chorus for the expense of their registration.
 2. Soloists may hire their own accompanists or the chorus will contract an accompanist who a student may wish to use for rehearsals and performances at a cost determined by the boosters and the director.
 3. Soloists must follow the rehearsal schedule published by the director in coordination with the singer and his/ her accompanist. Missed rehearsals will result in forfeiture of one of the student's time slots.
 4. All singers must perform their solos for the director before the mpa unless exempted from doing so by the director.
 5. Niceville freshmen and sophomore soloists who make a Superior rating at the district level mpa will not be permitted to perform at the State MPA. All others may enter the FVA State MPA solo performance only with the approval of the director.
 6. Students who want to sing a solo at the District 1 S&E MPA must study voice with a voice teacher and/or have special permission from the choral director to be enter the event.
 7. Soloists are required to wear their formal black chorus uniforms while performing their solos unless alternate attire has been pre-approved by the director.

7 - ALL-COUNTY CHORUS

Students picked by the Director for the Okaloosa County All-County Honor Chorus will be selected from the Niceville Singers. A maximum of thirty-two positions will be open to Niceville students for the 9th-12th Grade Mixed Honor Chorus although there is the possibility of petitioning to bring more men.

- a. Members will be chosen based on seniority, musical skills, availability for attendance at Monday evening all-county rehearsals, attendance at music theory teaching sessions and, if necessary, by special audition.
- b. **Student participants will be assessed \$50.00 each (due by the first all-county rehearsal) by the All-County Honor Chorus to defray his/her expenses for music, participation and transportation.**
- c. Students will be allowed no absences from all-county Monday evening rehearsals. The director, all-county chorus coordinator and the all-county chairman will make decisions regarding what will be considered excused emergency absences. Only one "excused" absence will be allowed and then only under the circumstances described by all-county guidelines (*doctor's note or death in the immediate family*).
- d. Students must attend all parts of the rehearsals with the all-county clinician, including a Sunday afternoon rehearsal (2PM-4PM) and the entire rehearsal on "all-county Monday" (8A-2:15PM). Failure to do so, for any reason, will result in elimination from the all-county chorus and its performances.
- e. Students, who quit or are disqualified from the 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.

8 - ALL-STATE CHORUS

Rehearsals for the all-state audition will begin in August and last until the final audition in October. Workshops will be held during class and after school to prepare students for the sight-reading and musicianship parts of the test if necessary. Students who the director thinks are most qualified in these testing areas to represent Niceville High School will be selected to audition for the all-state chorus.

A maximum of 12 girls (maximum of four from each part) are allowed by the FVA to audition for all-state. Twenty (20) boys may audition for all-state (the director may petition the FVA president to bring more boys). The top sight-readers in the state will automatically qualify for the state Reading Chorus and not have to compete for a 9th-12th All-State Chorus card. After passing the musicianship and sight-reading exam, students must pass a vocal audition to be eligible for all-state. All-state cards are based on musicianship test scores, sight-reading scores, vocal quality scores and the knowledge of the all-state music.

- a. Up to thirty-two students may be chosen to audition for the all-state chorus but must first be in the all-county chorus unless granted a special waiver by the director.
- b. Students selected to the all-state chorus are expected to participate in the all-state clinic. 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 scholarship application for that student.
- c. Students selected for the all-state chorus should be prepared to pay their expenses to the FMEA convention in Tampa during January (\$250).

9 - FUNDRAISERS

Opportunities for students to raise money for chorus activities will be provided throughout the year. Students are expected to participate in these activities to enhance their personal chorus account. If the student has not raised any money or has spent his/her earned money on other Chorus events, he or she will still be expected to participate in the events of the Chorus and pay the appropriate participation fees.

- a. A fund-raising account will be established for each singer in the chorus, kept by the booster treasurer and deposited with the high school bookkeeper.
- b. Any money earned using the name of the Chorus becomes the property of the Chorus. The boosters will credit this money to the account of individual who raised the money and may be used only for Chorus travel or other Chorus expenses.
- c. No money raised in the name of the Chorus will be returned to the student for personal gain or use.
- d. A committee will be appointed by the chorus booster president and by the chorus director to distribute money donated to or raised for the general chorus fund.
- e. All profits from money earned in the name of the Chorus, except for concert ticket sales (100% to the chorus), will be split on a 50/50 basis between the Chorus and the student unless otherwise designated by the Chorus Boosters Association.

