



Performing Arts Honors Program

Nordonia Hills
City Schools

2024/2025 School Year

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General Information

The goal of the Honors Performing Arts Program is to improve individual musicianship and to encourage students to go beyond what they are exposed to daily during their large ensemble rehearsals. While these honors courses are separate from the regular Performing Arts classes, students will continue to participate in the performing ensembles with their peers who are not enrolled in the honors sections. Students in the Honors Performing Arts Program will receive a weighted grade for their work.

Procedures

Each quarter, students must earn 10 points. These points may be earned through a variety of activities outlined in this document. Points awarded are weighted based on the time commitment and the musical impact of each activity.

During the first week of each grading period, students must complete the *Honors Credit Point Sheet* where the student will outline how they intend to earn their points. This sheet is intended to work as a guide to help students plan their quarter. This sheet will be signed by the student and parent and then approved by the student's director. Once this document is approved, any adjustments must be approved by the director.

As students complete their activities, they must document their work on the *Honors Credit Point Sheet* and collect appropriate documentation. All assignments must be submitted by the final week of the grading period. Failure to complete activities and earn the 10 points will result in the grade for the quarter being lowered by one letter grade.

Timeline

- Week 1 of each grading period
 - *Honors Credit Point Sheet* completed and signed by student and parent due
 - Sheet will be approved by director and returned to student
- Weeks 2 -8 of each grading period
 - Students work independently to complete activities they have outlined on the *Honors Credit Point Sheet*
 - Students may submit activities as they complete them for approval
 - Director and student will track points
- Week 9 of each grading period
 - Final activities and completed *Honors Credit Point Sheet* must be submitted

Please refer to the *Quarterly Deadlines* chart on page 9 of this handbook for deadlines listed for each quarter.

Point Values/Distribution

- 5 Points
 - Participation in 2 or more Nordonia Performing Ensembles.
 - Weekly private lessons on your primary instrument/voice.
 - Participation in an auditioned ensemble outside of Nordonia.
 - Acceptance and participation in OMEA All State Band or Choir. (3rd quarter only)
- 4 Points
 - Bi-weekly private lessons on your primary instrument/voice.
 - Perform a solo at Solo & Ensemble Contest. (3rd quarter only)
 - Participation in a masterclass or workshop.
 - Record all 15 minor scales – all forms - and 2 octave chromatic scale (BAND ONLY).
- 3 Points
 - Perform in an ensemble at Solo & Ensemble Contest. (3rd quarter only)
 - Participation in honor Performing Arts at a college or university.
 - Critique of a professional concert.
 - Perform a solo on quarterly Honors Recital.
 - Public performance as a soloist.
 - Record all 15 minor scales – natural form - and 2 octave chromatic scale (BAND ONLY).
- 2 Points
 - Perform in an ensemble on quarterly Honors Recital.
 - Public performance as a part of an ensemble.
 - Attend workshop/clinic for your instrument at a college or university.
 - Critique of a college/university concert.
 - Record all 15 major scales and 2 octave chromatic scale (BAND ONLY).
 - Composer or literature project.
 - Instrument or technique project.
 - Participation in extracurricular performing arts activities.
 - Choir – Performing on stage in drama club musical productions.
 - Band – Performing in the pit for drama club musical productions.
- 1 Point
 - Critique of a school, church or community concert.

How Points May Be Earned

The next several pages explain in detail how students may earn points each grading period. The activities are divided into four categories – Performance Points, Applied Instrument Points, Research Points and Special Projects.

- *Performance Points*
 - Participation in 2 or more Nordonia Performing Ensembles: (5 points)
 - Students must participate in 2 or more performing ensembles at Nordonia High School. This could be any combination of the following:
 - Wind Ensemble
 - Symphonic Chorale (Mixed Voices)
 - Concert Band
 - Ars Vocem (Treble Voices)
 - Bel Canto (Treble Voices)
 - Vox Fortis (Tenor-Bass Voices)
 - Synergy
 - Momentum
 - Participation in 2 ensembles of **same program type** (2 bands **OR** 2 choirs)
 - 50% of points earned can be used for both ensembles. The remaining 50% needs to be earned through alternate opportunities.

