

Newman Smith HS Choir Handbook

Aaron Lucero & Paige Nolan Directors

Welcome to the Newman Smith High School Choral Department!

Dear NSHS Choir member and parent/guardian,

The Newman Smith High School Choral Department enjoys a rich tradition of excellence, pride, and high musical standards. As part of one of the strongest choral organizations in the state, you can be proud of who you are and what you do. Let's work together during the 2021-2022 school year to maintain the excellence we have come to know as tradition. This investment of time, effort, and energy will create a harvest of life-long benefits beyond measure.

Participation in the NSHS Choir program provides students the opportunity to improve individual vocal technique, music theory, and sight-reading skills. Students learn challenging choral literature in a variety of musical styles, and are able to compete at choral contests and festivals both in and out of CFB-ISD.

This handbook is designed to introduce you to the choral traditions at Newman Smith High School and to provide you with information regarding course selection, grading procedures, eligibility, private lessons, uniforms, fees, fundraising, the choir trip, and a calendar of activities and concerts. As the year progresses, any additions or changes will be provided to you via the students and email. It is imperative we have your correct email on the Charms website.

We are excited about the opportunities that await us in the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you for your support of music education at Newman Smith High School. It is a privilege to have you as a valued part of our choral program.

Mr. Lucero & Ms. Nolan

Newman Smith Choir Staff

Aaron Lucero, Director of Choirs Luceroa@cfbisd.edu	(972) 968-5340
Paige Nolan, Associate Director of Choirs Nolanp@cfbisd.edu	(972) 968-5339
Newman Smith HS Choir Web Address	www.NSHSChoir.com

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR



 District Holiday

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3	Staff Development
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17	Secondary Progress Reports

JANUARY 2022

Last Day of School

.Bad Weather Day

Bad Weather Day

District Holiday

Teacher Workday

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Staff Development

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Secondary Progress Reports

Secondary Progress Reports

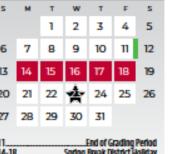
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22-26	School Holiday
24-26	District Holidays

MARCH 2022						
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High School graduation is tantatively set for May 28th: Location is still to be determined.

NSHS 2021~2022 Choral Department Calendar

Date	Event	Req'd Choir(s)	Location	Start	End
8/24/2021	Choir Parent Meeting	All Choirs	NSHSChoir.com	7:00pm	8:00pm
8/26/2021	Ice-Cream Social	All Choirs- Optional	NSHS Choir Room	6:00pm	8:00pm
8/30/2021	Vocal Ensemble Retreat	Vocal Ensemble	NSHS Choir Room	4:00pm	8:00pm
8/31/2021	Back to School Bash	All Choirs- Optional	Mary Heads Park	6:00pm	8:00pm
9/1/2021	Cookie Dough Fundraising Begins	All Choirs	Community		
9/11/2021	Uniform Distribution	All Choirs	NSHS Choir Room	9:00am	1:00pm
9/18/2021	District Auditions	All-Region Auditionees	LD Bell High HS	During the day	
9/25/2021	A Cappella Retreat	A Cappella Choir	NSHS	4:00pm	10:00pm
10/11/2021	Homecoming Decorating	A Cappella Choir	NSHS Choir Room	1:00pm	5:00pm
10/15/2021	Homecoming Game Tailgate	Optional	Standridge Stadium	5:00pm	6:30pm
10/15/2021	Homecoming Game (National Anthem)	A Cappella Choir	Standridge Stadium	6:30pm	7:15pm
10/16/2021	All-Region Auditions	All-Region Auditionees	Haltom HS	During the day	
10/25/2021	All-Region Honor Choir Auditions	All-Region Auditionees	Turner HS	Evening	
10/29/2021	Fall Concert	All Choirs	RL Turner HS	7:00pm	9:00pm
11/4/2021	Cabaret Dinner Show Rehearsal	Auditionees	NSHS Blackbox 4:00pm Theater		6:00pm
11/5/2021	Cabaret Dinner Show	Auditionees & Vocal Ensemble	NSHS Blackbox Theater	7:00pm	9:00pm
11/8/2021	Trojans Got Talent Auditions	Auditionees	NSHS Choir Room	After School	
11/8/2021	Poinsettia Fundraising Begins	All Choirs	NSHS Choir Room	Communi ty	
11/11/2021	Veteran's Day Assembly	A Cappella & VE	NSHS Theater	During School	
11/12/2021	All Region Choir Clinic	All Region Singers	Birdville FAAC	2:00pm	4:00pm
11/13/2021	All Region Clinic & Concert	All Region Singers	Carroll Senior HS	8:00am- 6:00pm	Concert at 4pm
11/16/2021	Pre-Area Auditions	All-Region Auditionees	Coppell HS	Evening	

