

Nelson Middle School Choir



Nighthawk Choir

Handbook 2019 - 2020

Contacting the Director

Nelson Choir Office: 469-633-4125
Mrs. Wheeler's Email: wheelerj@frscoisd.org

Opportunities to Connect

Instagram: @Nighthawk_choir
Facebook: NelsonMSChoir
Website: <http://nelsonchoir.weebly.com/>

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

BEHAVIOR

I have 3 simple rules in the Choir room:

Respect yourself

Respect others

Respect me

In the choir room we are not only working on improving our individual voice and musicianship, but we are working together to improve the choir as a unit. If the students observe and follow these 3 rules, we will achieve our choir mission and focus on great possibilities open rather than focusing on discipline.

CONSEQUENCES

- 1. Verbal warning**
- 2. Conversation with teacher after class**
- 3. Parent phone call (choir privileges may be taken away)**
- 4. Detention + parent phone call**

GRADING POLICY

Each student's six-week grade will be derived from:

- 1. 60% Major Grades – Concert grades, required rehearsals, Singing tests, written tests, Projects, etc.**
- 2. 40% Minor Grades –Quizzes, Marking music, memory/ pitch checks**

Performance Grading policy - All performances are required and considered major grades. The rubric below will be used to calculate a student's grade from a performance. If a student is excused from a performance due to illness, death in the family, a school related activity, etc... then the student will make up the grade by performing the music for a director to receive up to 100%. For unexcused absences see below for the grading policy.

Nelson Fine Arts Unexcused Performance Policy

Unexcused absence will result in a 0% for concert etiquette and a max of 85% for performance skills.
School policy for make-up procedure will be followed.

Grading Rubric

Concert Etiquette TEK 3.5 & 3.6 Critical evaluation and Response. Tek 3.3 Creative Expression	50 points
Performance Skills Teks 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3 - Foundations of Music Literacy	50 points

The school policy regarding late assignments and re-testing will be followed. See Nelson Student Handbook for these policies.

Attendance

A grade will be given for each performance. An absence from a performance will result in a “zero” Major Grade for the nine weeks in which the absence occurred. Leaving during a concert, for any reason, will result in a “85” as your performance grade. Being late to the call will result in “10” points off your performance grade.

You will always be given ample prior notice of rehearsals and concerts, and you will be expected to make arrangements with your extracurricular activities to attend these rehearsals and performances. Also, many of you are involved in other NMS and community activities that will, from time to time, conflict with our rehearsals and performances. You are expected to do all in your power to make arrangements to attend these required events. Teachers will work together so please let us know if there is something to work out.

Special Circumstances

If you have extenuating circumstances and cannot attend the rehearsal or performance you must personally talk with Mrs. Wheeler with your reason for needing to miss the event. If you are absent from school the day of an after school rehearsal or performance, you must contact the director prior to our performance for the absence to be excused.

Attendance at department concerts is mandatory for all students and is not excused for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Absences may be excused only at Director’s discretion.

If you need to speak with Mrs. Wheeler about special circumstances regarding yourself or your children (i.e. can’t pay fees all at once, missing rehearsals/ performances, questions regarding policies or activities, etc.) please contact the director.

UNIFORMS

Women: Black choir dress issued by NMS Choir, **BLACK dress shoes (closed toe)**.

Men: Black button down dress shirt, black dress pants, Green tie all issued by NMS Choir, black shoes. The uniforms will be worn at most concerts and all competitions. Choir uniforms will be due back to the choir department prior to May 8, 2020. If a student needs another size uniform, it is their responsibility to notify the director at least one week in advance of a performance. We will not address uniform issues the day of the concert. Those students not returning uniforms at the end of the year will be placed on a hold list. Everyone will need to return their uniforms dry cleaned and in the cleaning bag with the receipt attached. Any uniform with strong, discernable, body odor or stains will be considered damaged and a fine will be assessed.

Dresses need to be hemmed appropriately. DO NOT LET THE SEAMSTRESS/ TAILOR CUT ANY MATERIAL FROM UNIFORM!

