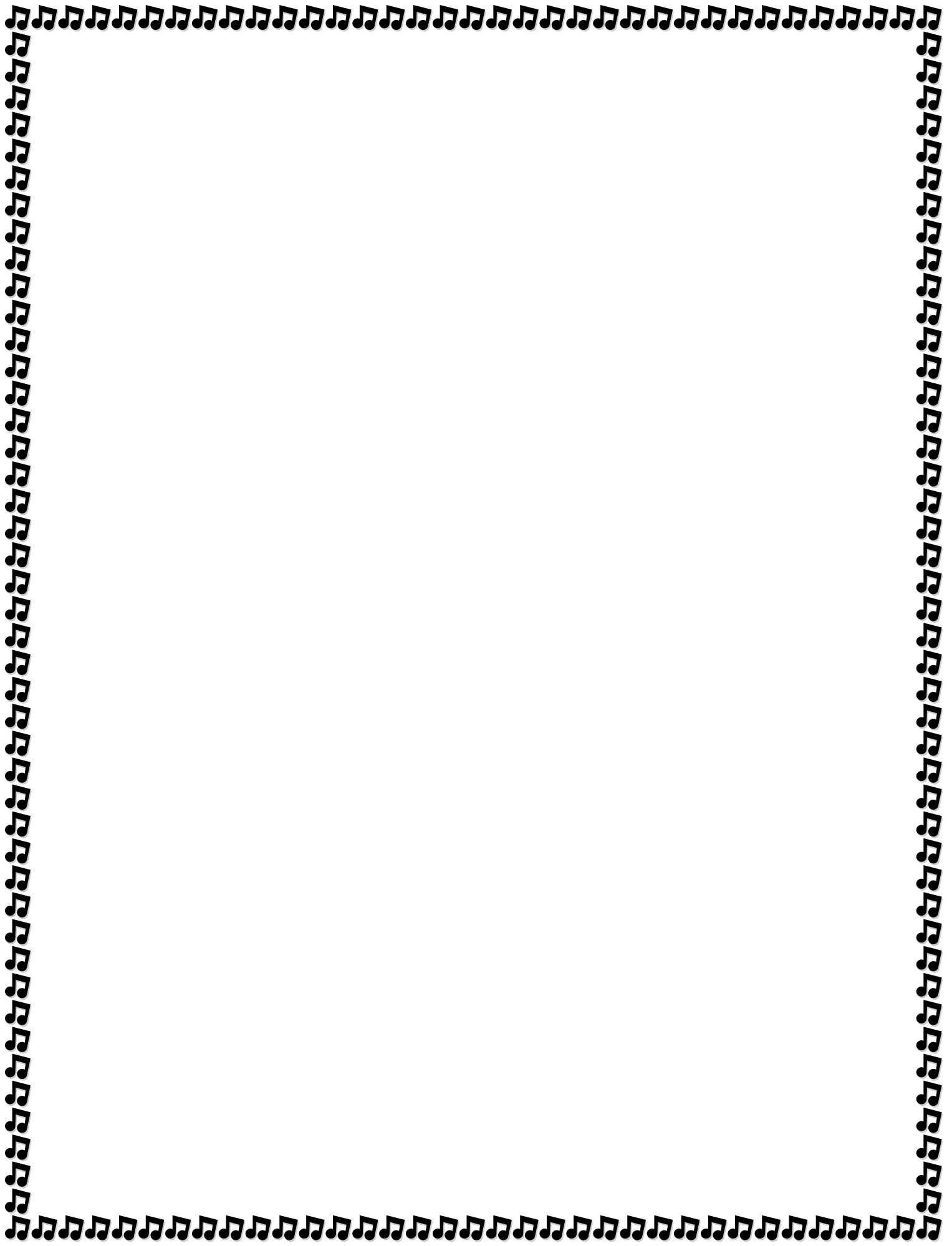




**Hazelwood
North Middle
School**

Choir Handbook

2017-2018





Dear Parents, Students, Guardians,

Welcome to Choir at North Middle School! For those of you returning to Choir, welcome back! I'm looking forward to creating great music with our singers this school year. I am so glad that your singer has chosen to be part of our award-winning Choir program at North Middle School.

In this packet you will find information regarding our concert schedule, grading policy, materials needed for class, and after-school and optional performance events. Please read and review this packet with your singer, sign the last page indicating you understand and accept the information presented within, and return the signed page as soon as possible.