10 - SCHOOL LEAVE

A "School Leave Form" is a document required by the school board of each student who is approved to miss classes while representing their school.

- a. Students will be required to present the director with a completed school leave form, by the deadline indicated on the form, to be able to leave the school grounds with the Chorus.
- b. A school leave form distributed to a chorus student from another class or organization must be presented to the director for his approval and signature the next time the student comes to chorus after receiving the form.

11 - GRADES/ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

- a. When a student misses other NHS classes for a Chorus activity, they are expected to ask their teacher(s), before they leave for the Chorus activity, what they will miss. He or she is then expected to complete and turn in that work when it is due.
- b. Singer who have missed more than nine (9) days during a semester will not be eligible to participate with any off-campus Chorus activities without permission from the director and the principal. (*See Part 1. a.*)
- c. When a Chorus student misses classes for two or more days in a row for a Chorus activity, they are expected to follow the procedures in Paragraph A and also see their teachers as soon as possible when they return to classes to make arrangements to make up missed work.
- d. If school is in session the day after students return from a night Chorus activity, students are expected to be in class even if the Chorus event concludes after 11:00 PM the previous evening.
- e. State law requires that students maintain a minimum grade-point average to be academically eligible to participate in interscholastic events.

1. Returning students must have been in school during the 2008-2009 school year, earned credit in five classes and have maintained a 2.0 GPA to be eligible during the fall semester.
2. Freshmen students must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher to be eligible during the second semester. 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.
3. Any student who does not meet the minimum GPA required will not be allowed to take chorus and those who fall below a GPA of 2.0 after the first semester will be removed from chorus unless that student is a sophomore or freshman who has completed the contract approved by the state legislature for participation.

12 - MUSIC COSTS

Students will be issued music throughout the school year. Music such as all-state/all-county packets, Stetson, Southern Mississippi and ACDA music are considered “disposable” because to the amount of wear and tear inflicted on it if utilized properly for individual practice, rehearsal, auditions and clinics. Students not involved in extra chorus activities do not benefit from the music that the Chorus must pay to supply students who choose to participate in these events. Singers who use this extra music will be required to purchase it at cost, which includes the shipping and handling costs incurred. This fee is discussed in SECTION 15. When done with the music, students may keep it or donated to the NHS choral library for future generations to utilize. All-State Reading Chorus packets, however, are purchased by the Chorus. Unless purchased by the student from the Chorus (approximately \$45), that music must be returned to the director after the FMEA convention.

13 - CHORUS TRAVEL

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

- a. Each student must pay the appropriate amount of money designated by the director to cover his/her part of the expenses for the trip before the trip commences.
- b. Students must adhere to rules and regulations of NHS and the Okaloosa School District pertaining to overnight trips.
- c. To travel with the Chorus a student and his/her parents agree to abide by the specific rules and regulations that are published for each trip and listed in this handbook and must agree to accept the consequences pertaining to the breaking of these rules and regulations for travel as published by the Chorus.

Trips such as those described above include such trips as, but not limited to, the Stetson University Clinic in DeLand during September/October, the American Choral Directors Association Honor Chorus in November, all-state in Tampa during January, the Florida Vocal Association State Festival in April/May or Spring Trip or any international travel by the Chorus.

14 - CONCERT TICKET SALES POLICY

The sale of tickets for performance events of the chorus is a primary revenue generating activity of the chorus. It is unreasonable to assume that the program can support itself without active ticket sales by its members. Therefore, singers are encouraged to sell as many tickets as they can for concerts. Also, it is possible that reserve tickets will be sold by the department on a first-come, first-served basis.

The choral director and the executive board of the Niceville Chorus Boosters set the price for concert tickets. It is possible that tickets will be priced differently. For instance, tickets sold at the door will or box office may cost more than tickets that are pre-sold. Reserved tickets may cost more than general admission seating.

15 - EXPENSES

As has been discussed in previous sections, there are expenses involved in being in an elective such as Chorus. This fact should be considered before continuing in a course where there is an option for participation. There are expenses associated with uniforms, the purchase of music, travel and fees associated with concerts and festivals. The chorus boosters approve a budget each spring that attempts to itemize the expenses for the chorus each year. Below is an itemization of chorus costs for the year (*all costs are approximate and many may not be applicable to you*): * indicates required clothing or events.

