



WELCOME TO PNMS CHOIR!



The PNMS Choir is a fun, hard-working, award-winning performance group and we take a great deal of pride in who we are and what we can do together. This year will be different, but we will work together to make it as successful as possible.

Please read through this handbook with your child and **sign and return the back page.**

CLASS OBJECTIVES

1. Learn to sing as a group
2. Learn to read music
3. Learn to be part of a team as a member of a musical ensemble

GRADING POLICIES

1. Rehearsal Grades

The majority of your grade will be determined **by your effort in class rehearsals.**

- * You must have your music binder, pencil, and highlighter for every rehearsal
- * Missing materials will result in a lower daily rehearsal grade
- * Breaking choir rules will result in a lower rehearsal grade
- * Enthusiastic participation in rehearsal is expected when you are present

2. Written Assignments

There will be a few written assignments throughout the year. These are important, but they do not carry as much weight as rehearsal grades.

3. Individual/Small Group Tests

Periodically there will be singing tests given in class. These tests help measure how well the individual student is doing on reading music. Again, these tests are important, but they do not carry as much weight as rehearsal grades.

4. Concerts, Events & Extra Rehearsals

Because our performances and extra rehearsals are considered "curricular" (they are a part of the educational scope of choir) they are **graded.**

If you have an **excused absence** from a concert or performance (parent sends a note), Mrs. Escamilla will allow you to make up the grade for partial credit.

An **unexcused absence** from a concert or performance will result in a failing grade for that event. If there happens to be a conflict between a choir performance and another school sponsored event, the conflict will be handled between Mrs. E and the sponsor. Missing a concert because of a non-school event (such as dance recitals, city league athletics, etc) will be considered unexcused.

****Please let your extra-curricular sponsors know our required performance dates NOW so they can schedule games and rehearsals to avoid conflicts.***

CONCERT ATTIRE

Standard, informal choir uniform for concerts:

Choir T-Shirt (students must purchase one) worn with dress code compliant pants or shorts

Winter Concert – nice holiday colored clothes (no shorts)

UIL Concert & SR Choir members will wear black and white, slightly dressy to perform

DISCIPLINE

Behavior is very important in choir. Disruptive behavior can seriously affect our ability to succeed. Behavior problems will be addressed one on one with the student first. If improvement is not made, there are a number of avenues that can be pursued depending on the circumstances. These include a phone conversation or conference with a parent, demerits, office referrals, or in extreme situations, removal from choir. If you are unable to have self discipline during rehearsal, choir is not the best elective for you.

Discipline standards apply whenever the choir travels as well. All PNMS rules and policies are to be observed even when we are not on campus. Everywhere we travel we represent our school and community. We want to leave positive impressions wherever we go!

Students with discipline issues (referrals, ISS, time spent at alternative campus) may not be allowed to attend choir trips.

END OF YEAR TRIP

At the end of the year, we will go to Splashtown Water Park in Spring, Tx.

These are the requirements for attending the trip with the choir:

- Perform at Winter Concert and Spring Concert
- Maintain Satisfactory Conduct in all classes
- One "extra" event – 7th/8th Grade: All-Region Day Camp, All-Region Audition, or Solo & Ensemble; 6th Grade: Pecan Festival or Solo & Ensemble

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CHOIR (Due by Friday, August 27)

- 3 ring binder, folder, or similar to keep in your backpack (any color)
- 2 pencils and 2 different color highlighter (to be kept in binder)

I am looking forward to a very exciting year at PNMS and the choir is a great place to have a lot of fun and make lots of great memories!

Laura Escamilla, Choir Director, Port Neches Middle School

KEEPING UP – TO –DATE with PNMS CHOIR

PARENT NOTES and **EMAILS**– I email information through Skyward. Please be sure your preferred address is in the system. I make a few paper copies to send home but would prefer to be as paper-free as possible.

REMIND - Text updates and reminders, as well as attachments of parent notes. Follow the instructions below to receive text updates. Parents and students need to sign up!

Sign up for Remind using the info below!
(Parents AND Students *please* join!)

TREBLE CHOIRS (1st, 4th, and 9th period): Text @choir149 to 81010

TENOR-BASS CHOIR (2nd period): Text @pnmsTB to 81010

VARSITY CHOIR (5th period) Text @treblevars to 81010

6th GRADE CHOIR (7th period) Text @pnms6 to 81010

PNMS Choir Rules

1: BE PREPARED FOR EVERY REHEARSAL

- * Gather all necessary materials and be seated before the tardy bell rings
- * Get water and use the restroom before class (you may have a water bottle at your seat)
- * Take care of contacting parents before school or during lunch

2: TREAT EVERYONE WITH RESPECT

- * Treat others as you would have them treat you
- * Do not interfere with someone else's learning
- * Leave negative attitudes and comments elsewhere
- * Avoid any behavior that may embarrass the reputation of our choral program
- * Maintain appropriate teacher-student demeanor at all times. Even though we know each other well, appropriate boundaries must remain

3 : PARTICIPATE WITH ENTHUSIASM

- * Sing with energy, good singing posture, appropriate vowels and an activated face
- * Eliminate behavior that interferes with our progress as a group
- * Use choir time to learn about music, not for homework in other classes

4 : LIMIT TALKING

- * Talking in rehearsal is frustrating to those around you
- * Talking makes it difficult for us to improve
- * Limit communication to only what is absolutely necessary
- * Personal conversations must happen outside of class

5 : NO GUM, CANDY, FOOD, DRINK, OR PHONES

- * Food & drink in the choir room is not allowed (water is okay)
- * No distracting items in the room during school hours
- * Cell phones must be put away in your backpack during rehearsal
- * Smart watches are for time only, not texting

PNMS Choir Procedures

Entering the room: Place your belongings in the designated area. Get your supplies and come directly to your assigned seat.

