

# Naperville North

Naperville North High School  
Vocal Music Department

Handbook  
2010 - 2011



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Naperville Community Unit School District 203

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the Vocal Music Department at Naperville North High School. This department is founded on the belief that every student needs and deserves a basic study of, and first hand experience creating, music. The Vocal Music Department at Naperville North is dedicated to fostering the musical, intellectual, and emotional growth of every student.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide an awareness and understanding of the philosophy, policies, organizational structure, and general functioning of the Vocal Music Department. Please, read this handbook in its entirety, sign and return the specified documents, and utilize the handbook as a resource throughout the vocal music experience.

Music is an important part of our lives. There are countless benefits to studying and performing music. The performance of music provides a wonderful setting for learning and growth. Music provides an outlet to express feelings and emotions while giving the musician a feeling of accomplishment and achievement as music is learned and mastered. The vocal music offerings at Naperville North are a significant part of our school and district curriculum and thusly enhance the high school experience.

**It is expected that the goal of each music student is:**

- 1. To discover, appreciate and value one's own talents, the talents of others and the beauty of all types of music;**
- 2. To foster a desire to improve their musical abilities, increase vocal skills, and gain knowledge and awareness of the voice, music theory, and music history;**
- 3. To foster confidence through creative self-expression and to gain a sense of self-fulfillment by striving to reach their full potential at both the rehearsal and performance level;**
- 4. To develop an awareness of the aesthetics of music, and provide an opportunity to enhance one's musical artistry;**
- 5. To experience self-fulfillment and gain confidence from communicating to others through music; and**
- 6. To be motivated in becoming a life-long performer and connoisseur of music while obtaining the skills to become an informed musical consumer.**

In addition to these goals, it is imperative to have fun being part of the Vocal Music Department. The school year is filled with many exciting and fulfilling choral festivals, concerts, and field trips that are designed to promote an optimal music experience, as well as well-rounded musicians.

Parents and students should take time to carefully read and review the 2010-2011 Naperville North Vocal Music Handbook together and then return the specified documents by the date indicated on each. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nicholas P. Janssen, Director of Vocal Music.

Thank you,

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## Meet The Choirs

### Curricular Ensembles

There are currently four curricular chorus classes at Naperville North: Cecilian Singers, a non-auditioned beginning level women's ensemble; Chorale, a non-auditioned freshman/sophomore mixed ensemble; Treble Choir, an auditioned, advanced women's ensemble; and Concert Choir, an auditioned, advanced mixed choir. In addition to curricular choirs, the Naperville North High School Vocal Music Department offers many extra-curricular opportunities for students who wish to further enhance their vocal music experience.

### Extra/Co-Curricular Ensembles

The Madrigal Singers are extracurricular accapella vocal ensembles that focus on Renaissance and Christmas music during the fall semester culminating in an annual Madrigal Dinner. Auditions and rehearsal times are to be determined.

The Vocal Jazz Singers are an extracurricular vocal ensemble that focuses on different genres of jazz music during the spring semester. These ensembles present a 40's Dance with the instrumental jazz program and a number of off campus presentations. Auditions will be held at the beginning of the second semester. Rehearsal times are to be determined.

The IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) offers a Sr. HS District (grades 10-12) and All-State Festival. Participation in these festivals is a prestigious and highly sought after achievement. Preparation involves individual and group rehearsals outside of the school day. Those accepted into the District IX Jazz Choir or Sr. HS Chorus become eligible for the All-State choral ensembles based on the same audition results.

A musical theatre performance will be presented in March. All vocal music students are encouraged to audition, though auditions are not required for participation in the vocal music department. In addition, auditions for the Naperville North Musical are open to the student body in its entirety. Audition information concerning the musical will be made available to the student body in a timely manner.

New possibilities regarding extracurricular performance ensembles are endless. Students will be notified of these opportunities as they arise.

## Statement of Philosophy

People have a unique ability to share the meaning of emotions and feelings. No other life form can do such a thing. It is our emotions and feelings, and the need to share them that makes us who we are. This has given rise to a uniquely human form of transport or way in which to communicate; we call it art. The art of music affects our emotions in a most direct, powerful, and untranslatable fashion. Music transcends language; it goes beyond the limit of words. Music can affect us in ways that nothing else present on earth can.

Countless non-musical benefits from membership in vocal music exist. Attention to discipline, stage presence, manners, self-confidence, work ethic, cooperation, sense of community, and responsibility are but a few.