If I can provide you with any further details regarding our Choir program, please contact me by phone or email, whichever is most convenient for you. In addition, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, I would love to hear from you.

I am looking forward to a great 2017-2018 school year!

Sincerely,

Vicki Mount
Choir Director
Hazelwood North Middle School
vmount@hazelwoodschoools.org
Classroom phone: 314-953-7593

Class Materials

Students should bring the following items each day of choir class:

- Pencils sharpened and ready for use in class
- Choir folder with choir music (assigned to 7/8th grade choirs only)
- Notebook for choir class notes
- (optional) water bottle (Bottled water is allowed and encouraged so singers stay hydrated during class rehearsal.)

- Reminder: no gum or food during choir class, please

Concert dates

Concert performances are required for all Choir students. Students receive up to 200 points (2 test grades) for their participation and performance in each concert. Scoring guides will be provided to all students prior to each scheduled concert. Concert reminders will be sent home by email and distributed during class. Please be sure that your Parent Portal email address is up-to-date so that you are able to receive these reminders. **Please note that all concerts this year will be held at 6:30pm.** All concerts are held in the gym at North Middle and should be finished no later than 7:30pm. Students will need to arrive at 6:00pm on concert dates. Concert attire is white tops and black pants or skirts, along with black or dark dress shoes.

| | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Winter Concert (all choirs) | Thursday, December 7 | 6:30 p.m. |
| Spring Concert (all choirs) | Thursday, May 10 | 6:30 p.m. |
| Showcase Concert (8 th grade only) | Tuesday, March 6 | 6:30 p.m. |



Grading

Students in Choir are graded on daily rehearsal technique, learning activities, and evaluations (tests and concerts). Students earn up to 50 points each class for demonstrating the following rehearsal technique: display correct posture while singing, come to class prepared, perform warm-ups to improve their voice, stay on-task during instruction, singing their best. Rehearsal technique grades are posted weekly.

Written tests will cover the following units of study: posture, warm-ups, duration (note/rest values), rhythm, pitch, melodic reading, signs and symbols. Students receiving a grade less than proficient (80%) on a unit test will have 2 weeks to re-test over the material covered.

Choir Overview

6th grade

Singers in 6th grade choir study 2-part music focusing on posture and music-reading skills. Singers study both pitch and duration, then apply correct breathing and warm-up exercises to improve their singing technique.

7th Grade Choir

Singers in 7th grade choir study 3-part music, developing ensemble skills and vocal part independence. Singers work on discovering their vocal range and improving their tone. Students review basic music theory skills and improve their performance skills of focus and overcoming nerves.

8th Grade Choir

8th graders study more advanced vocal techniques (balance and blend) and sing 3- and 4-part music with additional solo and small group opportunities. Singers work on expanding their vocal range and flexibility, sing music intervals using Solfege (do re mi) and improve their performance skills of expression and stage presence.

After-School and Additional Opportunities

After-school sessions for Choir students are on Mondays and include piano keyboard lessons, vocal coaching, and help sessions. Please submit a signed after-school permission slip to stay for these activities. In addition, Choir students are encouraged to audition for a variety of optional activities, such as the E. Desmond Lee Honor Choir, All-Suburban Honor Choir, and Solo/Small Ensemble Festival. Audition sheets will be posted in the choir room for the Honor Choir and Festivals listed below. Please let me know if you would like more information on any of these activities.

In-Class Talent Shows (all Choirs - Share-a-Song scheduled each Friday of Choir class)
After-school piano keyboard lessons (all Choirs - Mondays)
After-school voice lessons (all Choirs - Mondays)
After-school help sessions (all Choirs - Mondays)
Small Ensemble Festival (all Choirs - April)

Solo and Small Ensemble Festival (7/8th grade Choirs - April)
E Desmond Lee Honor Choir * (7/8th grade Choirs - February)
All-Suburban Honor Choir * (7/8th grade Choirs - January)
Elementary School Tour Choir ** (7/8th grade Choirs - February)

Holiday Caroling (8th grade Choir - December)
Showcase Concert (8th grade Choir - March)
“The Sweet Taste of Music” Spring Celebration (8th grade Choir)

* *auditions held during choir class*

** *students must have a B (80%) average in all classes to attend tours*

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Please sign and return

We have read the Hazelwood North Choir Information packet and are aware of the concert dates, grading policy, and conditions of successful participation in the choir program.

Print student name _____

Grade Level 6 7 8

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____