

2022_2023

NORTH



FORSYTH

RAIDER CHORUS HANDBOOK

MR GENE SEESE ~ DIRECTOR

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FOLLOW US - @NFORSYTHCHOIR



FACEBOOK - NFHS RAIDER CHORUS

RAIDER CHORUS WEB - www.raiderchorus.com



Why music education?

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE

It is exact, specific, and demands exact acoustics. Printed music is a chart, a graph, which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with the most exact control of time.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL

It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French and the notations are certainly not English – but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas, not unlike the symbols found in computer language. The semaphore of music is the most complete and universal language.

MUSIC IS HISTORY

Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the national or ethnic mood. Civilization is often defined by the arts.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lips, cheek, and other facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

MUSIC IS ALL THESE THINGS, BUT MOST OF ALL, MUSIC IS ART

It allows a human being to take all these difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate: humanism, feeling, and emotion.



Dear Students and Parents,

August 2023

Welcome back! What an amazing year we just had and I'm excited for what this new year holds. The NFHS Raider Chorus has a long tradition of excellence, and our goal is to make our students not only lifelong musicians but well-rounded and responsible individuals. Thanks for making the commitment to be a part of our family!

This year, our entire online system will be run through the choir webpage that we have been developing over the past two years. Please bookmark www.raiderchorus.com today! Your students (and many parents) have already completed the onboarding process for the class. Please go to the **Forms & Documents** tab and complete the appropriate form today. Please take a moment to subscribe to the page so you receive the most up to date information. Emails will come from IC as well throughout the year. Also, you can see our updated calendar anytime! If you have any technical issues, please contact me.

Students will complete a learning path via itslearning in class during the handbook presentation. This is a **graded, summative assessment**. This handbook contains a wealth of information that is essential to the success of each student & the choral program and is a valuable resource for students and parents that should be referred to often. Parents, please take the time to review the requirements of this handbook with your child to ensure theirs and your understanding of what is expected of a choral student at NFHS. Hardcopies will NOT be issued (except on a need basis). This handbook is accessible online via the choral web page and itslearning. Announcements about events, concerts, due dates, etc., will be posted online, so make it a habit to check this site at least once per week (hard copies will also be sent home as necessary). I also post a wealth of information on social media, please follow us to keep up to date daily! If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email (preferred method). Contact information is included below.

For a successful program, we need a unified partnership between parents, students and director. **On Thursday, August 18th we will have a Parent Kick-Off meeting in the PAC, beginning at 6:30pm.** I understand that your time is valuable, but it is very important that a family member be in attendance for this meeting. April Hicks from Family Memories Travel will be there to discuss our Spring Trip to Disney and Universal! In addition, we will discuss important information about concerts, new procedures, creation of a booster club and fundraiser options. I look forward to seeing you on August 18th!

Being among the best and striving for outstanding musical experiences requires tremendous teamwork and discipline. This level of success cannot be achieved without the support of our parents and dedication from all the students involved in chorus. I look forward to working together and look forward to another outstanding year!

Musically Yours,

Gene Seese
Director of Choral Activities
Chair, Fine Arts Department
Office Phone: (770) 781-6637, x160193
GSeese@forsyth.k12.ga.us
Raider Chorus Web: www.raiderchorus.com

COURSE SYLLABUS



Course Descriptions

NFHS offers 3 curricular choirs: Raider Chorale (Intermediate Men & Women), Cantamus (Advanced Women) and the Chamber Singers (Advanced Mixed). We hope to offer some extracurricular choirs during Raider Time/Wellness as our schedule allows. Each student is placed in an ensemble based on his or her grade level & experience. Raider Chorale is for men & women in all grades and ability levels with no audition requirement. The Chamber Singers & Cantamus have audition requirements. Raider Time/Wellness choirs are open to everyone. The following skills and concepts will be introduced and/or developed by means of choral literature appropriate to the needs and abilities of the students and each choir:

- 🎵 Correct posture
- 🎵 Tone production
- 🎵 Rhythm
- 🎵 Pitch perception
- 🎵 Scales
- 🎵 Balance and Blend
- 🎵 Solfege & Kodaly training
- 🎵 Dynamic, tempo and articulation markings
- 🎵 Blend, balance and rhythmic precision in an ensemble
- 🎵 Musical expression and interpretation
- 🎵 Basic concepts of music theory & history as they relate to the voice and to vocal selections
- 🎵 Public performances on & off campus