MUSIC

Each student will be issued a numbered folder and sheet music. This music is our textbook and students will be responsible for lost and/or damaged music. Remember that having music is also criterion for the rehearsal performance grade. If you can't find your lost music, you will be responsible for the cost of replacing it. Treat your music with respect... do not roll it up, tear it, bend it backwards, fold it into origami art, or light any part or all of it on fire. Only mark in music in pencil and, through your artistic skills may be wonderful, refrain from doodling on your music.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

Voice lessons are offered to all interested choir students. Lesson fees are offered once a week for \$20 and are scheduled during the student's choir class (half a period is 22 min.) or before/after school. These are an integral part of our choral program and are highly recommended for any student desiring to excel. Every student can benefit greatly from this one-on-one instruction.

CONTESTS

There are two opportunities for individual recognition this year. It is highly encouraged that students participate in these extra opportunities. Students who choose to participate will be recognized at our end of the year banquet. Please remember that these contests are extra and once students commit they must follow through.

- 1) All-Region Choir (January 11th) 7th and 8th grade students choosing to audition for the TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) All-Region Choir will prepare two pieces plus sight-reading for an audition, and the highest ranked singers from the region will earn a spot in the choir. This honor choir performs once at the All-Region Concert. Students are required to make sure they are available for the performance date before they audition.
- 2) Solo & Ensemble Contest (April 18th) – 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students choosing to compete in the UIL (University Interscholastic League) Solo & Ensemble contest will prepare a memorized vocal solo from a prescribed music list in front of a judge. The voice teacher or choir director will assist in music selection and learning. A small ensemble may be chosen for this contest and prepared by the director. The entry fee is due no later than March 20th.

COSTS TO BE IN CHOIR

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| 1. Uniform and Activity Fee
\$50 All choirs | <u>REQUIRED ALL CHOIRS</u> |
| 2. Private Voice Lessons
\$80 a month | Open to all, Recommended |
| 3. Solo & Ensemble Contest
\$25 (accompanist) | Open to all, not required |
| 4. Region Choir Auditions
\$10 (If Booster Club can't cover) | Open to all, not required |

FUNDRAISING

The Nelson Choir will be fundraising throughout the year in many forms. The Nelson Choir Booster Club will do additional fundraising as well. If you would like to make a donation to the program or have a business that would like to make a donation, please contact our Booster Club. All donors will be listed in ALL Nelson Choir programs.

Fees

Choir Fee/ Activity Fee due August 30, 2019
\$50 All Choirs
(MyPaymentsPlus.com)

Charms Information System

We will contact groups and manage student information through Charms. Please log into Charms and update the student and at least one parent/guardian profile.

Link from <http://nelsonchoir.weebly.com/> or go directly to charmsoffice.com. The parent/Student Login is NelsonMSChoir
Your password is your student ID#

Nelson Choir Booster Club

This is a service organization dedicated to supporting the students and promoting the activities of the Nelson Middle School Choral Department. The goal of the Choir Boosters is to aid in the activities of the choral department in varying degrees of time/energy commitment. We have elected officers, who help shoulder much of the burden, but we also need parents to get involved and help in both large and small capacities... all the way down to folks who will distribute programs at concerts... very small time commitment during an activity you'd (hopefully) already be attending. We will need to raise funds, as needed, for department activities but the goal is not to be a money-generating machine. When we need something, we'll make a plan of how to get it, but mostly you'll be in a supportive role at concerts and activities. More information will be sent home and made available on the choir website about this organization.

To become a volunteer, you first need to pass a criminal background check per FISD Policy. You can do this on-line by following these steps:

1. Go to www.friscoisd.org
2. Click on Parents
3. Click on volunteer form (under popular links)
4. You must have this form on file before you are able to volunteer

Once this form has been filled out and processed by FISD you will be able to volunteer with any school-wide activities. Our Choir Booster Board member in charge of Parent Volunteers will send out emails throughout the year asking for help for certain events. This might be done through Charms or Sign up Genius so you can set the time frame that works best for you. We hope that you are able to help out and be a part of our Choir Family.