Supplies: Have necessary supplies every day. Music will be checked for required rehearsal markings. I will periodically check to see if everyone has a pencil.

Tardy: Any student not in their assigned seat when the bell rings will be considered tardy. If you are tardy, go quickly and quietly to your seat.

Questions: If you would like to ask a question or make a relevant comment, raise your hand and wait to be called on. Do not speak during instruction or while others are talking. Think first before you interrupt rehearsal for something that can wait.

Leaving your seat: If you need to leave your seat, raise your hand and wait to be called on. Do not interrupt the rehearsal unless it is an emergency.

Restroom/Water/Personal Business: Take care of these things before school or between classes, not during rehearsal. You will have two restroom/water trips per 6 weeks. If you do not use them, you will get a prize at the end of the 6 weeks.

Classroom Language: Use appropriate language in the classroom. If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all. Do not express a negative opinion of choir music - it will often grow on you as you continue to learn it

Attitude: Enter the choir room with a positive attitude. Do not allow personal problems to interfere with rehearsal. Maintain a friendly demeanor in class.

Equipment and Supplies: Only use shared classroom supplies. Do not borrow Mrs. E's supplies. Musical equipment (piano, mics, sound system) is very expensive and delicate. Do not use or touch without permission.

Nurse Visits: Covid-19 Protocol limits nurse visits to true emergencies. Band-Aids and similar First Aid supplies are available in the choir room.



PNMS Choir Calendar 2021-2022

*Performances in **BOLD** are required for the members involved.

Date	Event	Choir Members	Time	Location
Sat, Sept 11	All-Region Day Camp	7th/8th	8AM-Noon	Lumberton HS
October	Popcorn Fundraiser	6th/7th/8th		
Sat, Oct 2	All-Region Auditions	7th/8th	Morning	Vidor JH
Sun, Nov 7	Pecan Festival	6th/7th/8th	TBA	Groves Lions Park
Tues, Dec 14	Winter Fine Arts	6th/7th/8th	6PM	PNMS Gym
Wed, Dec 15	Caroling Tour	Varsity Treble (5th Period)	School Day	Community
Sat, Jan 29	Solo & Ensemble	6th/7th/8th	Morning	Vidor JH
Wed, March 2	Early UIL Concert & SR	Selected 7th/8th	TBA	TBA
TBA	Astros Game w/ GMS Choir	7th/8th	TBA	Minute Maid Park
Mon, May 2	Spring Concert	6th/7th/8th	6PM	PNMS Gym
Sat, May 14	Splashtown	6th/7th/8th	8AM-8PM	Spring, TX

Students who make All-Region/Honor Choir are required to attend the following rehearsals/performance:

Mon, Oct 4	All-Region Rehearsal	All-Region Members	5-7 PM	PNMS
Mon, Oct 18	All-Region Rehearsal	All-Region Members	5-7PM	PNMS
Mon, Nov 1	All-Region Rehearsal	All-Region Members	5-7PM	PNMS
Fri, Nov 12	All-Region Clinic and Concert	All-Region Members	Fri. 4-9PM	
Sat, Nov 13			Sat. 9-Noon	TBA
			4PM Concert	

Note: Due to the nature of a performance-based class, additional performances may come up throughout the year. Changes to already scheduled performances may also occur. If this happens, you will receive communication from me.
Last updated 8-16-21

***PLEASE FILL OUT FRONT AND BACK AND RETURN TO CHOIR BY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 27**

I have read the entire handbook and understand that in order to be an effective member of the Port Neches Middle School Choir, I must follow the policies and rules set forth in this handbook. I have reviewed the calendar and agree to participate in required events.

Student Signature: _____

As a parent, I understand that my child must abide by the rules and policies stated in the handbook. I have reviewed the calendar and agree to bring my child to required events.

Parent Signature: _____

Required Events (GRADED)

Pecan Festival Nov 7, Winter Concert Dec 14, Spring Concert May 2

I use the email feature on Skyward to send notes and forms. If your preferred email is not in Skyward, please contact the school office to update.

Best way to reach you: ___e-mail ___phone call ___text

Is there any special information I should know about your child? _____

Parent Volunteers - Please mark where you are able to help

_____ Sponsor a student for a t-shirt

_____Chaperone for All-Region, Solo & Ensemble, or UIL Concert & SR Contest

PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES AND RETURN TO CHOIR BY AUG 27

Permission to Travel 21-22 - Port Neches Middle School Choir

This permission slip will be used for all choir trips except Astros and Splashtown

I give my child permission to travel on all choir trips during the school year 2021-2022. I give permission to the director or sponsor in charge to seek and secure medical attention in the event of a medical emergency and will not hold the sponsors or school liable in that event.

Child's name _____

Parent/Guardian 1: _____

Relationship to child: _____ Number: _____

Parent/Guardian 2: _____

Relationship to child: _____ Number: _____

Other contact if parent/guardian is unavailable

Name: _____ Number: _____

Name: _____ Number: _____

Allergies, medical conditions, or other information you would like me to know

If my child is on a choir trip, I give the director or sponsors permission to administer the following OTC medicines as requested: (please check all that are allowed)

_____ Tylenol (acetaminophen)	_____ Pepto-bismol
_____ Advil (ibuprophen)	_____ other (please specify)
_____ Benadryl (diphenhydramine)	_____

X _____

Parent's signature

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR CHOIR - Due by Friday, August 27.

Have all these checked off to receive a PERSONAL DAY PASS!

- 3 ring binder notebook (1" size, any color)
- 2 pencils and 2 different color highlighters
- Turn In Handbook/Permission Slip
- Parent and Student - Sign up for Remind