The mission of the Naperville North Vocal Music Department is life education through music education.

### General Goals

1. To develop each student's aesthetic potential;
2. To develop knowledge, understanding, habits, and attitudes concerning the basic elements of music: rhythm, pitch, texture, form, tone color, dynamics and tempo;
3. To promote musical literacy by developing the skills necessary for musical performance;
4. To promote understanding of the value of choral music as an art;
5. To satisfy each student's need for self expression;
6. To develop and foster the desire and the potential to extend and continue the student's music experiences in his or her social and cultural life, as well as in high school;

7. To refine the student's discriminative abilities; and
8. To develop independence and initiative in areas such as solo and small ensemble performance.

## Curricular Alignment with State and National Fine Arts Learning Standards

The Vocal Music Department has developed a curriculum that focuses on the State Standards of Illinois and National Standards for Middle School Fine Arts and Music Education. It is the goal of the vocal music curriculum to include the state and national learning standards into the objectives of each lesson. It is important to know and understand these state and national standards so that one is aware of vocal music performance goals.

### Illinois State Learning Standards for Music Education:

#### STATE GOAL 25: Know the language of the arts.

**Why This Goal Is Important:** Through observation, discussion, interpretation and analysis, students learn the "language" of the arts. They learn to understand how others express ideas in dance, drama, music and visual art forms. In addition to acquiring knowledge essential to performance and production, students become arts consumers (e.g., attending live performances or movies, purchasing paintings or jewelry, or visiting museums) who understand the basic elements and principles underlying artworks and are able to critique them.

##### A. Understand the sensory elements, organizational principles and expressive qualities of the arts.

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<b>25.A.3c Music:</b> Identify and describe changes in elements and expressive qualities (e.g., crescendo, ritardando, fermata, meter, sforzando).
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##### B. Understand the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.

<b>Middle/Junior High School</b>
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<b>25.B.3 Music:</b> Compare and contrast the elements and principles in two or more art works that share similar themes.
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#### STATE GOAL 26: Through creating and performing, understand how works of art are produced.

**Why This Goal Is Important:** Students acquire skills to produce and perform dance, drama, music and visual art. They learn to use media, tools and technologies. They learn to shape ideas and emotions into sounds, images and actions. As students create and perform their own artworks and review the works of others, they become more imaginative, strengthen their problem-solving skills and learn to respond to the creativity of others. Creating and performing are at the core of the fine arts. Students also learn about the role of the artist (e.g., dancer, painter, actor, director, scriptwriter, musician).

##### A. Understand processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the arts.

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<b>26.A.3c Music:</b> Describe the processes involved in composing, conducting and performing.
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<b>26.A.3d Music:</b> Read and interpret traditional music notation in a varied repertoire.
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**B. Apply skills and knowledge necessary to create and perform in one or more of the arts.**

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<b>26.B.3c Music:</b> Sing or play with expression and accuracy a variety of music representing diverse cultures and styles.
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**STATE GOAL 27: Understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present.**

**Why This Goal Is Important:** The arts are a record of civilizations, past and present. Artists are influenced by—and influence—the times and places in which they live and work. As students learn through the arts about people and civilizations, they learn about others and themselves. Also, students learn about careers related to this goal (e.g., animator, curator, art historian, sound technician).

**A. Analyze how the arts function in history, society and everyday life.**

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<b>27.A.3a</b> Identify and describe careers and jobs in and among the arts and how they contribute to the world of work.
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<b>27.A.3b</b> Compare and contrast how the arts function in ceremony, technology, politics, communication and entertainment.
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**B. Understand how the arts shape and reflect history, society and everyday life.**

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<b>27.B.3</b> Know and describe how artists and their works shape culture and increase understanding of societies, past and present.
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**National Learning Standards for Music Education:**

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music;
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music;
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments;
4. Composing and arranging music with specified guidelines;
5. Reading and notating music;
6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music;
7. Evaluating music and music performances;
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts; and
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

**Classroom Guidelines & Expectations of Conduct**

Each student is expected to show respect for self, teacher, fellow students and chaperones at all times. This includes being able to listen quietly to instructions and being able to carry out those instructions in a responsible manner, whether in a classroom, concert, or field trip setting. This type of discipline must come from the student him or herself. Students who are interested in singing are expected to remain committed to representing themselves, their families, and their school in this manner.