Performances/Dress Rehearsals

All students are required to participate in performances and dress rehearsals. Chorus is a team effort, and even missing one voice can drastically change the sound of the group. These are summative evaluations, which are required in co-curricular classes such as chorus, drama and band. Choral concerts and rehearsals take place at Cumming First United Methodist Church (unless noted otherwise). Select choirs will have additional performance responsibilities that all members will be expected to attend. All calendar events will be posted on the [Raider Chorus Webpage](#). This calendar will also be posted in the classroom, online and you may print a calendar. It is your responsibility to know these dates, keep up to date on any changes and/or additions and make appropriate plans to attend.

Class Materials

A black music folder and a pencil will be supplied to all members. You will need paper for notes and in class assignments & assessments. iPads will also be utilized this year as we transition to digital music. Personal cell phones and electronics are not needed during class (unless otherwise stated) and will be put away at the start of class. Disciplinary action will be taken if a student chooses to not comply with this expectation. All students will receive a Sight-Reading Factory account for assessments (details in class).

Concert Attire

Students will wear concert attire provided by the choir department.



Extra-Curricular Fees

These are NOT class fees as we no longer have a fee for the class. These are activities beyond the scope of the regular classroom. The NFHS Choral Boosters "Performance Package" and fundraisers will be discussed in a separate handout.

- ☉ There are various fees charged by GMEA (listed below). These fees are for extracurricular events and must be paid by the individual for participation.
- ☉ Choir Trips - These are optional, extra-curricular annual events.
 - [Universal/Disney Trip, March 29 - April 2](#)
 - Direct Link: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17qTwpH_0bEglAeyC9XPUjv1VUQ1516OkOIVTi50x8wo/edit?usp=sharing
 - Payments will be made directly to Family Memories Travel, please attend the kick-off meeting for more details!

Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) Events

GMEA All State Chorus: Feb 16 – Feb 18, Athens Classic Center

Open to all members, these choruses are comprised of the top high school students in the state of Georgia. Entrance is by audition only. Selected students travel to Athens in February to perform under the direction of a master choral director. This audition is open to all students currently enrolled in chorus. Students who wish to earn a choir letter MUST audition for All State!

- ☉ Audition fee is \$30 due no later than **Friday, September 9th**. Students who have not paid their fee by this date will not audition, NO EXCEPTIONS!
- ☉ Audition #1 will be Saturday, November 5th at North Gwinnett Middle School
- ☉ Students who pass the first audition will complete a second audition on January 19th @ Vickery Creek MS before they will qualify for participation in Athens
- ☉ Selected Raider Time sections will be dedicated to All State preparation
 - Visit www.gmea.org or the choir home page for practice examples of the audition procedures.

GMEA All State Sight Reading Chorus: Jan 26 – Jan 28, Athens Classic Center

Open to all members, this chorus is for the top sight-reading students in the state. Only those with excellent sight-reading skills should audition. If selected, students will travel to Athens in January to read through over 60 pieces and present an informal concert.

- ☉ Audition fee is **\$30**, due no later than **Friday, September 9th**. Students who have not paid their fee by this date will not audition, NO EXCEPTIONS!
- ☉ Audition Date: Thursday, Oct 27th (time and location TBD)

District 9 Honor Chorus

This chorus is comprised of high school students from local counties. There are 3 choirs for students to participate in. This event takes place in November 17-18 at CFUMC. Selections will be made by director recommendation, **but limited slots are available**. This event is open to members of an auditioned choir only.

- ☉ Cost for this event is **\$55** for those selected. This includes cost of music, t-shirt & lunch. *Transportation is your responsibility.*

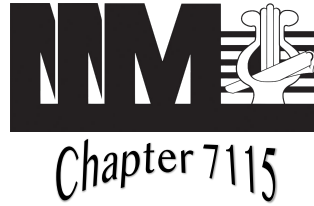
GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE)

ALL choirs will participate in GMEA LGPE, being held at CFUMC during the first week of March. There is no cost to students for these events and transportation will be provided as needed.

Other Performance Opportunities

Southern Star Spring Music Festival: Friday, April 28th (all day)

- ☉ This is included in the Performance Package for all students to participate in. *An optional day at Six Flags and Awards Ceremony will be held on April 29th, details TBA.*



TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Information about membership & dues will be handed out in September! Open to any member of a select choir.