Required Chorus Participation Fee - \$45/semester (Includes, but not limited to: sheet music, accompanist, instrumentalists, supplies, entry fees, etc.)

***** PLEASE BE AWARE:** This fee does not cover all fees for some students. All-state and all-county fees are charged to the NHS Chorus by the OCDA and the FVA (*less than 35 students take part in these activities*). Because these particular students choose to be a part of these two events, they are assessed additional fees. The school/school district contributes NO funds towards fee assessments, registrations, music, etc. The chorus has no budget from which to pull funds for its operation except those funds generated by student fees and its booster’s fundraising activities. Uniforms and travel are also not included in the annual \$90 chorus fee. ***

- *All-State/All-County Music Packet – approximately \$20 (there is no student fee for the All-State Reading Chorus Packet. However, it must be returned to the Chorus)*
- *All-County Participation Fee – approximately \$30(buses, additional music, clinic, clinician, accompanists, venue charges, clinic pizza and drinks)*
- *Women’s Chorus Uniform (new) - \$95.00*
- *All-State Trip - \$250.00 + food and personal expenses*
- *Chorus Shirt - \$15.00-\$22.00*
- *Men’s Tuxedo with Accessories - \$100.00-\$160.00*
- *Opus One Women’s Alternate Uniform- approximately \$40*
- *Opus One Men’s Uniform- approximately \$60*
- *Spring Trip to Orlando - \$465.00+ food and personal expenses*

To attempt to help families, the Fundraising Committee of the Niceville Chorus Boosters Association (CBA) devises ways for students to help themselves make enough money to pay **ALL** of their chorus expenses. Additionally, the CBA will work with families who are financially challenged by setting up payment plans for uniforms and other chorus expenses.

16 – USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OF TOBACCO

The use of illegal drugs and minor consumption of alcohol by Chorus members is against the law. The practice will not be tolerated while at school or while participating in Chorus related activities on or off school property. Students will be removed from the program when the director and principal determine that illegal substances have compromised the ability of the student to participate in the learning and performance aspects of the program.

State law prohibits tobacco usage by minors. Smoking is especially detrimental to singers and compromises the vocal techniques taught.

- a. Members of the Chorus who are found to use illegal drugs or alcohol, wherever that use occurs, can be dismissed from the program.
- b. In the case where a student is found to use illegal drugs, is found with any unreported/approved prescription drugs or with any alcohol while on a chorus trip, his/her parents will be called. He/she will be removed from association with other students on the trip, returned home as soon as reasonably possible (as determined by the director) at his/her parents expense. An administrator will be notified immediately of the situation and the student will be referred for disciplinary action upon return to school from the trip.
- c. Cigarette smoking is detrimental to a person’s health and compromises their ability to produce good vocal tone. Using the SSS and the grading syllabus, a singer’s grade may be negatively affected when the director assesses that his/her tone is affected by smoking.

17 – NICEVILLE SINGERS

The Niceville Singers is a performing chorus that meets each day during 8th period (or at other times as advertised by the director in class or on SchoolNotes). Membership is limited to singers who are members of other choruses at Niceville High School except when the director agrees to allow a qualified singer membership and only when the following situations occur: (a) when a singer has a full 7-period schedule (excluding study hall or a teacher's aide) or is dual enrolled with a schedule, in the opinion of the director, cannot participate in one of the other five (5) performance choruses at the high school. Membership is by director approval only and members must perform at all concerts, mpas or other events of the choral music program. The director is solely responsible for evaluating the ability of a student to take only the Singers class, even in the case when the all criteria for consideration are met. **During 2011-2012, the Singers will be composed of boys, grades 9-12. However, only girls in grades 11-12 can be members of the Singers. This is due to the smaller number of boys available. The director will make decisions regarding adding students, from any grade level, during the school year to help balance and improve the choir.**