<u>Band</u> (Shared 50%) Multiple Ensembles – 5pts.	<u>Jazz Band</u> (Shared 50%) Multiple Ensembles – 5pts.
(Additional 50%) Perform S&E Solo – 4pts. Record Scales – 1pt.	(Additional 50%) Private Lessons – 4pts. School Concert Critique – 1pt.

<u>Choir</u> (Shared 50%) Multiple Ensembles – 5pts.	<u>Synergy/Momentum</u> (Shared 50%) Multiple Ensembles – 5pts.
(Additional 50%) Perform S&E Solo – 4pts. School Concert Critique – 1pt.	(Additional 50%) Practice Log – 3pts. College Concert Critique – 2pts

- Participation in 2 ensembles of **different program types** (1 band **AND** 1 choir)
 - 50% of points earned can be used for both ensembles. The remaining 50% needs to be earned through alternate opportunities.
 - Private lessons, reports, critiques, etc. must be reflective of program those points are to be applied to.

<u>Band</u> (Shared 50%) Multiple Ensembles – 5pts.	<u>Choir</u> (Shared 50%) Multiple Ensembles – 5pts.
(Additional 50%) Private Instr. Lessons – 4pts. Drama Club Pit Orch. – 2pt.	(Additional 50%) Perform S&E Vocal Solo – 4pts. Honors Choir – 3pts.

- Participation in auditioned ensemble outside of Nordonia: (5 points)
 - Students must earn membership into an area ensemble with a regular rehearsal and performance schedule. Examples include Cleveland Youth Orchestra or Chorus, Akron Youth Orchestra, Summit Choral Society, or Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony. The student must complete the *Ensemble Verification* form. It includes verification of membership and attendance for the ensemble. You must have a satisfactory report in order to earn points.
- OMEA All-State Band, Choir or Orchestra: (5 points)
 - Students must submit audition materials and be accepted into one of the All-State performing ensembles that perform at the Ohio Music Education Association annual conference. (3rd quarter only)
- Solo & Ensemble Contest: (3 or 4 points) (3rd quarter only)
 - Prepare and perform a solo at the annual Ohio Music Education Association Solo & Ensemble contest (4 points).
 - In conjunction with your director, prepare and perform in an ensemble at the annual Ohio Music Education Association Solo & Ensemble Contest (3 points).
- Honor Performing Arts: (3 points)
 - Many area colleges and universities have performance opportunities throughout the school year. Your director will have recommendation and audition information. Students must participate in the event and complete the *Honor Performing Arts Verification Form* to earn points.
- Honors Recital: (2 – 3 points)
 - Each quarter, the music department will host an Honors Recital.
 - Students may perform a solo (3 points)
 - Students may be part of an ensemble (2 points)
 - Music selection and preparation should be done in consultation with a director or private lessons instructor. Performances should be *at least* two minutes in length.
- Public Performance: (2 or 3 points)
 - Students may perform a solo at a non-school event. (3 points)
 - Students may perform in an ensemble at a non-school event. (2 points)
 - This includes performing in a place of worship or for a religious function, or for a school or community event when not participating with a director-lead ensemble. To earn credit for this option, students must turn in the program from the event (if possible) where you played and complete the *Public Performance Verification Form*.

- Nordonia Drama Club Musical Production: (2 points) (4th quarter only)
 - Participation in extracurricular performing arts activities.
 - Choir – Performing on stage in drama club musical productions.
 - Band – Performing in the pit for drama club musical productions
- *Applied Private Lesson Points*
 - Private Lessons: (4 or 5 points per grading period)
 - Students must take private lessons with an approved instructor on their primary instrument or piano for the entire grading period. All instructors must be professional musicians with performance and teaching experience and appropriate degree certifications.
 - Lessons meet weekly (5 points)
 - Lessons meet bi-weekly (4 points)
 - Student must perform a piece from the OMEA S&E List on the quarterly recital. You may not repeat past pieces.
 - Student must attend 85% of their scheduled lessons.
 - The student and the instructor must complete the *Private Lessons Verification Form*. It includes areas of progress, attendance and effort. You must have a satisfactory report in order to earn points.
 - Participation in a Masterclass or Workshop: (4 points)
 - Participate in a masterclass or workshop on their instrument and **perform independently** at these events. (4 points)
 - Students will need to complete the *Masterclass/Workshop Verification Form*.
 - Record Scales: (2 – 4 points) (BAND ONLY)
 - Students may only submit scales once each year. Prior to playing, name the scale in concert pitch and then perform it. If you make a mistake, you must redo that scale. Once your recording is completed without any mistakes, it may be submitted to your director. Students may record their major scales and a 2 octave chromatic scale (2 points) or record all 15 natural minor scales and a 2 octave chromatic scale (3 points) or record all 15 minor scales in all three forms and a 2 octave chromatic scale (4 points).