GRADING POLICY

Grading will be based on the directors' evaluation of each student's work done in class and during performances, with emphasis on daily participation, preparation for performances, and general improvement as a vocalist. This policy is for all students enrolled in Chorus at NFHS. Points can be earned as follows:

Formative Assessments - 25% (minimum of 12 per semester)

⇒ Classroom Participation

Students will earn 100 points weekly for participation. This includes being on time, on task and prepared for class each day. Students must actively participate in every rehearsal. Please refer to the guidelines portion of this handbook for classroom discipline guidelines. Participation points will be deducted at 5 points per tardy, 10 points for in class offenses (i.e., lack of preparation, gum, cell phones, etc.) and 25 points per absence (points can be made up for verified excused absences). The NFHS tardy policy will also be enforced.

☉ Homework/Handouts/Singing Tests

Students will earn points for class assignments, homework, music reports, singing tests, etc. Students will be notified in advance of these assignments. Students may earn additional credit for attending a music performance outside the school setting (i.e., a musical production, ballet, concert, etc.). Assignments will also be given through itslearning.

Summative Assessments - 75% (minimum of 6 per semester)

⇒ Concert Performances

All performing arts classes such as Chorus, Drama & Band are classified as a co-curricular course. This is to mean that a portion of the student's grade will be fulfilled by the attendance and participation in activities that take place outside of the regular school day. In other words, it is required to participate in concerts and musical activities. A student does not have the option to be in a performing arts class and elect not to participate in the required out-of-school activities associated with the class. Students will be required to complete a written assignment if they do not attend these required performances IF the absence is excused. Further information will be sent home before each performance. At least one extra rehearsal will be required before each major concert. All rehearsals will be held AFTER school and advance notice will be sent home in writing & via email.

⇒ Test Points

Students will take aural, vocal and written tests in chorus. These will be given at various times throughout the semester in class, on itslearning and through Sight Reading Factory. Students will be allowed a maximum of 3 days to make up missed tests or assignments with an excused absence. This will be scheduled by appointment with the directors. It is the student's responsibility to arrange make up work and time during Raider Time sessions. A midterm and final exam are also required.



GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

These guidelines are for all students enrolled in Chorus at NFHS.

- ⇒ On time, on task and prepared at all times. This means having a pencil every day ready to mark your music and listening to the director at all times. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of the daily participation grade.
- ⇒ Bathroom visits are one at a time with a pass, phones are left behind to take the pass. **Do NOT ask to restroom while we are singing.** Emergencies do come up but please do your best to take care of personal matters between classes and enter the chorus room ready to perform.
- ⇒ **No gum, outside food or drink at anytime!** Water in a sealable container is the only acceptable beverage in the classroom and is highly encouraged. You may use the refrigerator upstairs to store food and other beverages; otherwise, they will be thrown away upon entering the classroom.
 - *Water is available for purchase at \$.50, see your class ambassador to purchase.*
- ⇒ Cell Phones are to be put away during rehearsal unless specifically given permission. They will remain in your bag or placed in the cell phone holder in class for charging. **Consequences:**
 - *1st Offense – Warning*
 - *2nd Offense – Student/Teacher Conference, loses phone for the class period and therefore bathroom privileges*
 - *3rd Offense (and beyond) – Parent/Teacher Conference, loses phone for the week (to be turned in at the beginning of each class and returned at the end) and therefore bathroom privileges for the week*
- ⇒ **Sickness (in class):** If a student is unable to sing because of a sore throat, cough, etc., please notify the director at the **BEGINNING** of class. During the class period the student should **write down** their observations of the rehearsal and **turn them in** at the end of the class. This will count as the student's participation grade for the rehearsal. If the observations are not turned in, a missing grade (M) will be earned for that day. The student will be expected to mark their music and take any other notes given and to participate with the class in any discussions or non-singing activities. **The above procedure must be followed for each day the student is sick.**
- ⇒ **Sickness (home):** Students will be provided make up assignments but must reach out to the director to arrange. A grade of missing (M) will be placed into the gradebook until the make-up work is completed.
- ⇒ Come to each rehearsal with a positive attitude about working. You are expected to arrive wanting to sing and eager to tackle the task at hand.....**MAKING MUSIC.**
- ⇒ Do not attempt to play the piano or touch any equipment in the classroom or practice rooms unless given express permission to do so by the directors.
- ⇒ Keep yourself informed of all dates, concerts, trips, and events (please refer to the online calendar). When you know in advance of an upcoming problem/conflict, communicate with the director **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Learn when to communicate; immediately before a rehearsal is **NOT** a good time. A good time is before school or after school. I am always happy to talk to you/get to know you, but our focus before a rehearsal is.....**THE REHEARSAL.**
- ⇒ Do not brush hair, spray perfume or hairspray, apply scented lotions, or put on make-up in the chorus room. Use the restroom for personal grooming (but not during class!!). Backpacks and purses are to be placed on the storage racks in the choir room, not on the risers, practice rooms or theory room!
- ⇒ Your folder and/or iPad is your textbook in choir. The replacement cost for music will vary from class to class, but you will be required to compensate the choral department for any lost music and/or damaged folder/electronic equipment.