***Students, who are members of the Niceville Singers, as well as Opus One, will perform much more than other students in the choral music program. There are extra expectations of the members of Singers when compared to the members of the Chorus who are not members of the Singers or Opus One. Due to the additional time spent learning the music, the discipline required to participate at a "varsity" level in rehearsals and concerts and the dedication evidenced by students who spend additional class time in the pursuit of successfully performing higher level music literature, the Niceville Singers and Opus One can be expected to receive a significant amount of additional "stage time" during performances. These students will also be expected to perform with these choruses every time they take the stage whether that be at school, in county or on domestic tour. On international touring years, Niceville Singers and Opus One membership built around those students who will be performing overseas.*

18 – SCHOOLNOTES/NICEVILLECHORUS.COM/FACEBOOK

SchoolNotes is the official web-based publication and the primary means of out-side-of-school communications of the Niceville Chorus and the Niceville Booster Association. The Chorus also utilizes our website nicevillechorus.com and Facebook. Students are responsible for all information posted on SchoolNotes. Information posted on SchoolNotes should be checked by each student on a regular basis (daily.) Parents and students can be notified of changes by logging onto SchoolNotes, selecting the "notify me" button on the page and correctly completing the requested information. Singers and parents should be aware that students are responsible for knowing, within 24-hours, the information that has been posted on SchoolNotes. If access to the Internet is not available at home, parents and singers should be aware the Niceville High School offers the opportunity for all its students to access the Internet at school.

19- MERIT SYSTEM

A merit system has been found to be an effective method of feedback for students in regard to their classroom behavior. Students are able to see gains and losses of merits for minor infractions of classroom rules and chorus policies. The following are general guidelines used to govern the system. Changes, when the interests of the Chorus are best served, may be implemented. **Merits are in no way tied to chorus grades.**

- a. Students will start with no merits at the beginning of the first semester.
 1. Merits can be lost for breaking classroom rules or violating chorus policy.
 2. Merits can be gained by completing tasks or assignments chosen by the director for merits.
3. Singers who are in the top 10% in the amount of earned merits will be considered the top merit category and will be the most rewarded group in terms of privileges while on the spring trip or at other time and functions deemed appropriate by the choral director. The next 10% will be considered in the second highest category merit. The third merit level will be the students who have earned up to between 70% - 79% of the highest number of merits while the fourth level must earn between 50% - 69%. The sixth level of merits will fall between 20% - 49%. In the case where a student has at least 20 merits, not matter what the percentage, that student will fall into the seventh merit level and will not suffer any lost park time on the spring trip. The bottom 10 student merit earners will be divided evenly in two categories and will receive time and privileges sanctions while on the spring trip.
4. Merits cannot be transferred from one student to another or carried over from one year to the next except for merits earned after the spring trip before the end of the school year by returning members.
 - b. Any singer who has no merits by the deadline date determined by the choral director, he/she will not be allowed to go on the spring trip.
 1. That student will forfeit in full any deposit and also all money paid for the trip that the Chorus cannot get refunded by trip vendors.

2011-2012 Uniform Requirements

Women's Uniforms/Performance Attire:

- Black Chorus Dress
- Jet-black Sheer Hose
- Designated Shoe/Ballet Slipper
- Hair Up and/or Back from Face at all performances in chorus dresses
- Defining Make-up including the designated or director approved shade of red Lipstick and Blush
- (no necklaces or other ornamental jewelry can be worn with the uniform)
- Tattoos are obscured

Men's Uniforms /Performance Attire:

- Black Tuxedo Coat and Pant
- White Wing-Collar Tuxedo Shirt with Black Studs (*only solid white crew-neck tee-shirts underneath*)
- Black Socks
- Black Leather Dress Shoes

Performance grooming determinations will be solely to the specifications of the director or his designee.

Required Opus Auxiliary Performance Uniforms

- Chorus Sweatshirt (optional except for Opus One)
- Chorus Shirt (required of all members)
- Blue jeans (style, fit and tint determined by the director/uniform chair)
- Opus One auxiliary uniform(s) as prescribed by the director/uniform chair at the beginning of the year.
 - White Opus Polo, Black Opus Polo, Khaki Pants (specifically designated style and brand - TBA).
 - Black, close-toed flat shoes for girls; Black dress shoes for boys.
 - Maroon Opus t-shirts with blue jeans, using same shoes as listed above.
 - White Opus sweatshirts, using same shoes as listed above.
 - Basic black foundation "colors" uniform with approved accessories.

