



2016-2017

**North Mac Consolidated
School District #34
Middle School Choir
Handbook**

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Middle School Choir Handbook

Keith A. Fatheree, Choir Director

Expectations

Members of the North Mac Consolidated School District #34 Middle School Choir are expected to maintain the highest levels of personal mores and musical performance. Our school's reputation will be of the highest integrity and it is expected that our school's choir relate this integrity to all who view it and hear it!

Choir Rehearsal

In order to achieve optimum performance outcomes, choir rehearsal is to be conducted in a professional and orderly manner, both by the choir director and the choir members themselves. Talking by choir members is to be kept at an absolute minimum. If a choir member has questions he or she shall raise their hand and politely wait to be called on. Speaking out of turn and horseplay will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action by the choir director.

Choir rehearsal is not practice time. Practicing of individual choir music must take place at home. Otherwise, the rehearsal time is wasted. Rehearsal is to be a period of perfecting the nuances of music. This includes achieving the dynamics, articulations and overall sound of the ensemble.

A typical rehearsal will be as follows:

- Solfeggio
- Diction
- Choir Warm-Ups
- Partner Songs
- Ensemble Music

Disciplinary Actions

The choir director will not tolerate poor behavior. Poor behavior inhibits the learning environment, and frankly, annoys everyone! The choir director will administer a detention to the choir member exhibiting poor behavior. In circumstances above the norm the choir director may, at his discretion, remand the choir member to the principal for further discipline, as per the school hand book.

Attendance

Attendance at performances and extra practices is mandatory. Absences are only permissible as per the school hand book. Choir is a performance based course. Performances are the joy of a musician. They are the culmination of hard work and perseverance.

Grading

Choir is a **performance based class**. In addition to music performances, such as concerts, etc., there will be paper and pencil grades, as well as daily grades. **Daily grades are dependent upon having necessary classroom supplies and music in the classroom.**

Solo and Ensemble Contest

Each year the IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association) holds state-wide vocal and instrumental solo and ensemble contests. Students perform a solo and/or ensemble and are adjudicated individually. Judges critique the soloist/ensemble and rate the individual contestant(s) while providing written criticism. Contestants are rated as follows:

- I. Excellent
- II. Good
- III. Fair

Choir members may receive from the choir director contest solo music. Music is provided based upon the member's ability level.

The choir director will make the determination one week prior to the date of the contest as to whether the student will perform at contest or not. Those students who do not meet the choir director's expectation of performance readiness will not be allowed to attend contest. This determination will be solely based upon the choir director's opinion.

Accompanists will be provided by the school district at no charge to the choir member. However, a choir member may choose to provide their own accompanist, at their own expense.

Organizational Contest

The choir director will, *at his discretion*, determine if the choir will attend IESA Organizational Contest. Contest normally occurs during the month of March each year, at a site determined by the IESA. If the choir attends the contest, the choir members will wear a uniform prescribed by the choir director. Proper advance notice will be given the choir members and their parents. The costs incurred by attendance of the choir at the contest will be underwritten by the school district. The choir will be provided transportation by the school district.

Choirs are adjudicated pursuant to their ability. Choirs are rated as follows:

- I. Excellent
- II. Good
- III. Fair

Uniforms

The choir members will be attired for performances in the uniform prescribed by the choir director. This includes our black choir shirt, black socks and black shoes, khaki pants. A choir member not performing in any performance, because of non-conformance to uniform standards, will result in the choir member's grade being reduced. The parents of choir members are required to make efforts to outfit the choir member as needed.

Concerts

There will be two main concerts per school year, a winter concert and a spring concert. Choir members are required to attend and attendance affects their grades. **Concerts are worth 100 points each.**

Dates for concerts will be provided at a later date.

Please sign, date and return the form on the following page to Mr. Fatheree by **Wednesday, August 24, 2016**. Thank you and welcome to the North Mac Middle School Choir!

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth for the North
Mac Middle School Choir as stated in the choir handbook.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____