1. **Students are expected to:**
  - a. Be seated quietly in their assigned seats when the bell rings, with only choral binders and pencil in hand;
  - b. Upon entering the room, place all belongings in the designated area, and remove all items when exiting.
2. **Tardiness is unacceptable, and consequences will be per the Naperville North High School Student Handbook.**
3. **Gum chewing, eating and drinking is not tolerated in the Vocal Music Department.**

4. Students must show respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers, their environment, and their art at all times. Talking during class or causing any other disruptive behavior is deemed inappropriate.
5. All music should be kept in each student's vocal music binder. Marking in the music should be made often, lightly and only in pencil. In the event that a student causes irreversible damage to, or losses, music, that student is responsible for providing the replacement cost of the piece(s). Students are welcome to take music home to study; however, are responsible for returning to class with music in an acceptable condition.
6. Students should contribute positively to the class environment; everyone is expected to participate every day. Students should stay in their assigned seats for the duration of the class period, unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to be attentive while sitting or standing with correct singing posture.
7. Students are expected to return all materials and equipment to the correct position before leaving class. This includes, but is not limited to, the placement of chairs and music stands.
8. The piano, audio/video equipment, and director's office are off limits to students without express permission of the director. Students may use the practice and storage rooms for musical purposes, and only with permission.

## Required Supplies

Vocal music students must provide:

1. Black 3 ring binder with pockets;
2. Pencil;
3. Paper; and
4. Concert attire.

Chorus members will be given music to use daily. If a student loses a piece of music, it is his or her responsibility to share music with another student until the music is located. If that music is not located, fines will be assessed for lost or damaged music.

## Grading Policy

Chorus is a curricular offering and, as such, chorus students receive a grade at the end of each quarter. The grade is based upon:

1. Daily attitude and participation in rehearsal;
2. Written assignments and assessments; and
3. Participation in required performances.

Attitude is determined by the quality of participation in each rehearsal and performance. Components of participation include: posture, talking, effort, cooperation, and general attention. Poor levels and quality of participation will result in poor grades.

Whereas performance is a major component of the choral experience, grades will be lowered for unexcused absences. Everyone serves as an important contribution to the vocal ensemble, and therefore should only be absent in cases of extreme illness or emergency.

## Quarterly Grade Format

- 50% - successful mastery of performance material exhibited in concert format
- 10% - written critique of one semesterly attended concert (other than own)
- 10% - midterm/final exam
- 20% - music theory written quizzes/tests
- 10% - individual/group vocal skills presentation

Membership in chorus is truly a privilege. Each member must take the responsibility to be positive and be interested in working hard for

the betterment of the entire ensemble. Students who, by their actions, display that they are not interested in putting forth such effort will jeopardize both their grade and their membership in choir.

### Concert Attendance

Attendance at curricular concerts is ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED. Students will only be excused from a performance in the event of illness or family emergency. Each case will be dealt with individually and the Vocal Music Director, in collaboration with building administration, will make determination of excuse validity and legitimacy. Do not assume that your excuse will be valid. Students excused from a concert are responsible for the music performed and will be given an assignment based on the music studied in order to earn missed concert attendance points. Excused absence credit will not be applied to grades until both a completed alternative assignment and a hand-written letter of explanation from a parent or guardian has been submitted. A conference with the Director of Vocal Music, missing student and parent/guardian may also be required. Please keep in mind that a family emergency is defined as an unplanned and/or unpleasant family crisis, such as a death or impending death. Plan for transportation issues in advance.

Extra-curricular activities conflicting with curricular concerts must be notified of student absences in advance. It is the responsibility of the student to inform coaches or sponsors of impending absence at the beginning of the season, rather than the week before. Students are expected to work out these conflicts even if an extra-curricular event has been recently rescheduled. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in an unexcused absence, having a serious impact on final grades.

**Curricular Vocal music students are required to participate in the following concerts:**

09.28.10	Collage Concert	Curricular Choirs	7:00 PM	Field House
12.16.11	Winter Concert	Curricular Choirs	7:00 PM	Auditorium
03.21.11	Spring Concert	Curricular Choirs	7:00 PM	Auditorium
05.18.11	Final Concert	Curricular Choirs	7:00 PM	Auditorium

### Concert Attire Policy

In the classroom student individuality is fostered and encouraged as a critical part of the creative process. On stage the final product is presented as a unified team offering that has captured this individuality and channeled it into a single piece of art. In addition, an audience obtains an immediate impression about the attitude, effort, and quality of any performing ensemble even before music has been made. In this vein, musicians at Naperville North High School each will have a uniform that identifies them as part of the ensemble in which they perform.