- Workshop or Clinic: (2 points)
 - Many of the area colleges or universities offer instrumental or vocal clinics. To receive credit, students must attend an event for their primary instrument or performance area, submit a program and complete the *Workshop/Clinic Verification Form*.

- *Research & Project Points*
 - Concert Critique: (1 – 3 points)
 - Critiques should be 2 – 3 pages in length. Requirements are:
 - Coverage, listing title of project, name and course
 - 2 – 3 paragraph summary of the event, performers, setting and musical selections
 - 2 – 3 paragraph description of performance, including comments on tone, intonation, articulations, musicality, expression, etc.
 - Typed, 12pt font
 - All critiques must have the program and/or ticket stub attached.
 - Credit will be awarded based on the type of performance students **attend** and critique.
 - *Professional Level Concert (3 points)*
 - Review a concert where you hear professional musicians perform (Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony, Musical, Opera, Ballet, etc.). Ask your director if the concert you are considering will be given credit.
 - *College or University Level Concert (2 points)*
 - Review and attend a concert at an area college or university. The area schools offer a wide range of programming (frequently at no cost), including band concerts, choir concerts, recitals on every instrument and recitals of chamber music. Ask your director if the concert you are considering will be given credit.
 - *School Concert (1 point)*
 - Attend and review any school band, choir or musical concert in which you do not perform. This includes any middle school or elementary events as well.
 - *Community or Place of Worship Event (1 point)*
 - Attend and review a concert in the community or at a church.

- Composer and Literature Project: 2 points
 - This research project should be 2 – 3 pages in length. Requirements are:
 - Cover page, listing title of project, name and course
 - 2 – 3 paragraphs about the composer’s life
 - 2 – 3 paragraphs about the composer’s major works and contributions to music
 - 2 – 3 paragraphs about how this composer and/or their music has influenced your musicianship *in your selected program of study*. (band or choir).
 - Typed, 12pt font
 - Works cited page
- Instrument or Musical Technique Report: 2 points
 - This research project should be 2 - 3 pages in length. Requirements are:
 - Cover page, listing title of project, name and course
 - 2 – 3 paragraphs about the history and development of your major instrument
 - 2 – 3 paragraphs about the major works for your instrument
 - Typed, 12pt font
 - Works cited page.

Quarterly Deadlines

Quarter	<i>Honors Credit Point Sheet Due</i>	Deadline for Projects
Quarter 1	Friday, September 20	Wednesday, October 16
Quarter 2	Friday, October 25	Wednesday, December 18
Quarter 3	Friday, January 17	Wednesday, March 12
Quarter 4	Friday, April 4	Wednesday, May 21

Forms

Performing Arts
Honors Program

2024/2025 School Year

Honors Credit Point Sheet

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

To receive Honors credit, you must complete this form during the first week of each quarter and submit it to your director for approval. List all options you intend to use to earn the 10 points required per quarter. You may list as many activities as you like, however, you will not be permitted to add any after the approval by your director. This document must be used to collect evidence of completing the selected activities and should be submitted by the deadline at the end of each grading period. *Failure to meet the requirement of 10 Honors points will result in your quarter grade being lowered by one letter grade.*

Activity	Potential Point Value	Verification Materials Completed	Points Awarded by Director
TOTAL POINTS EARNED			

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Director Approval _____ Date _____

Ensemble Verification Form

To be completed by student:

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

- Name of ensemble: _____
- Position in organization: _____
- Rehearsal schedule: _____
- List date, time and location of next performance:

To be completed by organization:

Person completing verification form: _____

Role in organization: _____

- The student is prompt for rehearsals and performances. Yes No
- The student is prepared for rehearsals and performances. Yes No
- The student behaves in a professional manner for rehearsals and performances. Yes No

Comments:

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Honors Performing Arts Verification Form

(A program from the event must accompany this form.)