Represent North Forsyth High School in a positive, mature manner and you will further develop pride in your choral department. You are the biggest advocate for choral music by your attitude about music, your director, and your performances. Your attitude is a **DIRECT REFLECTION ON YOU, THE DIRECTOR AND THE PROGRAM**. Both you as students and director have a responsibility to fulfill if we are to be successful.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

To receive a NFHS Chorus Letter, Chevron or Honor Pin, you must have successfully completed all of the following requirements:

- ⇒ You must attend all 4 major performances (AND after school rehearsals for each of them), which includes LGPE. There will be no exceptions to this rule. I do understand that there will be sickness and family emergencies, but anyone who doesn't attend all concerts and rehearsals will not be eligible for a letter or pin.
 - ⇒ You must participate in 2 of the fundraisers offered, with a minimum of 1 item sold for each. To be a dedicated member of the choral program you must show that you are willing to do what it takes to ensure the success of the choral program.
 - ⇒ You must audition for All State Chorus (acceptance is not a requirement).
 - ⇒ You must have an exemplary discipline record throughout the entire school year. Only good citizens deserve to wear the NFHS Chorus Letter.
 - ⇒ Minimum of 25 hours outside choral/music work for letter, 35 hours for a Chevron, 50 hours for an Honor Pin.
- Remember, earning a letter is an honor and should not be an easy process. Tracking hours will be kept in Charms this year. Please turn in all hours to your class ambassador throughout the year (NOT all at once in April!!).



PARENTS, YOU CAN HELP!

At Home

- 🌀 Show an interest in the music study of your child.
- 🌀 Check the Raider Chorus Web (www.raiderchorus.com) and its learning on a regular basis.
- 🌀 Follow us on social media for updates in real time.
- 🌀 Teach your child to be prepared and on time for each rehearsal and concert.
- 🌀 Make faithful attendance at all activities important to you.
- 🌀 Encourage your child to sing for others when the opportunity arises, in the home, at school, church and in the community.
- 🌀 **Do not schedule routine doctor visits on concert rehearsal or concert dates.**

At School

- 🌀 **Attend the Parent Kick-Off Meeting on August 18th at 6:30p.**
- 🌀 Keep a record of the student's various musical activities.
- 🌀 Notify the teacher in advance if the student is to be absent or tardy to a concert rehearsal and please have a verified excuse (when applicable).
- 🌀 Teach them to be punctual to all rehearsals and concerts.
- 🌀 See that the student keeps up with classroom studies and makes up work he or she misses.
- 🌀 Feel free to discuss with me anything that will help me to understand your child.
- 🌀 Attend concerts and other performances whenever possible.
- 🌀 Support the NFHS Choral Boosters!

LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR, THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!!!



NORTH FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL

2022-2023 Raider Chorus

Corporate Sponsorship

\$400

PURPLE LEVEL

- Full page ad in all programs
- Logo displayed on large sponsor banner at NFHS and all choral events
- 2 tickets to the Annual Spring Musical (NEW!)
- 4 tickets to our Annual Spring Talent Showcase and dinner
- Logo featured on our website, www.raiderchorus.com and promoted on social media

\$300

SILVER LEVEL

- 1/2-page ad in all programs
- Logo displayed on large sponsor banner at NFHS and all choral events
- 2 tickets to the Annual Spring Musical (NEW!)
- 2 tickets to our Annual Spring Talent Showcase and dinner
- Logo featured on our website, www.raiderchorus.com and promoted on social media