All vocal and instrumental students purchase concert attire from the school. This attire will follow the musicians throughout their four years of participation in the Naperville North Music Department. A limited number of used garments are available for purchase at a discounted price and all students may opt to sell their concert uniform back to Naperville North upon graduation.

**All Naperville North Vocal Music students will wear the following:**

<b>Ladies</b>	NN Music Department Concert Dress	NN Music Department Necklace & Earrings	Closed-toe Black Dress Shoes (2 in. maximum height)	Black Hosiery
<b>Gentlemen</b>	NN Music Department Tuxedo Pants	NN Music Department Tuxedo Vest	NN Music Department Tuxedo Shirt & Tie	Black Socks & Black Dress Shoes

**All Treble Choir & Concert Choir members will wear the following additional items:**

<b>Ladies</b>	NN Music Department Concert Dress Decorative Pin
<b>Gentlemen</b>	NN Music Department Tuxedo Jacket

**The following is prohibited as Concert Attire:**

1. **Gym shoes;**
2. **Sandals and Flip-Flops;**
3. **Shoes with a height exceeding two inches;**
4. **Strongly scented perfumes and colognes; and**
5. **Hair that is covering the eyes and face.**

Uniform inspections occur immediately prior to each concert. Any student who is not dressed in accordance with the Concert Attire Policy may be denied the opportunity to perform, resulting in an unexcused absence from a performance. If you have any questions, concerns, or difficulty regarding concert attire, please feel free to contact the Vocal Music Director.

## **Concert Call**

Concert call is defined as the time that students are required to be dressed, in the accordance with the Naperville North Vocal Music Department Concert Attire Policy, and at the concert site prior to the concert. Parents and students will be notified of Concert Call times well in advance of each concert. Concert Call can be a time when each student is excited, energy levels are high and attention levels are low. This is a time, however, during which each student must exhibit the greatest amount of self-control. Each student should do their best to maintain a controlled atmosphere and, above all, follow instructions carefully. Doing so will help ensure a great concert which will satisfy our goals and objective, and provide the most positive of experiences for everyone.

## **Supplementary Concert Rehearsal/ Dress Rehearsal**

A Supplementary Concert Rehearsal/ Dress Rehearsal may or may not be called for each major concert at the discretion of the Vocal Music Director. Supplementary Concert Rehearsals/ Dress Rehearsals occur after school on a day leading to a concert. Written notification regarding such rehearsals will be sent home well prior to the event. Considering the number of students involved, and that we often perform combined selections, students should realize the importance of attendance at Supplementary Concert Rehearsals/ Dress Rehearsals. Attendance is not optional.

## **Private Voice Instruction**

For ultimate success and utilization of the North musical experience, private voice instruction is both highly recommended and strongly encouraged. Naperville North is fortunate to have three private voice instructors on staff. These instructors are well educated, experienced and available to give lessons during study hall periods, lunch periods, during chorus class, and before or after school.

Professional instructors utilize the school studio space to teach lessons during the school day. This makes lessons convenient and safe, as each instructor is employed by District 203 and subjected to a background check. These instructors will be available for seven lessons each quarter, at a rate of \$140.00 for the quarter. Because these instructors are employees of District 203, there are strict guidelines regarding compensation. Payment must be in the form of a check made out to NCUSD 203, and must be remitted to the Director of Vocal Music by the third week of the quarter. (Please include the name of the private instructor as a memo on the check.) Failure to follow this procedure could result in the permanent dismissal by your private teacher. Also note that this procedure must be followed even if your lesson is scheduled after normal school hours.

If you are absent from school on the day of your lesson, you are responsible for scheduling a make-up lesson with the instructors. Lessons missed by private instructors will be made up accordingly.

**The Naperville North Private Voice Instructors:**

**Jennifer Gingrich:** *available for Tuesday/Thursday Lessons*

**Amy Yassinger:** *available for Monday Lessons*

**Luke Bruscheck:** *available for Wednesday/Thursday Lessons*

## **Leadership**

Each chorus will include elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, and Stage Manager. Officers are elected in the spring/fall for the year with specific responsibilities. The council represents the Vocal Music Department in organizing fundraising and activities and serves as a policy-making board (in conjunction with the director).

