**Northeast Eagles**

Choir Handbook

Northeast Middle School Choir Handbook

2017-2018

Dear choir students and family,

Thank you for becoming or remaining a member of the Northeast Middle School Choir Program. I hope that you enjoy the time you spend in choir during school as much as singing outside of school. As a music educator, I have several goals that are very important to me:

1. Teach the basic fundamentals of vocal and general music.
2. Help students build confidence within themselves to achieve their goals.
3. Teach self-discipline.
4. Develop teamwork and leadership among all students
5. Identify high quality music in all genres

As we strive to reach these goals I hope that singing music remains enjoyable to you and everyone you share your talents with. As you climb towards great musicianship, please keep in mind that it is a great deal of hard work. Most of the time, it is a lot of fun, but sometimes things will become frustrating. This is not something that you go through alone. Each great musician has had times of stress where they thought they would not make it, but it is through those times when they persevered that they brought forth some of the best musical moments in history. Music education should be a fun process, and we, as a group, will do our best to keep it that way for everyone.

I am here to help your student be the best that he or she can be. Communication between students, teachers and parents is very important to me. Do not hesitate to call or email me whenever you have a question or concern and I will do my best to do the same in return.

Please take the time to read through this handbook completely. I have tried to put as much information in it as possible. We hope that you find this information helpful as your child begins choir or continues within the program. Once again, thank you for choosing to be a part of the Northeast Middle School Choir. I am looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Emily Tubbs

**Emily Tubbs –** **emily.tubbs@cmcss.net**

(931) 648-5665 Ext: 2603

**2017-2018 NEMS Choir**

**Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations**

**School Expectations:**

* Be Respectful
	+ Follow directions
	+ Be encouraging and helpful to peers
* Be Responsible
	+ Bring required materials
	+ Turn in completed work
* Give Best Effort
	+ Participate in activities and discussions
	+ Create quality work

**\*Classroom Consequences will align with the CMCSS and NEMS Handbook**

**Performance Expectations:**

* Choir members are expected to dress specified in concert attire for all performances. “Concert Attire” is defined as:
Ladies: White top and black or dark blue dress pants/skirt
Gentlemen: White shirt (button-up preferred) and black or dark blue dress pants
Jeans, shorts, and tennis shoes are not allowed as part of “concert attire.”
**Failure to meet requirements for concert attire will result in a reduction in the student’s performance grade**.
* Choir members are expected to arrive at the choir room at the time designated by the director
* Arrive early to performances, leaving enough time to pick up any materials, warm-up, and be in your designated place ready to sing when directed.
* All classroom rules apply when in a performance situation.

**NEMS Choir Grading Procedures:**

 Choir is a unique offering at Northeast Middle School. It has many curricular requirements, just as any other academic discipline. It may also have some extracurricular requirements. The strength of the NEMS Choir Program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance-based, academic course of study.

 Choir is a learning activity. We rely upon rehearsals (both during and after school) as the vehicle through which learning takes place. Rehearsals are not optional.

 Performances are viewed as major tests. The reason for this is twofold: first and foremost, a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a practice room or rehearsal setting. The level of concentration required in a public performance gives each student a deeper insight into his/her own level of performance. Second, a performance is an evaluative tool, useful in comparing a student’s performance with classroom objectives presented and with the individual’s past performances. It is also a great milestone and measure of growth from the beginning of his/her skill level to the product of the final performance.

**\*Grading categories will reflect the CMCSS and Northeast Middle School grading categories.**

**Class Checks:** These will be a series of small checks throughout the school year to gauge student understanding of the topics being discussed in class. This could vary from how to sing a major scale, to identifying music symbols/terms, to writing out note values.

**Rehearsal Etiquette**: Rehearsals are focused times in which we put what students have been practicing individually into the full choral context. It is very important that students remain actively engaged during rehearsals. Students will receive a grade for maintaining a high level of professionalism during this very valuable time.

**Repertoire Checks/Written Tests**: Repertoire checks and/or written tests will be given multiple times during each nine-week grading period. All tests will be announced in advance and generally will be administered on Fridays.

**Performance Grade (Concerts):** In order to achieve the utmost from our musical capabilities, some after-school rehearsals *may* be necessary. These rehearsals will be announced ahead of time and are required of all choir members. Rehearsal attendance is not optional. Concerts are counted as major final exam grades and reflect upon students’ final grades.

***Excused absences from an after-school rehearsal or concert are limited to:***

* Student Illness
* Death in the family
* Religious holiday
* Other reasons as deemed excusable by the choir director/administration with appropriate documentation.

**2017-2018 NEMS CHOIR HANDBOOK**

**SIGNATURE FORM**

**PLEASE RETURN BY NO LATER THAN**

**Friday, August 18th**

We have read and thoroughly understand the Northeast Middle School Band Handbook and the rules, guidelines, and expectations covered in it. Also, we have kept for our records and will abide by this handbook.

Choir Member’s Name (please PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Choir Member’s Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Phone Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please include an email address – this is the quickest means of general communication about choir events and activities!)*

Today’s Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I put photos from our recent concerts/events on the NEMS Choir website from time to time. Do I have your permission for your student’s photo to be on our website? (Photos will never be listed with full names) Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is a possibility this year that the choir program will utilize a mass text system for alerts, updates, and any other information to be sent out with a quick text to Parent/Guardian’s cell phones. Do I have your permission to send these texts to your phone if this text alert system becomes a reality? Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_

Submit Electronically via link: <https://goo.gl/forms/BynvtlumK6Y96yfA3>