11/29/2021	Trojans Got Talent Rehearsal	Performers	Auditorium	4:00pm	6:00pm
11/30/2021	Trojans Got Talent Performance	Performers & VE NSHS Theater		6:00pm	9:00pm
12/6/2021	Holiday Caroling & Banquet	All Choirs	Community/ Cafeteria	5:00pm	9:00pm
12/10/2021	VE Elementary Winter Tour	Vocal Ensemble	Community	During the day	
12/14/2021	Winter Concert	All Choirs	NSHS Theater	7:00pm	9:00pm
1/8/2022	Area All-State Audition	All-State Auditionees	UTA	6:00am	5:00pm
1/18-1/19	Dessert Show Auditions	Auditionees	NSHS Choir Room	After School	
1/27-1/29	Crazy for You- Musical	Optional	NSHS Theater	Evening	
2/4/2022	Dessert Show	All Choirs	NSHS Cafeteria	7:00pm	9:00pm
2/9-2/12	TMEA	All-State Singers	San Antonio	All Day	Every Day
2/22/2022	Cash Cow Popcorn Fundraising Begins!	All Choirs	During School		
2/25/2021	80s Theme Skate Night	Optional	InterSkate	5:00pm	8:00pm
3/12-3/15	New Orleans Spring Trip	Optional	New Orleans		
4/1/2022	Vocal Ensemble ENCORE Show	Vocal Ensemble	NSHS Theater	7:00pm	9:00pm
4/8-4/9	(VE) Troyann Spring Show	Vocal Ensemble	NSHS Theater	TBD	
4/11-4/12	UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest	All Choirs	Trinity HS	During the day	
5/14/2022	Spring Banquet	Optional	TBD	7:00pm	11:00pm
5/16/2022	VE Audition Prep Day	Interested VE Auditionees	NSHS Choir Room	After School	
5/17/2022	Vocal Ensemble Auditions	Interested VE Auditionees	NSHS Choir Room	After School	
5/19/2022	Spring Concert	All Choirs	NSHS Theater	7:00pm	9:00pm
5/28/2022	Graduation	A Cappella Choir	TBD	TBD	TBD
TBD	Ladies' Night	Optional for all Women	NSHS Choir Room	5:00pm	8:00pm
TBD	Guy's Night	Optional for all Men	NSHS Choir Room	5:00pm	8:00pm
TBD	Pre-UIL Concert & Sight Reading	All Choirs	NSHS Theater	During the day	

J Classroom Procedure and Expectations J

- 1. We expect students to be in their assigned seats with their choir binder, sightreading materials, and pencil before the tardy bell rings. Any student not in the choir room will be marked tardy. **Please be considerate of your fellow musicians by being punctual**!
- 2. **Personal belongings** are not allowed on the risers (purses, phones, backpacks etc.), unless otherwise instructed by the directors. Cubbies are provided for the storage of personal items. **WE ARE A NO CELL-PHONE CAMPUS & CHOIR ROOM!**
- 3. We expect student musicians to be active, energetic listeners and participants in each rehearsal.



4. **Food, gum, and beverages** are never allowed in the choir room without permission. Students may only bring closed containers of water into the room.

5. **Pianos and stereos** may not be played by students without permission. The pianos are expensive instruments, not pieces of furniture. Never place anything on a piano or use them for a writing surface.

- 6. **Practice rooms, library, uniform closet, and director offices** are off-limits without a director's permission and will remain locked unless permission is granted.
- 7. We expect students to take all their belongings with them each day when they leave the Choir Room.

🞜 Music and Supplies 🎜

- **Choir Binder:** (provided by Choir) Each student is assigned a choir binder, but it remains the property of NSHS Choir Department. It should be gently treated. Students must not deface the binder in any way. Mistreated or lost choir binders may be replaced for \$5.
- **Pencil Pouch:** (provided by Choir) Students will be issued a pencil pouch in their binder at the beginning of the year.
- **Pencils & Highlighter:** (provided by Choir) Students will be issued two pencils at the beginning of the year and must always have a pencil at their seat.
- **Music:** (provided by Choir) Students will be issued music and it is to be kept in their choir binder. Lost or damaged music must be replaced at the current price.