All uniforms are required to be clean and wrinkle-free for performances.

Grooming Requirements

Men

(Uniform Chair will decide what is neat, clean and whose hair should be tied back or pinned)

- ❖ Side-burns must end at the bottom of the earlobe.
- ❖ Hair must be neat and clean.
- ❖ Long hair must be tied back and per district regulations must not touch any part of the face.
- ❖ No visible facial hair of any type is allowed.
- ❖ No piercings including studs or rings in the ear, nose, eyebrow, tongue or any other body part visible while in uniform.
- ❖ Haircuts are required of students at the director's discretion.
- ❖ No shaved heads or unusual hair color or styles (as determined by the director).
- ❖ No visible tattoos.

Women

- ❖ Hair must be neat, styled and clean.
- ❖ No visible tattoos.
- ❖ No shaved heads or unusual hair color or style ("unusual" to be determined solely by the director).
- ❖ No piercings including studs or rings in the ear, nose, eyebrow, tongue or any other body part visible while in uniform
- ❖ Girls' hair must be "up and back" for formal performances with not part touching the face.
- ❖ Make-up, lipstick (brand and code to be published) to be worn for performances.

POLICIES, RULES and REGULATIONS

RULES PERTAINING TO CHORUS TRIPS

(August 2011)

The following are the rules under which the members of the Chorus will operate while on tour, trips or when representing the school in other school-related activities.

The Chorus Director, the representative of Niceville High School and the Okaloosa County School District while on the trip, (or his/her and the principal's designee) will make disciplinary decisions in regard to students when no specific reference is listed in the **Consequences** section of these travel rules regarding a particular situation or when the infraction is such that he/she feels a particular solution or punishment is more appropriate. The Director will act with *loco parentis* authority.

When parents sign the school-leave form, they are agreeing to allow their children to be supervised and disciplined according to this policy. *(Parents must acknowledge that they understand and agree to this policy before you child is allowed to travel with the Chorus. Be certain that your child is mature enough to follow Chorus rules and be away from home for an extended period before allowing him/her to travel with the Chorus.)*

Parents are encouraged to review all policies with their student before each trip. When a parent signs the school-leave form, sent home with their student, both parent and student agree to abide by the rules.

Parents also agree to provide for early transportation (or reimbursement of expenses for that transportation incurred by the Chorus back to Okaloosa County in the event of frequent or severe breaking of the rules governing the trip as interpreted by the director of the chorus.

General Trip Policies:

1. All policies of Okaloosa School District, Niceville High School and the Chorus pertaining to the behavior of students on a school-sponsored activity, will be observed.
2. **Follow all instructions** of the bus drivers, chaperons, 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 the student.
3. The use of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia or alcohol, or **knowingly associating** with person who are using illegal drugs or alcohol, while on the chorus trip will not be tolerated. *If such use or possession 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 chaperon or other trip official. All prescription drugs must be turned over to the adult designated to keep and distribute these, at the start the trip.*
4. The use of any **tobacco** product is not allowed at any time on the trip.
5. Student clothing must meet the regulations and standards as published in the NHS student handbook except in amusement parks where special regulations will be published for each trip.
6. **Be where you are supposed to be before** you are supposed to be there.
7. Keep up with your personal belongings. Chaperons will not keep money students.
8. It is the student's responsibility to make your chaperon aware of where you are all times.
9. Use of degrading, profane or "off-color" language is unacceptable.
10. Complaining will not be tolerated.
11. 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 of your room by yourself. Remain in groups of at least two students at all times except as described in "Amusement Park Policies" or when you are:
 - a) within sight or sound of a chaperon or,
 - b) when you are in close proximity (sight) of the main party or your assigned group.
12. Dangerous or destructive toys or other objects are not allowed on trips.
13. While DVD-players and video game players are allowed on chorus trips, they must be chaperon-approved. No "homemade" DVDs or CDs will be allowed on the trip.
14. 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 bus or van.
15. All students must have a watch or other device that will help get them where they are supposed to be, on time.
16. Students are not allowed to get tattoos or body piercing and will not cut or color their hair while on the chorus trip.
17. While in the mall, stay in groups of three or more at all times.
18. Do not leave the mall without permission from your chaperon.
19. Do not invite non-chorus trip personnel (*anyone not approved by the director*) to come to the hotel, join you at the amusement park or any other location while on a chorus trip.
20. Cellular telephones may not be taken into any performance area or any other place designated by a trip official.

