



2020-21 North Reading High School NOTEorious

www.nrmusic.weebly.com

Twitter: @nrhsacappella

Instagram: NRHS_NOTEorious

<https://sites.google.com/a/north-reading.k12.ma.us/mrs-kane/>

What is NOTEorious?

NOTEorious is an auditioned, mixed contemporary a cappella group at North Reading High School. The ensemble performs songs from a variety of genres using only their voices to mimic instrumental sounds and create a new and unique blend of music. In order to compete, we keep the group small, so there are only certain slots available.

What is A cappella?

A cappella means performing music alone – without the help of instruments. All sounds come from the student. NOTEorious is an auditioned, mixed contemporary a cappella group at North Reading High School. The ensemble performs songs from a variety of genres using only their voices to mimic instrument sounds and create new sounds. Being able to push the boundaries and think outside the box is helpful when making sounds. It's very different from standing and singing in a classic choral setting.

What is the time commitment?

NOTEorious typically rehearses Monday, Tuesday and Friday directly after school and at times until 4pm. Aside from regular rehearsals, the group performs at events in school (assemblies, pep events, etc) winter and spring concerts, events within the community, as well as competitions and festivals throughout Massachusetts and the US. Commitments do happen during the week, both after school and at night, as well as occasional weekend commitments with concerts – specifically October, late January/February/March and May/June. Some events require overnight stays such as Disney, and ICHSA Finals in New York. Members are required to be in attendance at each rehearsal and performance. While it is a significant time commitment, it is a rewarding experience, and you get as much out of it as you put in.

I play/want to play a sport – can I still be a part of NOTErious?

While it would be great to offer a simple answer, it depends entirely on the coach and times that sport gets together. Since NOTEorious practices directly after school, we have many students who bring their uniforms down to the PAC dressing rooms and get dressed for a game or practice and attend our rehearsal at the same time. They run down to the field and are able to juggle both commitments. NOTEorious council will look at each instance individually. If you advocate for yourself with your coach, NOTEorious is willing to work a compromise so you can do both but because this is a competition group that lasts a year long, we don't want students coming in and out when they feel like it.. However, that is up to the individual student. Ultimate Frisbee and Swim Team are two sports for example that coincide very well with NOTEorious.

What Should I Prepare Before The Audition?

1. A verse and chorus of a song that shows what you can do – sing something that you are comfortable with AND shows us your vocal range or what makes you unique. Many times a song repeats itself over and over – that is *not* what we are looking for. Pick something that has a range, a style, a tempo.... something that makes you stand out and shine. Any genre will do except musical theater and opera.
2. A short percussive groove – about 30 seconds. This doesn't have to be complex – nor does it have to be your forte – but it needs a steady tempo and groove and you need to maintain it for *approx* 30 seconds. Thanks to YouTube, there are many videos with beatboxing tutorials. Check them out!

What Happens At The Audition?

We will audition on Tuesday, June 9 and June 10 at 3:30pm via Google Meet. You must sign up to audition ahead of time and the Google Meet code will be emailed to you in your NR student account. Signups will be open until June 8, 2020. You must be available on both days.

1) You will perform your individual song in front of everyone, 2) perform your percussion portion and then 3) you will be given a portion of new music. You will have 24 hours to learn your vocal part of the new music with help from Smart Music. Then on Wednesday, June 10 you will sing that part in front of everyone via Google Meet. We are looking for you to be able to hold your part and pitch and tune your voice to blend and harmonize with others. 4) You will sight read a section and record it into Smart Music. This third part is due by 5pm on Thursday, June 11.

Remember – much of this audition process is structured to see how willing one is to take risks. Even if you aren’t the world’s best beat boxer, we still want to hear what you are willing to try. Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there- we want to see you be brave!

I Can't Make It To The Audition What Can I Do?

Unfortunately, this is currently the only time available to audition. The group is limited to 8-18 members. Hopefully you can find a way to make it work!