\$200

BLACK LEVEL

- 1/3-page ad in all programs (business card size)
- Logo displayed on large sponsor banner at NFHS and all choral events
- 2 tickets to our Annual Spring Talent Showcase and dinner
- Logo featured on our website, www.raiderchorus.com and promoted on social media

Marketing Benefits (all levels):

- Your company/name linked with all 2022-2023 NFHS Choral Events
- Logo featured on the NFHS Raider Chorus website and social media
- Opportunity to include coupon within the ad submitted

PRICELESS

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To partner with us:

- Please make checks payable to **NFHS Choral Boosters** and **mail this form & check to:** NFHS c/o Gene Seese, 3635 Coal Mountain Drive, Cumming, GA 30028
(Mailing is recommended; students may also drop form & check at the front office at NFHS over the summer, or in the choir room lock box during school session)
- Sponsors please submit ad/logo via email to: gseese@forsythk12.org
- **Deadline – Friday, September 9th!**

Your Sponsorship is for the benefit of NFHS student: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Tele #: _____

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USDA CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF
FILET MIGNON

All beef, chicken, and pork sold by Butcher's Choice of Atlanta, Inc. is inspected and approved by the USDA first. The Georgia Department of Agriculture inspects the product for a second time along with inspections of our vehicles and our main distribution center, ensuring nothing less than the highest quality product will be passed on to our customers.



NORTH FORSYTH RAIDER CHORUS

**YOU CAN BE A FACTOR
IN OUR SUCCESS THIS YEAR,**

by shopping with us now instead of the grocery store, you will enable our chorus members to focus on practicing, performing and academics instead of sales.

Please help make a difference and eat well (and save money) at the same time!! Thank you so much from the chorus, parents, and staff for your support and happy grilling!!

**To order your Fundraiser Meats,
contact any chorus member.**

NORTH FORSYTH CHORUS

ONE CASE FOR JUST \$198
 OR
\$99 SPECIAL

1/2 CASE STEAK VARIETY OR 1/2 CASE ANGUS STRIPS
 OR 1/2 CASE FILET MIGNON ONLY

CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF STEAK VARIETY CASE

1

- 4 12 oz New York Strip Steaks
- 4 12 oz Rib Eye Steaks
- 2 Slabs of Ribs - 7 lbs
- 8 8 oz Burgers

Total Weight 17 lbs - Individually Criovaced

SEAFOOD VARIETY CASE

4

- Cooked Shrimp
- Shell-On Raw Shrimp
- Salmon Filets
- Snapper Fillets
- Shrimp Tempura
- Flounder Filets

Total Weight 13.5 lbs

CHICKEN VARIETY CASE

2

- 8 Herb & Garlic Breasts
- 8 Southwest Breasts
- 8 Plain Breasts
- Uncooked Wings
- Chicken Tenders
- Breaded Breast Filets

All breast filets individually criovaced!

Total Weight 16.5 lbs All Boneless/Skinless Breast Meat

PORK VARIETY CASE

5

- 12 Teriyaki Chops
- 4 Super Thick Chops
- 4 6-Piece Ribs
- 8 Pork Tenderloins
- 2 Lemon Garlic Roasts
- 8 Center-Cut Chops

Total Weight 18 lbs - All Individually Criovaced

USDA CERTIFIED BLACK ANGUS STRIPS

3

16 of the USDA's Top 8% Grade Steaks

(12 lbs - each individually criovaced)

USDA CERTIFIED ANGUS FILET MIGNON

6

24 Aged Filet Medallions

(4 ounces each, 2 per vacpac) Total Weight 6 lbs

SELECTION AND QUANTITIES MAY VARY

Customer Name _____





Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Student's Name _____

	<u>FULL CASE</u>	<u>HALF CASE</u>
Certified Angus Variety Case	_____	_____
Certified Angus Strips	_____	_____
Certified Angus Filet Mignons	_____	_____
Seafood Variety Case	_____	_____
Chicken Variety Case	_____	_____
Pork Variety Case	_____	_____

To pay by credit card, call Brad "The Butcher" at **770-356-4009**    

or order by credit card 24/7 at the **ButchersChoice.com** fundraiser page.

Quality packages by Butcher's Choice of Atlanta, Inc.
 Proud A+ Rated member of The Better Business Bureau!
www.ButchersChoice.com