

# Northview Middle School



## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Handbook

2007-2008

## Welcome to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir!!!

Students and Parents,

Thank you for choosing to share you talent, commitment, and love of music with the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir. I am very excited about this year at Northview! The purpose of this packet is to give you all of the information you need in order to have a fun and successful year. Please take care in reading this packet and be sure you understand all policies and procedures. This will assure that you know what to expect from me and I know what to expect from you.

There will be many goals in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir, but the ultimate goal is for every student to experience the joys and benefits that music has to offer. The only way this can happen is if everyone in the ensemble works as a team, together! The attitude you bring to each rehearsal is a choice that you make, and will work in direct proportion with what you will achieve. The more you give to the ensemble, the more you will get out of your experience!

Some of the main objectives we will focus on this year will be healthy, proper, vocal technique, part independence, sight-reading, and knowledge of basic music theory. Each student in choir will be responsible for learning and practicing many new and challenging pieces of music. Although most of our singing will be done in large or small groups, students will have the opportunity to sing individually if they choose.

After reading this packet, please sign and date the appropriate attached form. This counts as a quiz grade. Return this form to Mr. Joseph by Friday, August 24 for an A! Every rehearsal after Friday, August 24 the quiz grade descends ten points. Again, I look forward to a wonderful year of making music with you! Thank you for sharing your commitment, talent, and love for singing!

Parents, if you ever have any questions or would like to talk, please call or email me!

Mr. Joseph  
(515) 965-9700  
ben.joseph@ankenyschools.org

## Grading

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir is a graded course and is part of a student's GPA. The normal grading scale will be used to determine scores:

A: 90% - 100%    B: 80% - 89%    C: 70% - 79%    D: 60% - 69%    F: 0% – 59%

There are four components that make up a student's grade:

**30% - Classroom Attitude, Respect, Effort and Rehearsal Technique.** Students should exhibit leadership by example, a positive spirit of cooperation, and a willingness to contribute, participate, and share. Give proper respect to the director, other students, and equipment in the choir room by showing a positive attitude and work ethic.

Students should be ready to rehearse when class starts by being in their seat when the bell rings and having their folder, pencil, and music ready. Marking scores during rehearsal, focusing, listening, and not distracting your neighbor are all essential qualities of a successful rehearsal.

- Talking during rehearsal will not be tolerated
- No gum, candy, or food is allowed in the music wing!
- Students must have a pencil every day. No pen or highlighter!
- Students must participate at all times
- Students must stand and sit with good singer's posture
- Students must demonstrate proper vocal technique learned in choir and lessons
- Students must respect all school property: folders, music, pianos, chairs... etc
- If music is damaged, lost, or written on in anything other than pencil, the student responsible will be assessed a fee to replace the music. (Usually around \$2.00)

**30% Lesson Attendance and Effort.** Lessons are required in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir. Students will receive lessons in a small group setting. They will learn to sing using healthy vocal technique and improve their sectional sound using concert music from their choir folders. Students will be held responsible for applying the skills gained in their lessons to normal choir rehearsals. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of their classroom grade.

If a student has an excused absence from a lesson (sick, taking a test) he or she will be given a chance for a make up with Mr. Joseph or Ms. Schaefer. All missed lessons must be made up before the next scheduled lesson, which gives the student six school days to reschedule. It is the student's responsibility to reschedule the missed lesson and to obtain a signed pass from Mr. Joseph or Ms. Schaefer.

**30% Concert/Performance Attendance.** Please read all of the dates listed on the "Important Choir Dates" page. Performances are required of all members of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir. Missing a concert will drop the classroom grade significantly. Unexcused absences from a concert cannot be made up. If there is a conflict with another school activity, the director/coach/principal will work together to find a solution. Students who have unavoidable conflicts such as family emergencies must inform Mr. Joseph as soon as they know about the conflict. Do not wait until the week before!

**10% Quizzes.** Students will be learning basic music theory that every musician should know. They will also be learning Armstrong Hand-Sign Solfege and applying it to sight-reading exercises in class. Small online quizzes will be given to assess the students' progress. More information regarding [emusictheory.com](http://emusictheory.com) will be available shortly!

## Other Important 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Information

### Concert Attire

\*Students must provide their own concert attire

Men: Black shoes (not gym shoes)  
Black socks  
Solid black slacks  
Solid white, long-sleeved, button down dress shirt  
Tie (optional & can be colorful. Please keep tie professional and tasteful)

Women: Solid black skirt or slacks  
Opaque black stockings or black socks,  
Black shoes (no sandals or flip flops)  
Solid white shirt or blouse with sleeves (no tank tops or skinny straps)

\*Students must follow school dress code rules: concert attire may not be tight or revealing; skirts must be at least fingertip length & no low-cut tops. No jeans, sandals, flip-flops, or gym shoes will be accepted.

### Kleenex

Every 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grader in choir is asked to bring in one box of Kleenex for the choir room's "Puffs Peak." The school does not provide us with tissues so if every student brings in just one box, we will definitely be covered for the year! ☺

### Choir Officers

Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade choir will have the opportunity for leadership. Elections for choir officers will be held at the beginning of the year. Each student elected will hold their term for one school year. Here are the basic descriptions of the student leadership possibilities offered in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir.

**President/Librarian:** The president acts as a liaison between the choir and the director. He/she will act as a leader and represent the choir. He/she makes sure the "choral community" is running smoothly and will also help pass out, collect, and number choral music at the request of the director.

**Vice President/Attendance:** The vice president takes attendance each day and fills in for the president if he/she is absent. He/she will be present and have an equal say in all officer meetings.

\*Officers will work as a team. They will all have an equal say during our monthly officer meetings and will share required duties.

## **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Opus Honor Choir**

Every year at Northview, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have the opportunity to prepare an audition for the Iowa Choral Directors Association's Opus Honor Choir. The reason this honor choir was started was to further the development of young choirs through the learning, auditioning, and performing of quality choral literature, and to achieve the excellence and pride that comes from singing in an honor choir setting. This year, the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Select Mixed Honor Choir will be conducted by guest director, Ryan Beeken from Waukee High School. All four Opus Choirs will be featured in a concert on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at Iowa State University in Ames. In order to audition for Opus, the candidate must be committed to practice with Mr. Joseph *and* on their own at home!

To audition, students must learn excerpts from two of the performance pieces and record them on a CD with Mr. Joseph. These CD's will be mailed to the Iowa Choral Director's Association to be reviewed for acceptance. If a student is accepted into the Opus Honor Choir they will have about a month in which to learn all five Opus pieces with Mr. Joseph before school. We will be singing some of the Opus literature for the fall concert, so some of the music will already be learned! ☺ If you are interested in auditioning for Opus, have a parent read and sign the appropriate form on the back page.

There will be A Day morning rehearsals that students may attend to receive extra help with the audition cuts. Even if students attend all rehearsals they are still expected to rehearse on their own in order to improve the quality of their audition. Good luck!

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**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Opus Honor Choir Audition Permission Slip**

\*You only need to turn in this form if you are planning on auditioning for the Opus Honor choir

I give my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_

permission to audition for the 2007 ICDA 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Opus Honor Choir.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Parent Signature Sheet**

Please sign and return this form by August 24 for a quiz grade!

I have read and understand all of the all rules and expectations of the Northview 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Program.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_