

**Choir- Course Outline**  
**3B- Room 186**  
**2019 – 2020**  
**Mrs. Foti**

**Office:** Room 188D

**Office Phone/Voicemail:** 256-4141

**E-Mail:** nfoti@newpaltz.k12.ny.us

**Available Blocks:** Second Half of blocks 1A, 1B and 2B

First Half of block 4A

After School until 2:45pm, or later by appointment

Before School at 7:40am, or earlier by appointment

**Course Description:**

Throughout the year, we will be learning about and singing many different types of choral music. These include, but are not limited to: folk, classical, traditional, multicultural, jazz, musical theater, medleys, and spirituals. We will also be singing in a variety of languages. A portion of our rehearsals each day will be devoted to music reading and sight singing. Sight singing is singing music that you have never seen before, typically using syllables such as “solfege”. It is important for singers to be able to read music as well as instrumentalists!

The Choir will perform on three school concerts, as well as at the NPHS Graduation ceremony. After the Winter Concert, we will divide into Treble (Soprano/Alto) and Tenor/Bass Choirs for a portion of each rehearsal, and will perform songs with these split voice parts at our Scholarship and Spring Concerts.

**Materials:**

- ½ inch **black** 3-ring binder (No larger than 1”, please!)
  - Pencil (first one provided by me)
  - Your instrument ☺
  - Concert Dress Clothes
    - **Black** dress shirt, **black** dress pants or a long **black** skirt, or **black** dress. **Black** socks or tights, and **black** dress shoes. **Dark** colored tie (nothing too bright or shiny).
- \*Concert clothes are important because we want to make sure our audience is focused on our music and our facial expressions, not on the clothes we are wearing!\*

**Requirements:**

- Actively participate in class. This course is about singing! The skills and concepts taught cannot be fully grasped without participation.
- Bring your binder, music, and pencil to each class. You are encouraged to leave these items in your designated folder slot in the Choir folder cabinet.

- Complete your “Rehearsal Reflection” journal **thoughtfully** at the end of each class.
- Complete all assignments in a timely manner.
- Attend **five (5)** Choir Lessons each quarter.
- Attend **all** dress rehearsals and performances.
- **Be respectful** of your classmates!
- Please **do not chew gum** or eat anything during rehearsal. Since use of the mouth is essential to singing, we want to make sure nothing is in the way!
- Don’t be afraid to try new things!

### Assignments:

**Performances:** You must attend every performance! This is why you are in this class—to perform in a choir. The performances are your tests! We will perform on the school’s Winter, Scholarship and Spring concerts, as well as at Graduation. See “Policies” for information on missing performances. Performances are worth 100 points. Current concert dates are as follows:

**Winter Concert: Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:30pm**

**Scholarship Concert: Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 7:30pm**

**Spring Concert: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:30pm**

\*You will be expected to arrive at the High School at 6:45pm for each of these concerts.

**NPHS Graduation: Friday, June 26, 2020 at 6:00pm**

\*Arrive at SUNY New Paltz at 4:30pm.

**Dress Rehearsals:** You must attend every dress rehearsal! These are important because they may be the only time we rehearse in the Auditorium before the concert. We will be setting lighting and our accompanist(s) will also be present. Our student sound technician will be there to set the microphone levels as well. These rehearsals are essential for success in our performances. See “Policies” for information on missing the dress rehearsals. Current Dress Rehearsal dates are as follows:

**Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>- Dress Rehearsal for the Winter Concert**

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>- Dress Rehearsal for the Scholarship Concert**

**Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>- Dress Rehearsal for the Spring Concert**

\*Dress Rehearsals run from 7:00-8:30pm, and are worth 100 points.\*

**Lessons:** You will be required to attend 5 choir lessons each quarter. These lessons will take place during the first forty minutes of blocks **1A**, **3A**, **1B**, and **2B**, and the last forty minutes of blocks **4A** and **4B**. I will schedule your lessons so that you will not always be pulled out of the same class. I will set up lesson groups and a lesson schedule after I have heard you sing and placed each of you in a section (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). There will also be an after school lesson opportunity every-other week. After school lessons will run from 2:30-3:00pm. Copies of your groups and schedules will be handed out to you, e-mailed to each of your teachers, posted on the bulletin boards in the Music Wing, and posted on my website every five weeks. I will also send out text messages through “Remind” every morning with the day’s lesson schedule. Lessons are worth 10 points.