## **Field Trips**

Performance is an important part of musical growth. In addition to our school concerts and assemblies, the Naperville North Vocal Music Department enjoys occasional field trips to hear other musical performances and participate with other schools in choral festivals; or to perform in the community. Permission slips are sent home prior to each event with a reasonable return deadline. Adhering to deadlines is greatly appreciated.

## **Permission Slips**

Permission slips are sent out prior to each field trip or special vocal music event. A reasonable time limit is given for students to return the slips completed and signed by parent/guardian. Points are deducted for students who fail to turn in permission slips by the date indicated. Parent/guardian cooperation in helping students adhere to deadlines is greatly appreciated.

## **Fundraising**

The vocal music department may participate in various fund-raisers each year. Their success is necessary for providing students with extra-musical enrichment that is not provided in our curriculum. This can include transpiration fees, scholarships, special awards, clinics, guest conductors, and other special activities. While fundraising is important and all students are encouraged to participate, it in no way impacts a student's grade in vocal music. Information regarding fundraising will be made available as fundraisers develop.

## **Parent Volunteers**

Supportive vocal music parents are a very important ingredient in the success of our program. Parents are asked to assist with many and various events. Your time and talents are needed and appreciated.

## **Literature**

As individuals grow and deepen their ability to have aesthetic experiences, the literature used as curricular material must expand. In efforts to expand the realm of possible aesthetic experience, attempts will be made to perceive and respond to the highest possible quality of appropriate music. A danger exists in that a fantastically large amount of music published today does not necessarily meet standards of quality literature; that is, literature that is well crafted, sensitive, imaginative, and sincere in its content and construct. The quality of our potential musical experiences is in direct proportion to the quality of a composer's material. All of this is not to suggest that we will only study and perform music of Mozart, Bach and the like. It does, however, suggest that the justification for studying and performing literature as curricular material is scrutinized and evaluated in efforts to provide variety and quality in each student's experience.

The Naperville North Vocal Music Department respects all people and endeavor to be aware of the cultural and religious sensitivities that are related to the delivery of instruction and to the core curriculum. However, this awareness must not interfere with the obligation to teach about significant works of art.

Music is not selected for study and performance in the Naperville North Vocal Music Department for the purpose of advancing or perpetuating a particular religious belief system. Rather, music is selected first, on its own merit as an art form, and second, as a development of a particular movement in human civilization.

An exceptionally high degree of music that fits the criteria of outstanding literature was originally composed for utilitarian purposes. Though Haydn may have composed a *Kyrie* to be performed in a religious worship service, the purpose for studying and performing such a work is different 200 years later. Works such as this possess an historical significance and are present in our culture today as a work of art aside from their original intent. Such literature is employed in the public schools because of its significance as an artwork and its importance in an historical perspective. Through studying sacred and spiritual literature, the text of the work will never be addressed as the purpose for its study or performance. In so far as there may exist textual influences on the musical composition we must be sensitive to its relationships. Beyond that, sacred and spiritual music is studied because it is worthy musical literature. An avoidance of sacred and spiritual literature in choral singing would be akin to avoiding the study of cathedrals in architecture.

Remove and Post with Family Calendar

## Vocal Music Department Calendar of Events



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Date	Event	Time
<b>Tuesday, September 28</b>	<b>Naperville North Music Department Collage Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Tuesday, October 05	Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) Auditions	TBA
Saturday, November 20	Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District Festival	All Day
Saturday, December 03	Naperville North Madrigal Dinner	6:00 PM
Sunday, December 04	Naperville North Madrigal Dinner	6:00 PM
<b>Thursday, December 16</b>	<b>Naperville North Winter Chorus Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Wednesday, January 26	Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) State Festival	All Day
Thursday, January 27	Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) State Festival	All Day
Friday, January 28	Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) State Festival	All Day
Saturday, January 29	Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) State Festival	All Day
Thursday, March 03	Spring Musical	7:00 PM
Friday, March 04	Spring Musical	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 05	Spring Musical	7:00 PM
Sunday, March 06	Spring Musical	2:00 PM
<b>Monday, March 21</b>	<b>Naperville North Spring Chorus Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Thursday, April 21	Naperville North Jazz Department 40's Dance	6:00 PM
<b>Wednesday, May 18</b>	<b>Naperville North Final Chorus Concert</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>

*\*Events in BOLD indicate curricular required concerts.*