🖪 Attendance Policy 🎜

As a member of the choral program, you have an obligation to your fellow choir members to be at school, all outside-of-class rehearsals, and performances. You must be prepared, on time, and with the necessary equipment at each required event.

Poor daily attendance is not tolerated or accepted.

- 1. All choir students must have excellent daily attendance.
- 2. Concerts and outside rehearsals: Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals, and concerts scheduled outside of the regular school day is required and graded. Absence from sectionals or outside-of-school day rehearsals will result in a reduction of grade, possible removal from performance opportunity or ensemble, and a make-up assignment.
- Singers must call and email if an emergency causes an absence.
 Mr. Lucero (972) 968 – 5340
 Ms. Nolan (972) 968 – 5339
- A Cappella members should call or email in advance if they will miss school for any reason, including field trips, "helping" other departments, etc.
- 5. Examples of **unexcused** absences include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Work
 - b. Oversleeping
 - c. Transportation
 - d. Driver's Ed (avoid March and April)
 - e. Babysitting siblings
- 6. **Graduation:** A Cappella members are required to perform at Graduation on Saturday, May 28th, 2022

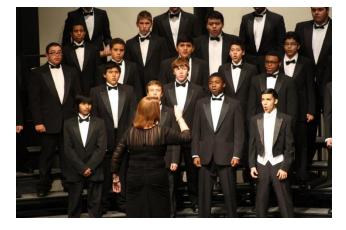
Please bookmark the NSHS Choir website for the latest information. You may also follow Newman Smith High School Choir on Facebook and Instagram to stay informed!

www.NSHSChoir.com



@NSHSChoir





🞜 Grading Policy 🎜

Grades in choir are determined in the following manner:

Formative grades (25%) including punctuality, having supplies, energy in the rehearsal process, dedication to excellence, and demeanor. Students who are prone to eye rolling, making faces, negativity, or the "lethargy of failure" will either erase those habits or find Choir very uncomfortable very quickly. Students will receive a weekly participation grade.

Summative grades (75%) are generally measured as mastery in performance on stated concert and after-school rehearsals, but may also take the form of tests, quizzes, sight-reading sing-offs, etc. Students who are tardy to sectionals and rehearsals will receive a grade of 75%. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of 0%.

Bear in mind that missed rehearsals and performances are lost opportunities and can never REALLY be made up in a meaningful way; however make-up work will be assigned for <u>excused absences only</u>. All other absences will result in a reduction of grade and possible removal from the ensemble.

J Academic Eligibility J

Choir students are expected to maintain a passing class average in all courses. Membership in advanced choirs can be jeopardized by continued academic failure and ineligibility. A Cappella members may be moved to a different choir if they are ineligible after the 2nd nine-weeks. UIL Ensemble members (Cantori, Men's Choir, and A Cappella) no longer need to be eligible in the 3rd nine-weeks to participate. **However, director discretion still applies**; If a student is not working with diligence for UIL performances, they will be given an alternative assignment, and will not be allowed to participate.

Consequences 🞜

The Choral Department normally deals with very few discipline issues. The expectation for behavior is high and tolerance for **foolishness** is very limited. Consequences include, but are not limited to: student/teacher conference, removal from rehearsal, alternative assignments, office referrals, removal from performance opportunities and/or field trips, and removal from the Choral Department. Additionally, The Choral Department follows the NSHS "Clean Slate" Policy.

🞜 Uniforms 🎜

Choral uniforms require a large investment. The school district simply cannot afford to replace them often. Students are required to keep uniforms looking neat and smelling good. Please notify a Director in advance if you find any problems with your uniform throughout the year.

Do not wait until the day of a performance to let the Directors know of an issue.

LADIES:

Choir will provide a black formal gown (\$75 replacement cost).

The student must provide low-heeled solid black close-toed shoes. Socks are unacceptable. No sandals, sling-backs, open-toed, or sneaker type shoes.

Appropriate jewelry: small earrings and rings

Inappropriate jewelry: necklaces, watches, or bracelets

Hair must be in a "dress-up" style away from your face. Hair ornaments must be black and small.

GENTLEMEN:

Choir will provide a black tuxedo jacket, black tuxedo pants, and black band bow tie (\$150 total replacement cost).

Men must also provide solid black socks and solid black dress shoes. Any other color or lack of socks is unacceptable. No sneaker-type footwear is allowed, black or otherwise.