Bus Policies:

1. Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
2. No radios or other musical equipment may be operated without earphones or in a manner where others can hear the music on the bus. Offending equipment will be confiscated and returned only when the bus returns to school.
3. Ride only the bus to which you are assigned. Do not ask to move.
4. Loud talking or singing, laughing or any other unnecessarily loud noises is inappropriate on the bus.
5. You must remove any trash that you brought onto the bus at the next stop.
6. Stay on the bus at each stop until you are given permission to disembark.
 - a. Students will be released from the front of the bus, one row at a time, no matter their merit level unless otherwise specified in the itinerary or by a trip official.
7. Overly affectionate couples, including those sharing blankets or other "cover", will be separated at the discretion of a chaperon.
8. No coolers are allowed on the bus.
9. No opened drink cans or fountain drink cups are allowed on the bus at any time.
10. You may not bring "restaurant" food onto the bus however, packaged snacks are allowed. Students should eat their meals when designated on the schedule.

Hotel Policies:

1. Respect the rights of all other motel guests.
 - a. The motel manager may evaluate the Chorus and the evaluation can be sent to the school or interscholastic governing body.
2. Never unlock your room after the designated time for "room lock" unless directed to do so by a chorus trip adult or until the time designated to leave the room. Do not unlock your doors for hotel "security" that is not accompanied by an official from the high school. Call your chaperon if a person in uniform asks you to open your door.
3. Always dead bolt your door at night.
4. You must be in the bed with the lights out and the television off at the designated time for "lights-out".
5. No student of the opposite sex is allowed in any student's room at any time.
6. No person, who is not a member of the Niceville chorus group, is allowed in a student's room **at any time** or on the motel premises without the permission of the head chaperon and director.
7. Do not remove towels, ashtrays or other hotel property from the premises.
8. Do not order pizza or other delivery items without permission of the head chaperon.
9. Horseplay or wrestling in the rooms or pool area is not allowed due to the possibility of injury and/or property damage.
10. Students will not be reassigned to another room at the hotel without the recommendation of the director, head chaperon and that student's chaperon. Reassignments are rarely, if ever, considered by the head chaperon.
11. For security reasons, keep doors shut and window curtains drawn during shower or dressing times and doors and windows locked after "lights-out".
12. Do not use the telephone after "lights-out" except to report an emergency to your chaperon.
13. At checkout, all pillows and bed covers go on the original bed from which they came and all towels and wash clothes are to be placed in the bathtub.
14. Use of the elevators is allowed (except during a fire) but limited to the number of persons indicated on the state certificate posted on the wall of the elevator.
15. The appropriate shirt or "cover-up" must be worn to and from the pool area. Shoes (i.e. sandals or flip-flops) are required to be worn at all times when you leave your room. Your chaperon/head chaperon will determine the appropriateness of swimsuits.

Performance Venue Policies

1. No cell phones are allowed in performance venues.
2. Uniforms must be worn in the assigned fashion while in the performance venue, even when you have finished singing.
3. Do not sleep, lay on seats or pews or put your head on your friend's shoulder while in the venue.
4. Do not read while performances are occurring.
5. Food and drink are prohibited in all performance venues unless otherwise denoted by the head chaperon.
6. Talking or other forms of visitation between individuals in the audience during performances will not be tolerated as listening will be a part of a student's evaluation.
7. Leave the performance area only with the permission of your chaperon.
8. Never miss the performance of other Niceville ensembles or other groups in your block.
9. Clean up any mess you make; take your trash with you.
10. Leave materials on seat backs or in pews alone; straighten books or papers belonging to the concert venue before leaving your seat.