To be completed by student:

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

- Name of ensemble: _____
- Location of ensemble: _____
- Rehearsal schedule: _____
- List date, time and location of performance:

Please describe the rehearsals that went into this performance.

What did you learn at this event?

What was your favorite piece of music from this event?

How did this performance compare to other performances you have experienced?

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Participation in Masterclass/Workshop Verification Form

(A program from the event must accompany this form.)

To be completed by student:

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

- Name of event: _____
- Name of clinician or musician at masterclass/workshop:

- List date, time and location of event:

Please describe the activities that were part of this event.

What did you learn at this event?

What was your favorite piece of music from this event?

How did this event compare to other performances you have experienced?

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Public Performance Verification Form

To be completed by student:

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

- Performance Location: _____
- Person in Charge of Performance: _____
- Date and Time of Performance: _____
- Solo or Ensemble: _____
- Title of Piece Performed: _____
- Reason for performance: _____
- Audience: _____

To be completed by organization:

Person completing verification form: _____

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • The student was <u>prompt</u> for rehearsals and performances. | Yes No |
| • The student was <u>prepared</u> for rehearsals and performances. | Yes No |
| • The student <u>behaved and dressed in a professional manner</u> for rehearsals and performances. | Yes No |
| • Would you be willing to have the student perform again? | Yes No |

Comments:

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Private Lessons Verification Form

To be completed by student:

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

- Lesson on what instrument: _____
- Instructor's Name: _____
- Instructor's Phone Number: _____
- Instructor's Email: _____

To be completed by private lessons instructor:

- The student is prompt for lessons. Yes No
- The student is prepared for lessons. Yes No
- The student behaves in a professional manner for lessons. Yes No

Please score the student in each area and provide any comments you would like to share.
(1 = Developing; 2 = Basic; 3 = Proficient; 4 = Advanced; 5 = Sophisticated)

Tone and pitch development _____

Technical development _____

Musical development _____

Attitude and effort _____

Lesson preparation _____

Total number of lessons this grading period _____

Number of lessons missed by student during this grading period _____

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Attendance for Workshop/Masterclass Verification Form

(A program from the event must accompany this form.)

To be completed by student:

Name _____ Quarter _____

Course _____

- Name of event: _____
- Location of event: _____

What information did the workshop/clinic cover?

What was the background of the clinician?

What did you learn at this event?

What was your favorite piece of music from this event?

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Scale Recording Project - Rubric

Review this rubric to learn how your performance will be evaluated.

	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
ACCURACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All scales are performed with 100% accuracy There are no mistakes noted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with 90% accuracy There are minor mistakes noted, but they do not impact the overall quality of the performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with 80% accuracy Key signatures are not followed and/or there are repeated mistakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with 70% accuracy Key signatures are not followed and it is difficult to follow the student in their performance
	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
TONE QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with well developed, sophisticated tone quality throughout the range of the instrument Range does not impact tone quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with characteristic tone quality throughout the range of the instrument Range may have minimal impact on tone quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with somewhat characteristic tone quality throughout the range of the instrument Range has impact on tone quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with limited characteristic tone quality throughout the range of the instrument Range has significant impact on tone quality
	2 POINTS	1.5 POINTS	1 POINT	.5 POINTS
INTONATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated and precise intonation throughout range of scales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acceptable intonation throughout range of scales 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of scales impacts intonation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of scales significantly impacts intonation
	2 POINTS		1 POINT	0 POINTS
TEMPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed at consistent tempo with steady beat 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance may rush/drag at times and/or be have an erratic pulse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are not performed at a consistent tempo
	2 POINTS		1 POINT	0 POINTS
ARTICULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales are performed with clear, precise articulation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulation may be inconsistent at times but is acceptable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulation is inconsistent and unacceptable for the performance

Total from Rubric: _____

(To receive credit, students must earn a score of 10 points.)

Comments:

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Research Project - Rubric

Review this rubric to learn how your work will be evaluated.