GENERAL UNIFORM INFO:

Parents/guardians are asked to carefully hem tuxedos and gowns (or have them professionally hemmed at a tailor shop), but may not make other alterations to the uniforms. **Please do not cut the hem, or use tape, glue, staples, or iron-on stitches in order to hem the uniform. These methods damage the uniform and are unacceptable.** Any loss or substantial damage to the uniform will result in a fine for the actual cost.

ALL CHORAL UNIFORMS ARE SCHOOL PROPERTY. FAILING TO MAINTAIN OR RETURN YOUR UNIFORM IS NO DIFFERENT THAN **STEALING** FROM YOUR SCHOOL!

J Choir Fee and Uniform Check-out Procedure J

The directors understand that beginning-of-school expenses can be stressful. In an ideal world, choral students would receive their binder, pencils, music, uniforms, bus expenses, entry fees, and scholarships for free! Sadly, the choral department doesn't have the resources to do so, but we keep our fees as low as possible to benefit **ALL** students.

- The Choir Activity Fee:
 - \$75 Bel Canto, Cantori, Men's Choir (1st, 4th, & 7th period choirs)
 - Includes: one uniform dry cleaning at the end of the school year, maintenance of the uniform (with the exception of hemming) music, busses, UIL/Festival entry fee, choir t-shirt, back-to-school party, clinicians, region and solo/ensemble entry fees, Holiday Caroling & Banquet ticket, and many other choral events throughout the year.
 - o \$100 A Cappella
 - Includes everything listed above, plus their retreat, and one Spring Banquet ticket.
- Uniform Fitting: If any hemming or adjustments need to be made to your student's uniform, please ensure it is completed before the Fall Concert on October 29th.
- School athletes who are in season and practicing after school will be fitted during lunches or before school by arrangement with the directors.



🞜 Fundraising 🎜

The Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD has many financial responsibilities. Unfortunately, there is never enough money to provide every organization with all the monies needed to be successful. The Choral Department must assume responsibility for some expenses.

Fundraising efforts help purchase new music, fund voice lesson scholarships, provide guest clinicians for UIL Choir Contest, defer the costs of their spring trip, contribute to transportation costs, supplies, entry fees, and social activities.

Students will be provided with opportunities throughout the year to participate in fundraisers. Please help meet financial obligations by participating in at least one fundraiser and festival.

🖪 Auditions and Placement 🎜

The Newman Smith choir program boasts seven performing choirs that participate in many of the same activities.

They are:

- **Bel Canto**: A beginning treble Choir class that focuses on basic vocal technique, musicality and sight-reading (music literacy). This choir often competes at UIL Contest.
- **Cantori**: An intermediate treble Choir class that continues to expand the students' knowledge of vocal technique, musicality and sight-reading. This choir competes at UIL Choral Concert and Sight-reading Contest.
- **Tenor & Bass Choir**: A beginning tenor/bass Choir class that focuses on basic vocal technique, musicality and sight-reading (music literacy). This choir competes at UIL Contest.
- **A Cappella**: An advanced Choir class that is truly three-in- one. Varsity Women, Varsity Men and Varsity Mixed (men and women), make up this choir and meet in just one Choir period. These singers explore advanced choral literature and continue to sharpen their skills in vocal technique, musicality and sight-reading. It



is often referred to as the AP class of Choir. The A Cappella choir competes at UIL and often other festival contests.

• Vocal Ensemble: This show choir is taken in addition to A Cappella. Choreographed by guest choreographers, students in this class sing jazz, Broadway, big band, and pop music all while dancing. In addition, VE performs high caliber classical chamber choral music.

EACH choir member is offered an equal

opportunity to excel and achieve. The success of the individual is of vital importance; therefore the placement of students in the appropriately paced class is a priority of the directors. The Directors are happy to visit with any student or parent regarding audition and placement requirements. The Choral Department website also contains further details. www.NSHSChoir.com

🞜 Parent Volunteers 🎜

Without the support of parents, the Choral Department would not be able to provide all the outstanding opportunities offered at NSHS. Please consider volunteering time and talent.

There is a place and a need for everybody!

🞜 Awards 🎜

Students have many opportunities for individual recognition and awards in Choir. Here's a sample of individual awards student musicians could earn this year:

- > Member of All-Region, Area or State Choir
- First Division at Solo and Ensemble Contest
- > Solo on a concert
- > Outstanding Choir Member
- Most Improved Choir Member
- Director's Choice Award



🞜 Letter Jackets 🎜

Choir students may earn the NSHS Choir Letter/Letter Jacket by accumulating 40 points as designated by the Directors. See the enclosed Letter Jacket Tally Sheet for details! Students are responsible for keeping track of points and also for costs associated with personalizing the jacket.

