

MUSIC SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: KAREN MARSH NORTH PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the North Platte High School music department. We're very glad to have you as a part of our program. Music is a serious, yet very enjoyable part of our lives, and we hope it will become a part of your life as well. Our instructors are Mr. Bradley, Band; Mrs. Purdy, Choir; Miss Bachman, Orchestra; and myself, Mrs. Marsh. I assist the other three teachers, as well as teaching the 9th and 10th grade swing choir, 'The Solid Gold Singers', jazz bands, beginning and advanced theory, and anything else that is needed at any time. I also take care of attendance and grading for all students who are enrolled in more than one music group. Your grade is an average of the separate grades from each group that you participate in.

I am often available for assistance in preparing for honor groups, as well as District Music Contest and other activities that use small groups. I'm also an excellent reference for anything outside of the perimeter of the large groups, such as finding music, fundraising, student accounts, ordering, or anything else that needs to be done. PLEASE USE ME. I'm available most anytime. Set up a time with me, and I'll help any way that I can.

This syllabus is in addition to the ones that Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Purdy, and Miss Bachman have already given to you. I will follow all guidelines, rules, and procedures that they have developed for their classes. I also have the authority to give and take away points within their individual systems.

Below is my grading system for the music appreciation and theory classes and the advanced independent music theory classes that I teach. I use the standard grading system for all theory papers.

93.100	A
86.92	B
78.85	C
70.77	D
Below 70	F

My philosophy with music theory is to do it until you understand it. If you fail a paper, you obviously didn't understand, so I will give you the

opportunity to redo the paper, after I've explained it again. It does you no good to continue unless you completely understand the previous level.

Independent Study students will receive a combined grade of all of their groups, plus their theory grade.

Participation in jazz band or swing choir is optional, and will not be an individual grade. Points will be added to your full choir and/or your full band grades. You will also receive points toward your grade if you participate in other small groups or audition for clinics. These groups also add to your letter points in band and choir.

As previously stated, I will have the authority to give or take away points within each of the other teacher's grading systems. Here are a few of my own suggestions for participating in ensembles under my control.

*You may visit quietly during preparation time. During rehearsal time, I expect your full attention.

*Remember, the activities that I sponsor are optional. Therefore, we both have the option of whether you participate or not.

*The time to discuss a problem, concern, or disagreement with me, the accompanist, or aide is before or after class, or an arranged time of your convenience.

*Deliberately showing disrespect for any adult or student is unacceptable behavior, and will not be tolerated.

*I will determine point loses based on what I witness or what the accompanist or aide sees. Not everything will be seen, so I can only go by what I do see.

One of my main objectives in teaching music is to make it an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Therefore, I will not allow any student to keep other students from experiencing the most they can, nor will I allow any student to keep me from teaching those that are here to learn. I hope we can all have an enjoyable and educational experience in music. If you have any questions or concerns, please see me in room 1616. I hope you have a great year!

Karen Marsh, Music Educator, NPHS

SOLID GOLD SINGERS SWING CHOIR

Solid Gold Singers is the Freshmen and Sophomore swing choir, selected at the beginning of the year. Participation in this group is a year long commitment. Auditions are held the first 2 weeks of school. The first two terms are primarily to learn the competition show. Beginning in January, we perform and compete with our show. Many of our competitions are out of town. Therefore, all members will need to purchase an activity card, as well as returning a code of conduct, travel release form and NSAA pink form. We will also have home concerts during the 3rd and 4th terms. Our final show will be learned during the 3rd and 4th terms, and performed in the spring. We will rehearse before school at 7:00 a.m. Rehearsal days are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We will also practice once a week during the class period as needed. Students are expected to attend all morning rehearsals and be on time for all rehearsals. Frequent absences and/or tardies cause problems for the entire group. Please have respect for the group by being present and on time for all rehearsals.

You will need to purchase an outfit. This will be decided upon by the group and myself, and then approved by the parents. There are many different options for outfits as far as the costs. You and your parents will be made aware of the cost prior to selection of the outfits. Generally, we'll wear the same outfits for at least two years. The boys will need to purchase black tuxedo pants. These generally run around \$25.00-\$30.00 from our catalogs. They will purchase their own black dress shoes and socks. As a group we will select a shirt and vest from the catalogs that they will need to purchase. Costs range from \$35.00 to \$70.00.

The ladies will select an appropriate dress to purchase. Our catalogs have dresses that range in price from \$79.00 to \$170.00. Again, parents will be made aware of the cost before purchase. Girls will also be required to purchase tights (\$6.00), Briefs (\$10.00) and shoes (\$25.00).

I will provide the students with several opportunities to earn money through various fund-raisers. All of the proceeds will go directly into the student's accounts. These are the fund-raisers we will have for fall:

- Discount activity cards (\$5.25 profit per card sold)
- Deli International catalog sales
- Concession Stands (parent help is needed)
 - Oct. 11 – 9th football/Volleybal & 8th Jamboree
 - Dec. 7 – V/JV Boys Basketball
 - Jan. 7 – 9th G/B Basketball

These are the dates scheduled so far for Solid Gold performances. Please keep in mind that these performances are mandatory. There should be no conflicts with other school activities.

- Jan. 22 – Home concert
- Jan. 25 – Bulldog Invitational Swing Choir Clinic
- Febr.11 – NCDA at Imperial
- Febr. 23 – Grand Island Invitational
- Apr. 11 – NPHS Music Contest
- Apr. 17 – Greeley Jazz Festival OR
- Apr. 19 – District Music Contest at Kearney
- May 6 – Home Concert
- May 8 – NPHS swing choir festival with Adams & Madison

FRESHMEN JAZZ BAND/SOPHOMORE JAZZ BAND

These groups will meet once a week during the class time. They will not receive a grade, but will get extra points toward their band grades as well as letter points. The Freshmen will perform in 3 concerts and 1 contest and the Sophomores will perform in 2 concerts and 1 contest. The dates are:

- Oct. 16 – 9th/JV choir Concert (9th jazz band only)
- Jan. 22 – 9th & 10th Jazz Band/Swing Choir concert
- Apr. 11 – NPHS Music contest
- May 6 – Home Concert

If you join jazz band at the beginning of the term, then you will be required to attend the concerts. We will study a mix of jazz styles, including rock, swing, latin, big band, and ballads. No outfits are required.