Amusement Park Policies:

1. Follow the schedule exactly. Your parents will be called immediately if you are overdue for a "check-in" meeting. Tardiness will be handled as an emergency situation. Have a device to tell time. Be early to all meetings.
2. Do not leave the park you are in without permission.
3. Bathing suits cannot be worn as primary clothing except in a water theme park (*the Chaperon or his/her designee to make judgments regarding the appropriateness of all bathing suits*). Both girls and boys must wear a shirt and pants (shorts) while in an amusement park. Girls can wear spaghetti strap tops in the amusement parks. Again, your chaperon, the Head Chaperon/Director has complete discretion and decision-making authority regarding your clothing at any time on the trip.
4. Stay with a group at all times while in the park. Two students of the same gender may form a group, but mixed groups must contain at least 3 (three) students.
5. Leave the park activity in which you are involved early enough to arrive at the pick-up area or check-in point at least 10 (ten) minutes early.
6. It is your responsibility to report to the Director or chaperons any emergency situation involving yourself or another student.
7. Be responsible for your belongings. This includes your money. It will not be kept, at any time, by your chaperon.
8. Be very cautious if you choose to spend time with strangers in the theme park (*you should never do this and you can be assured that a chaperon, when they see you with him/her, will ask that individual many personal and probing questions*). Remember that you may not leave the park with any of these people and that to do so could be life threatening.

b. Consequences for Rules Violations

(August 2011)

Parents, when you sign your student's SCHOOL LEAVE/PERMISSION FORM, you accept the consequences listed for rules infractions in this handbook for your child and agree to pay all financial costs involved in transporting your child back to Okaloosa County.

1. The use of alcohol or drugs will result in a call to school officials and parents. When appropriate, and possible, and as determined by the Director and Principal, arrangements will be made for the immediate return of the student to Niceville by commercial airliner at the expense of the parents. When deemed appropriate by the Director and Principal, law enforcement will be called.
2. Failure to report at the designated time while on a Chorus activity will cause the Director to assume that the student is missing and in danger. Public safety officials will be notified the student's parents will be called. There will be no "time tolerance" allowed before emergency action is initiated after a student misses a meeting time.
3. Use of tobacco will result in the confiscation of the product and a disciplinary report being filed upon return to school.
4. Any student who leaves a room during the night, 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 (*unless leaving the room is the result of an emergency as interpreted by the Director*). Students

- leaving a room without authorization or student having knowledge of another student leaving a hotel room without permission but not reporting the activity, will receive a disciplinary referral upon return to school.
5. Members of the opposite sex found in the same motel room without permission will result in a disciplinary referral for all students present in the room at the time of the first offense as well as any action deemed appropriate by the Director and Principal. In addition, parents of the students involved in the offense will be contacted at the time of the offense.
 6. Any student who is late to a bus or other "call time" will suffer the consequences described the trip itinerary as well as other punishment deemed appropriate by the Director.
 7. Students not adhering to any part of the uniform dress code when reporting to warm-up for performance will be sent back into the auditorium and not allowed to perform.
 8. Non-performing students going to a performance event will be required to wear the appropriate concert attire before boarding the bus. A disciplinary referral may be filed upon return to school, especially if the time for departure is delayed due the student's irresponsibility, if inappropriate attire is worn.
 9. Chorus students who are discovered to be by themselves at the amusement park, outside of their hotel room or other places where they are required to be with others, must remain with a chaperon until the end of that activity or until released by the chaperon. If found by themselves a second time, the student will remain with a chaperon and can receive a disciplinary referral upon return to school.
 10. Any student who enters an unauthorized vehicle, an unauthorized building, leaves the theme park without permission, leaves campus, concert hall or other designated areas without permission, will have their parents called immediately and receive a disciplinary referral upon return to school. They can also be given other punishment deemed appropriate by the Director, including returned to Okaloosa County, at the expense of their parents, if deemed appropriate by the Director and Principal.
 11. The first failure to follow the instructions of a chaperon will result in a telephone call to the parents of the disobedient student. In addition, after returning to school, a disciplinary referral for "willful disobedience" will be filed with a principal. In addition, there can be other action taken deemed necessary by the Director (or his/her designee) and Head Chaperon, including being sent home after consultation with a Principal.
 12. Minor infractions will first be dealt with by a student's chaperon and, if necessary, by the Head Chaperon and Director. Continued infractions can result in the immediate return of the student to Okaloosa County at the expense of the parent.
 13. Any items in a student's possession deemed inappropriate by the Head Chaperon will be confiscated. Students who use materials in a destructive or inappropriate manner may receive a disciplinary referral upon return to school as well as any other disciplinary action determined appropriate by the Director or Head Chaperon.
 14. Students will not purchase animals while on the trip. Swords, daggers or other weapons purchased as souvenirs without permission of the Head Chaperon will be confiscated and a disciplinary referral will be file upon return to school.
 15. While on the trip, students who have knowledge of infractions of the rules, including drug or alcohol usage, leaving the room after evening curfew, leaving the hotel or park grounds, entering areas or vehicles forbidden in the trip rules or any other incidence that could bring harm to or danger to any student, will be considered an accessory and can be subject to the same consequences as the person who committed the violation. Withholding evidence or information can be dangerous and result in disciplinary action.
 16. 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 students who continuously complain will be contacted to arrange for his/her immediate return to Okaloosa County.
 17. If any person previously identified as someone prohibited from making contact with a student does so while during the trip, the appropriate law enforcement agency can be contacted and an appropriate complaint can be filed against that person. (*Contact does not include-mails, text messages or telephone calls but rather to actual visitation at any venue where a Chorus student is present.*) In addition, a disciplinary referral will be filed against any student who fraternizes with the unauthorized person(s) as well as against the unauthorized visitor if he/she is a student in Okaloosa County. "Unauthorized person" includes anyone who the student knows, who makes contact, without permission, while on the Chorus trip. Student may socialize with other students they meet on the trip. However, those new "friends" may not come to the hotel or visit with the student with permission of the Head Chaperon. *Parents cannot authorize visitation after the trip has begun. Prior permission can be requested by filling out the appropriate forms provided in each trip handbook.*
 18. Failure to abide by the rules regarding cellular telephones will result in the confiscation of the telephone on the first offense and returned to a parent upon returning to Niceville. A disciplinary referral will be filed with the principal upon return to school.
 19. Failure to follow rules pertaining to behavior in a performance venue can result in loss of trip privilege as determined by the head chaperon, dismissal from the trip, and/or a loss of grade.
 20. Consequences for offenses not listed above will be determined by the Choral Director and Head Chaperon while on the trip and Principal upon returning to the school if necessary.