I heard there are multiple groups

Currently, there is only NOTErious but if enough students audition and want to, we will make a second group for the 2020-2021 school year.

Attendance

This is an elite select performance group. Rehearsals and performances are required. Rehearsals are typically Monday, Tuesday and Friday after school. More are added and longer time frames are included when preparing for a performance. Please make sure you have familiarized yourself with the expectations of this year long group. If, for whatever reason, you have not learned your part or movement within the group and can not perform it correctly, alone, you may be asked to sit out of a performance. Significant conflicts will affect one’s ability to participate and you may be dropped from the ensemble. Please do not over extend yourself.

Academics and Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in any afterschool program, you must be in good standing in both your academic work and as a citizen of the school. This means that you need **grade eligibility** (to be passing seven (7) of your eight (8) classes) and uphold NRHS’s **code of discipline**. Any suspensions, class cuts, truancy or greater than 10 unexcused absences may jeopardize your involvement in our organization. We hold students accountable for their academic and social behavior. The image you portray reflects directly on the music program and North Reading HS. Any student not doing his/her part will be asked to forfeit his/her role. Please make sure you read the student handbook section on School Policy and Student Behavior.

Safety and Respect

NOTErious is an extra-curricular activity. It is important for the music director and internal affairs manager to know where students are at all times. Students **must** remain in the assigned areas. If a student is not in an assigned area and did not gain permission to leave, they will not be allowed to continue with the group. Mutual trust and respect is important. NR prides itself with having the most helpful, friendly and respectful students! We will uphold this tradition throughout the year. **Everyone** involved will be respected, honored and celebrated. Any student who is not respectful to others may lose their privilege to participate.

Concert attire

This is a competition group that is judged both on musicality but also visuals. NOTErious has three typical “uniforms” that students must obtain on their own.

- Formal attire – black bottom, white top
- Casual attire – jeans and a black top
- Competition attire – blue, green, and grey (no solid colored shirts and no black at all!)

Everyone is to look unique and stay true to themselves while adhering to these parameters outlined in the bylaws. It is suggested to have lots of options so you can mix and match. The council and Choral Director have the right to ask you to change. If you can not or are unwilling, you will not be allowed to perform.

What happens if I am accepted into the group?

The group will be posted by Sunday, June 14, 2020. The first rehearsal is Monday, June 15 at 3:30pm where we will discuss the new group, music and contracts. The forms can also be found online on the NOTEorious web site. NOTEorious typically hits the ground running in the fall so you will need to work your part in the summer to be prepared for September. We will have late August/early September rehearsals. We have a competition in October.

What happens if I am not accepted into the group?

We need to fill four types of parts equally – Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. If there are open voice spots, we will hold auditions again in the fall of 2020-21 school year. So you can work on it and try out again next year! If you are serious about singing, talk to the Choral Director or NOTEorious student council and ask for constructive feedback. Take private lessons and, most importantly, join Chorus where you will work on ensemble singing, reading music, theory and vocal technique, audition for the musical – all very important factors with singing a cappella. Although it may be difficult, re-audition the next year. And, if needed, the time after that. Work the craft and never give up.

You need to **Join Chorus** and work on your ensemble skills, your sight reading skills and your theory skills – groups that work the basic skills daily are competitive and sound good. Without that foundation, you will not have a successful group.

Keep singing – there are so many opportunities out there. Try, try again. If you continue to work, you will guarantee to grow!

One Final Thought

We want you to sing. We want you to enjoy music. In order to be good, you need to work on your craft. Students should be taking private lessons and/or join Chorus to sing and work essentials daily. Everyone involved will work to make it a positive experience for everyone who participates. We are also responsible for everyone's safety. For this reason, the above rules must be followed. We appreciate the help and support of parents, staff and students and look forward to a great time!

STUDENT OFFICERS and DIRECTOR

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For more info see our **web site** <http://nrmusic.weebly.com/acappella-noteorious.html>

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Take a look at us on **YOUTUBE** – search Allison Kane NRTV