**Sight Singing Assessments:** Throughout the year, we will be using a variety of sight singing sources to learn how to read music and develop our musical ear. Assessments, both written and vocal, will be given periodically. These assessments will be graded out of 50 points.

**Participation:** Each week, you will be given a participation grade out of 5 points. In order to earn full participation credit, please be on time to class and participate fully in all activities.

**“Rehearsal Reflection” Journal:** You will be expected to complete a “Rehearsal Reflection” Journal at the end of each class. These will state something you learned in rehearsal that day, an experience you had in class that made something “click” or a frustrating experience that occurred, and a special “Question of the Day”. I expect that these journals be completed **thoughtfully**. I will collect the journals every four classes to grade them. The journals will be graded out of 10 points. If you are absent on a day journals are collected, yours will be collected the following class.

**Assignments/Practice:** Assignments will be given occasionally. Most days I will simply expect you to practice what we have learned in class. If you do not have access to a piano and/or do not know how to play the piano, that is okay! I will create practice tracks for you and put them on my website as needed. Assignments will be graded out of 10 points.

#### **Grade Breakdown:**

Performances: 25%  
Dress Rehearsals: 15%  
Lessons: 15%  
Sight Singing Assessments: 15%  
Participation: 15%  
Journals: 10%  
Assignments: 5%

#### **Policies:**

**Late to Class:** If you are late three times in a quarter, your participation grade will **drop one point** for the week of the third late. If you are late more than three times, it will continue to drop one point per week for **each** time you are late.

**Late Work:** As I said before, homework is rarely given. However, if a homework assignment (or other assignment) is late, your grade will drop one point for each **school day** it is late.

**Absence and Work:** If you are absent on the day an assignment or journal is collected, it is due the day you return to class. If you are absent on the day of a Sight Singing

Assessment, you will complete it at the beginning of the next class and/or lesson you attend.

**Absence and Dress Rehearsals/Performance:** If you need to miss all or part of a Dress Rehearsal **and/or** a Performance for some reason, please get a note or email to me from your parent or guardian by the date specified on the Information Sheet for that Concert (usually about 4-6 days before the event). Otherwise, the absence will not be excused and you will get a 0 for that dress rehearsal or performance. If there is a last-minute emergency, I reserve the right to make an exception with an email/note from home stating the situation.

**Please make sure your parents read this information.** It is especially important for them to note the Concert and Dress Rehearsal dates, including Graduation. Tear off the attached page, print and sign your name, and then have your parent/guardian sign it as well. Return this to me no later than **Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**.

Please bring in your black ½-inch binders no later than **Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**.

**Let's have fun! We will be singing a lot of different kinds of music and you will learn a lot! Please don't hesitate to e-mail or call me with any questions.**



\*To receive text message updates and reminders through the “Remind” app:  
- Please text the message @npchoir19 to the number 81010.  
Parents are welcome to join as well! Choir Lesson reminders will be sent out each morning, and other announcements and updates will be sent out as necessary.\*

Dear NPHS Choir Parents/Guardians,

I am so excited to be working with your children this year! We work very hard in Choir to create concerts that are educational and enjoyable for our audiences, and we have a lot of fun while doing it!

Please take note of the performance dates listed in this Course Outline. Students are expected to arrive at the High School no later than 6:45pm on the night of each Concert, and by 4:30pm on the afternoon of Graduation at SUNY New Paltz. **Graduation is a mandatory performance for all Choir members.** We will also have mandatory dress rehearsals the night before each concert. These dates are also listed in this Course Outline. Reminders about these events will be sent home with your child at least two weeks in advance.

If you find you are having trouble transporting your child to and/or from these rehearsals and performances, please contact me as soon as possible and I will put you in touch with another parent who may be able to pick up and/or drop off your child. If you are willing to provide transportation to students in need of a ride, please indicate this below. Not having a ride to these events is **not** an excused absence.

Throughout the year, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call or email me! My contact information can be found at the top of this Course Outline, and on my school website Welcome Page. You can also sign-up to receive daily announcements and updates through the "Remind" app. Please see the instructions on the last page of the Course Outline.

I am looking forward to a fun and rewarding year!

Sincerely,

**Nicole Foti, Choir Director**

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Please sign and detach this page to show that you have read and understand the requirements and policies of this course. Return this to Mrs. Foti no later than **Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student Name (print))      \_\_\_\_\_ (sign)      \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian Name (print))      \_\_\_\_\_ (sign)      \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to pick up/drop off another student in need of a ride.