	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate topic Strong support of topic; discussed topic in detail and covers all important points Clear and appropriate organization, with effective transitions, introduction and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate topic Good support for topic; discussion may be lacking depth but covers most important points Organization, transitions, introduction and conclusion lack some clarity and/or sophistication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionable topic Limited support for topic; details are vague and do not cover important points Organization, transitions, introduction and conclusion lacking clarity and/or appropriateness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic does not meet requirement Insufficient support of topic; greatly lacking in details relevant to topic Organization, transitions, introduction and conclusion are unclear and/or irrelevant
QUALITY OF RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cited 3 or more reliable sources Research is in-depth and detailed Abundant information provided to support all aspects of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cited at least 2 reliable sources Research is sufficient and detailed Sufficient information provided to support all aspects of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cited 1 reliable source Research is limited and may not be from reliable sources Limited information provided to support all aspects of the topic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failed to cite sources There is limited evidence of quality research in the project Little to no information provided to support all aspects of the topic
VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated and precise word choice No spelling or grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective word choice Few spelling and/or grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited effectiveness in word choice Consistent errors in spelling and/or grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineffective word choice Frequent errors in spelling and/or grammar
WORKS CITED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All works properly cited in <i>Works Cited</i> page 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all sources properly cited in <i>Works Cited</i> page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No <i>Works Cited</i> page
STRUCTURE & FORMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project includes all required elements – cover page, appropriate length, correct font size and appropriate distribution of content 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is missing one element as outlined in project description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is missing multiple elements as outlined in the project description

Total from Rubric: _____

(To receive credit, students must earn a score of 10 points.)

Comments:

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Concert Critique - Rubric

Review this rubric to learn how your performance will be evaluated.

	4 POINTS	3 POINTS	2 POINTS	1 POINT
CONTENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate topics covered in critique Strong support of topic; discussed topic in detail and covers all important points Clear and appropriate organization, with effective transitions, introduction and conclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate topics covered in critique Good support for topic; discussion may be lacking depth but covers most important points Organization, transitions, introduction and conclusion lack some clarity and/or sophistication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionable topics covered in critique Limited support for topic; details are vague and do not cover important points Organization, transitions, introduction and conclusion lacking clarity and/or appropriateness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic does not meet requirement Insufficient support of topic; greatly lacking in details relevant to topic Organization, transitions, introduction and conclusion are unclear and/or irrelevant
	2 POINTS	1.5 POINTS	1 POINT	0 POINTS
VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophisticated and precise word choice No spelling or grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective word choice Few spelling and/or grammatical errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited effectiveness in word choice Consistent errors in spelling and/or grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ineffective word choice Frequent errors in spelling and/or grammar
	2 POINTS		.5 POINTS	0 POINTS
STRUCTURE & FORMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project includes all required elements – cover page, appropriate length, correct font size and appropriate distribution of content 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is missing one element as outlined in project description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is missing multiple elements as outlined in the project description

Total from Rubric: _____

(To receive credit, students must earn a score of 6 points.)

Comments:

To be completed by director:

Approved _____ Date _____

Points awarded: _____

Contact Information

Honors Program Information –

Mr. Pickering, Music Coordinator
330.908.6026
John.Pickering@NordoniaSchools.org

Honors Band –

Mr. Vasquez; Marching Band, Concert Band
330.908.6100
Eric.Vasquez@NordoniaSchools.org

Mr. Weaver; Wind Ensemble & Jazz Band
330.908.6029
Tom.Weaver@NordoniaSchools.org

Honors Choir –

Mr. Pickering; Bel Canto, Vox Fortis, Ars Vocem, Symphonic Chorale, Momentum & Synergy
330.908.6026
John.Pickering@NordoniaSchools.org

By signing up below, you are committing to the Nordonia High School Performing Arts Honors Program as outlined in this handbook. This form, **along with your first quarter “Honors Credit Point Sheet”** is due back to your program director by **September 20, 2024**.

After **September 27**, you will not be able to change your schedule. Please strongly consider the various expectations with this program before you commit to being a part of it.

“We have read through the Nordonia High School Performing Arts Honors Program Handbook and agree to its guidelines and expectations.”

(Student Printed Name)

(Date)

(Student Signature)

(Parent Signature)

**This form needs to
be turned into your
program director by:
September 20, 2024**