Performance Etiquette

This section of the handbook is included for two reasons. First, it is for educating students to what is correct performance etiquette. Second, it acts as a guide for the evaluation and grading of singers.

KEEP OUR EYES ON THE DIRECTOR AT ALL TIMES !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. **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.
2. **Always 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 shows nervousness and a lack of confidence in yourself and the job you are doing.
3. **The audience exists only as a listener.** Never signal or attempt to communicate to members of the audience while on stage except through your music.
4. **Avoid touching your face or your hair or fidgeting while in a performance situation.**
5. **If you become ill or experience coughing or sneezing while performing exit the stage as quickly and as inconspicuously as possible.**
6. **Never play on stage.** Your job is to make music and people can always see such unprofessional behavior as touching, laughing or gesturing.
7. **Never stop watching the director during performance.** This is the behavior of an amateur and the first thing to which listeners will shift their attention.
8. **Always observe good hygiene habits.** Bathe or shower each day of the tour or trip. Use needed toiletries, however, be aware of wearing too much cologne or perfume as this can affect the singing of those around you.
9. **Keep your uniform clean and pressed.** Uniforms are often an “un-favored” dress of the performer. However, they are a large part of the overall performance effect. Never wear “parts” of your uniform. Wear all components of the performance attire or change out of it completely. This includes shoes, collars buttoned with ties fastened, cummerbunds or other uniform articles. Excess jewelry is distracting. No earrings of any kind may be worn. No necklaces or bracelets can be worn.
10. **Look professional.** The manner in which you carry yourself will impress your audience and give you confidence.
11. **If you make a mistake, or hear someone else make a mistake, ignore it.** One mistake will probably never be noticed but the act of confirming a blunder with your actions is far worse than the first mistake.
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. Learn the music and treat your instrument (voice), body and mind with respect going into a performance. **GET AN ENTIRE NIGHTS SLEEP BEFORE A PERFORMANCE.**
13. **Welcome each performing ensemble to the stage as you would want to be welcomed.** Clap for the chorus the entire time they are entering the stage. Always clap for the conductor. At the end of each song thank the chorus for performing as you would want to be thanked. Standing ovations should be saved for the best of the best performances. Do not give standing ovations away freely. The performing choir earns them and stands above other choirs at the concert.