**Niagara Falls High School Music Department**

**4455 Porter Rd. Niagara Falls NY 14305**

**716-278-5800 ext. 41281**

**vschucker@nfschools.net**

**Find continuing information on the nfschools website, V. Schucker**

Welcome to NFHS Choir. Our goal is to work as a team to create beautiful music and learn to become stronger musicians. This year may be challenging but I am committed to helping you improve your vocal skills, music literacy and appreciation of music no matter what the year brings! Please review the information attached. You will receive a microsoft form to fill out signifying that you have read and understood the choir handbook. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns.

Classroom Rules

Every person is given an instrument at birth – the voice. Since the human voice has been an existing instrument for thousands of years, there are many styles and genres, from different time periods and cultures of music that the NFHS Choral Department will explore. Together we will study the unification of poetry and music and how it is expressed through our voices. We will explore music history, theory and composition. It is my hope that everyone in choir will grow to be better musicians and better people.

Expectations:

* Wear your mask (mask breaks will be provided)
* Keep 6’ distance; keep 12’ distance when we are singing
* Respect yourself and everyone around you
* Respect your surroundings ~ clean up after yourself, take care of things
* Attend class daily! We start on time ~ be **in class ready to sing on time**
* **Cell phones** must be put away during class time
* Enjoy your **GUM** at home!

#### Materials Needed

* All Students need:
	+ 1-2 2 pocket folders (replaced as needed) for storing choir music
	+ A sharpened pencil with an eraser daily
* Join the Remind group for your Choir:
	+ Concert Choir (3rd Period Choir) – text @nfhschoral to 81010
	+ Advanced Choir (9/10th Period Chorus) – text @nfhschoir to 81010
	+ Vocal Jazz (7/8th A days) – text @nfhsjazzch to 81010
* Log in to Teams – all assignments will be posted here. We will also utilize Flipgrid and Nearpod for various assignments. All will be assigned through Teams.

###### Assessment

My job is to educate and excite the inner musician of all my students. I strive to foster a warm and welcoming environment in my classroom so students feel comfortable to enjoy great music making. I expect my students to demonstrate healthy and beautiful singing. I want them to feel good about the sounds that they make so they will want to sing more often! My students will be able to look at and analyze a score using musical terms. They will also be able to sight read at a proficient level. I expect my students to be able to reflect upon and write expressively about music as well as their personal growth through music and the music making process. My students will learn the importance of being a productive and positive member of a group working together to achieve a goal. Therefore, our assessment program may include any of the following: a recorded solo performance, small group music literacy quizzes, small ensemble in-class performances, written class work and homework, musicianship tests, rehearsal etiquette, and concert participation. Assessment is beneficial to both students and teachers. This is where we learn what students are actually internalizing as well as what teachers need to focus more time and energy on.

## Written Work

Students will be expected to complete written and recorded work as assigned on Teams weekly. Students are expected to check in on each remote day to receive work as well as be counted for attendance.

## Music Literacy

One of the ways I can help students become independent musicians is to teach them how to read music. Students learn their music literacy by performing in group, quiz-like settings. In the beginning of the year, students will perform solfege etudes with Kodaly hand-signs. As the year progresses, students will perform musical lines using solfege.

## Solo and Ensemble Performance

Chorus is a performance based class and students are singing repertoire on a daily basis, so a percentage of the students earned grade should reflect their knowledge and demonstration of that repertoire. Students will be provided the opportunity to perform alone and in small ensembles during regular choir rehearsals as well as voice lessons. The rubrics and grading scales used on recording assignments are linked to district and state adjudication forms as well as school, department, and state curriculums and rubrics.

Voice Lab

Students are expected to attend one voice lab class per week in addition to large group rehearsal. During voice lab students will get individual and small group vocal coaching, musicianship practice and the opportunity to prepare solos for auditions or adjudication. Attendance at voice lab once a week is required. Voice lab works on a rotating basis, modeled after the instrumental music lesson model, so a student will never miss an in-person class more than once every 6 weeks. The voice lab schedule has been modified to work with the hybrid schedule, on a 6-week rotation. I will explain this in person and post it in the files section of your class Team. On alternate weeks students will have a voice lesson on an in-person day and the following week on a remote day.

## Concert Participation and Rehearsal Etiquette

At this point, there are no in-person concerts scheduled, but we plan to provide performance opportunities using technology.

Students will be observed during class and the teacher will take note of students’ demonstration of proper rehearsal etiquette (posture, preparation, attention, and productivity). Students will attend class daily!

When things go back to normal, students are required to attend **all** **performances** and **out of class rehearsals**.

**CONCERT and EVENT DATES AS OF 9/5/20** (watch for updates!)

*At this point, the following events are canceled or modified:*

Canceled – Fall fundraiser, Area All-State Festival, NCMEA December Auditions

Modified – NYSSMA Winter Conference (digital), Spring Solo Festival (digital)

The All-County Festival events have not been decided upon yet.

*Events we hope to have in some fashion; dates tba*

Fundraiser Kickoff

NFHS Got Talent - sponsored by NFHS Choirs

Nov. NCMEA Scholarship Applications Due

Jan. NCMEA Scholarship Audition

(Fri/Sat) NCMEA Festival 1 @

(Fri/Sat) NCMEA Festival 2 @

(Fri/Sat) NCMEA Festival 3 @

Jazz Choir on Tour

NYSSMA Solo Festival Evaluation - Digital

NFHS Music Department Pops Concert

Music Department Banquet

NFHS Graduation, AC Seniors and other selected students

Concert Attire:

All Concerts – concert dress in all black

Jazz Choir: All black with Royal Blue accents, bow tie and/or suspenders are provided

NFHS Choral Department Agreement

We have read the NFHS Choral Department Handbook and we understand that by signing this contract we are agreeing to the terms listed within, including our knowledge of the calendar. Any conflicts with the performance schedule must be submitted **in writing** with a parent/guardian signature, to Ms. Schucker.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Contact Phone Numbers:

Home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Students:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I have signed up for remind messages –

Concert Choir (3rd Period Chorus) text @nfhschoral to 81010

Advanced Choir (9/10th Period Chorus) text @nfhsadvchto 81010

Vocal Jazz (7/8th A days) text @nfhsjazzch to 81010