

**Department Manual For Members and Parents
(Important Information-Parents please read carefully)**

NorKam Senior Secondary School
2018-2019

K. How
Director of Music

10 /11/12 Choir

Welcome to Norkam's Vocal Music Program!

I hope you've enjoyed a fantastic and relaxing summer. There will be many opportunities to perform and be involved with the music department. With your enthusiasm and dedicated effort as well as mine, we can make this one of the best years ever!

Some activities planned for you this year are:

1. School Concerts
2. Public Concerts
3. District Choral Sharing night
4. Performance tour to New Orleans

Evaluation and Assessment

Below is a description of how you will be graded in Band. Your grade will be a direct result of the effort that you put into developing your instrumental and musical skills, Knowledge and attitude.

A	86%-100%	Excellent Progress
B	73%-85%	Good Progress
C+	67%-72%	Satisfactory Progress
C	60%-66%	Fair Progress
C-	50%-59%	Borderline Progress
I	0%-49%	Below Minimal Progress

Materials - Students will need the following for every music class:

- a pencil with eraser
- a duo-tang with lined paper and dividers
- all music
- Music folder
- A positive attitude

Suggested Practice Hints:

- Select a time of day and a place to practice that will be free as possible from interruptions and distractions.
- Have your objectives well in mind. (Just what are you trying to accomplish)
- Make sure your posture is correct
- Isolate troublesome vocal passages and work on them. Reduce tempo until all elements are mastered and then gradually increase speed.
- Above all be patient, singing well takes considerable time and effort. Try not to get discouraged!

Objectives:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Correct breathing | 4. Articulation |
| 2. Vocal tone | 5. Rhythm |
| 3. Intonation | 6. Phrasing |

Practice Routine:

1. Always Warm-up
2. Technique: Work on scales, and other technical exercises.
3. Pieces: Practicing your music does not mean singing through mistakes and all! Work on trouble spots. If you ignore them they will not magically go away. If you have a piano at home this will allow you to check your notes and correct intonation.

*Remember consistent practice is the best way to improve. As you improve you will find singing more fun.

How Parents Can Help at Home:

1. Show an interest in the music study of your child
2. Arrange a regular time for him or her to practice
3. Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption
4. Make faithful attendance at all activities important.
5. Encourage him or her to sing for others when opportunities arise, in the home, at school, church, and the community.

Performances - **Performances are not optional.** A performance is like an exam in any other course. It is the final culmination of all learned material to date. All vocal parts are important and an integral part of the greater whole. For these reasons performances constitute 30% of your grade. Please note that work, sports, and/or social outings are NOT considered valid excuses for missing a performance. You will be given plenty of notice of upcoming concerts and it is your responsibility to make yourself aware of these dates and plan for them.

Trips - Trips have become an expectation of most choir students. While I do enjoy taking students on trips, there are some things that I would expect to see fulfilled before this would happen. It should be remembered that trips require considerable fund raising and are a reward for hard work. They should not be considered an obligation of the music program to provide. If we go on a choir trip the following applies:

- A complete schedule and rules for the specific trip will be issued to each band member.

- Adult chaperones will be on all buses. Music Parent Committee Members will be given first opportunity to travel with concert groups.

- Special care should be taken to so that all personal and school property is properly cared for:

1. Take proper care of uniforms and music
2. It is suggested that you place identification on all school and personal items.

- No one is to leave the group for any reason without being properly dismissed.

- Students will be given as much free time as is consistent with the educational intent of the trip.

- All school district rules regarding tobacco, drugs and alcohol will be strictly enforced. If a student is found in violation of these polices he or she will be sent home at parents' expense.

- Only exemplary behaviour will be accepted from members of NorKam Music department.

Concert Dress - Choir students should wear black shoes & socks, black dress pants or skirt and a black dress shirt.