🞜 Private Lessons 🎜

Supplemental voice lessons are offered as enrichment to the classroom instruction. These lessons are designed to utilize the characteristic literature of the voice rather than rehearse the music a student will be performing in Choir. Participation in these supplemental lessons is optional, but <u>highly encouraged</u>. Lessons last 25 minutes and may be scheduled during the Choir class, lunch, or after school. **NO LESSONS WILL BE SCHEDULED DURING A NON-MUSIC CLASS**. Voice lessons are available only to students enrolled in a Choir class. It is the responsibility of the student to notify his/her voice teacher at least 24 hours in advance if the lesson is to be canceled, unless a serious emergency arises.

Students will pay the private instructor directly. Cost of lesson is **\$20.00 per lesson** which is paid to the private teacher monthly. The Choral Department offers substantial scholarships to help offset the cost of lesson fees. **Please see Mr. Lucero to discuss the requirements for scholarship consideration.**

Questions concerning lesson dates and times, billing, or number of lessons taught will be handled through your voice instructor:

UIL ELIGIBILITY AND ADVANCED CLASSES

According to SB 1517 and Section 33.081 of the Texas Education Code, students enrolled in identified advanced courses including *Advanced Placement*, *International Baccalaureate*, *Pre-AP and Dual Credit* are eligible for exemption from the state's *No-Pass*, *No-Play* policy. Additionally local school boards are authorized to identify and approve a listing of such "advanced" courses and set the exemption standard students must meet to retain UIL eligibility. The courses listed below have been identified as "advanced" by the CFBISD Board and students earning grades below 70 at the end of an evaluation period can retain UIL eligibility. Students earning grades below 60 can retain UIL eligibility if they meet the following standards:

- Are not disciplinary concerns
- Do not have multiple zeroes in an advanced course
- Have made a "good faith" effort to earn a passing grade in an advanced course

English I Pre AP English I Global Experience English II Pre AP English II World Experience English III AP English Language & Composition English IV AP English Language & Composition English I Honors English I Honors IB English III IB English IV Algebra II Pre AP

College Algebra Algebra II Honors Pre Calculus Pre Calculus Pre AP AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Geometry Pre AP Geometry Honors IB Math Studies IB Further Math IB Mathematics I IB Mathematics I

IB Music I IB Music II AP Music Theory

Latin III Pre AP LOTE Latin IV Pre AP LOTE German III Pre AP LOTE German IV Pre AP LOTE

French III Honors IB French IV French III Pre AP LOTE French IV Pre AP LOTE French V AP LOTE Japanese III Pre AP LOTE Japanese IV Pre AP LOTE Japanese V AP Spanish IV AP Language LOTE Spanish V AP Literature LOTE Spanish III Pre AP LOTE Spanish III Pre AP Native Speaker Spanish IV Pre AP LOTE Spanish IV Pre AP LOTE Spanish III Honors IB Spanish IV IB Spanish V Chinese III Pre AP Chinese IV AP

AP Government U.S. History AP World History Pre AP World History AP World Geography Pre AP World Geography Honors World History Honors IB History of the Americas I IB History of the Americas II AP Economics (Macro) AP Economics (Micro) AP Psychology AP European History U.S. History Pre AP AP/IB/GT Human Geography AP/IB/GT World History

Biology Pre AP Biology Honors AP Biology IB Biology I IB Biology II

Chemistry Honors Chemistry Pre AP AP Chemistry IB Chemistry I IB Chemistry II

Physics Pre AP AP Physics AP Physics C Electricity & Magnetism AP Physics C Mechanics Physics IB Physics I IB Physics II

AP Environmental Science

IB Computer Science I IB Computer Science II AP Computer Science 1 AP Computer Science Principles Computer Science Technology Applications Independent Study Academy AP Computer Science I

IB Art/Design I IB Art/Design II AP Art History AP Studio Art/2-D Design Portfolio AP Studio Art/3-D Design Portfolio AP Studio Art/Drawing Portfolio IB Theory of Knowledge IB Theater I IB Theater I B Theater II Biotechnical Engineering Civil Engineering & Architecture Introduction to Engineering Design Principles of Engineering