

Millard North Show Choir Parent Handbook

Welcome! This Parent Handbook is an at-a-glance reference to the Millard North Show Choir Program. It provides an introductory overview of the program and all it has to offer! Take time to review and discover everything from volunteer opportunities to what to expect at a show choir competition!

Mission

It is the mission of Millard North Show Choirs to engage students in the creative expression of singing, dancing, and performing popular, relevant music; to instill confidence in its members, to teach responsibility, time management, and organization, and to serve as ambassadors to the school, community, and state.

Vision

It is the vision of Millard North Show Choirs to become America's top show choir program.

Values - Key Drivers to MNSC Success:

1. Character - Respectful of Directors, Each Other and Competitors
2. Discipline - Attendance, Rehearsal Etiquette and Practice
3. Excellence - Intrinsically Motivated to Achieve

Communication

You will have a variety of sources of information throughout the school year.

- This Parent Handbook
- E-Mail communication from Mrs. Swain for the entire MNHS Show Choir program.
- E-Mail communication from your student's group-specific Director (Infinity - Mrs. Swain, Illumination - Mrs. Hoffmann, Intensity - Mr. Wallace, and Insanity - Paige Nola).
- Millard North Vocal Music web page - millardnorthvocalmusic.com
- On Facebook - @MillardNorthShowChoir as well as @MillardNorthShowChoirParents
- On Twitter - @MNShowChoirs
- On Instagram - @mnshowchoirs
- Remind Messages - Mostly used on show choir competition days to provide valuable information (e.g., time the bus should arrive back at MNHS). More information to come soon.
- Director Emails:
 - Mrs. Megan Swain - Infinity- mgsSwain@mpsomaha.org
 - Mrs. Allie Hoffmann - Illumination - athoffmann@mpsomaha.org
 - Mr. Nathan Wallace - Intensity - nwallace@mpsomaha.org
 - Mrs. Paige Nola - Insanity- mrspaigenola@gmail.com

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Volunteer Opportunities

Costume Crew: Costume crew is responsible for fitting, altering, and maintaining costumes for performers, and that's a lot of students! Work begins sometime in October and is most intensive leading up to debut of the show choir performances in December. When costumes arrive, they are all kept at MNHS and fitted before regular practices. Wherever possible, students will be informed in advance of when they will have their fitting week. No costumes should be removed from the building. Once competition season begins, some of the costume crew make repairs (sew on buttons, etc.) as needed to the costumes on an ongoing basis. All sewing skill levels are encouraged to join, since it is a fun group and a great way to support the performers. If you can sew a button or hem, we need you. Any time you can give will be gratefully received, so please let us know if you are willing to sew!

Leader: Julie Kolpin, jkolpin@cox.net

Treat Crew: The Treat Crew creates motivational and inspirational special treats for the MNHS Show Choir program (choirs, band, roadies, stage crew and directors). The Treat Crew meets a weeknight ahead of the show choir competition to create 180+ special treats. Previous treats have included crystal candy on a stick with a message saying, "It is crystal clear that you are going to shine at Elkhorn South's Crystal Cup," or a bottle of root beer with the saying, "Millard North Show Choirs, Band & Roadies/Stage Crew, we are rooting for you!" At the end of the show choir rehearsal before a show choir competition (usually Thursday night) some of the Treat Crew come to MNHS to distribute the fun treat to the students and directors to get them excited for the upcoming competition. If you are on the Treat Crew, you are not required to attend each treat making gathering. We are all so busy. Just attend the ones that work into your schedule. Most of our planning and communication is done via email. Unless asked to create a special treat, the Treat Crew meets from January - March. The Treat Crew also plans and participates in other special events as needed. This group is a great way to get to know other moms in the show choir family!

Leaders: Becky Crafton, tonynbecky@gmail.com

Dad Crew: Dad Crew is responsible for loading and unloading costumes and equipment to and from the show choir trailer, setting up the lights and risers before each group performs and tearing down after each performance at show choir competitions. Dads from each of the three show choirs are needed. This is a great opportunity for dads to get involved and to get to know each other and the students! This group enjoys working with each other and has a lot of fun!

Leader: Mike Roth, mcroth@outlook.com

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Engagement Crew: Engagement Crew helps parents get engaged in show choir volunteer opportunities. They also help plan and facilitate the main show choir events of the year including (but not limited to) Introductions and Ice Cream, Debut Night, and Night of Show Choirs.

Leaders: Krista O'Malley, kristaomalley@hotmail.com

Show Choir Parent Registration

Each parent or guardian is asked to fill out the Show Choir Parent Registration Google Document. This document allows us to connect you with the opportunities that are of interest to you as well as ensure you are part of our parent distribution list. Access the Show Choir Registration at millardnorthvocalmusic.com/parent-only or millardnorthvocalmusic.com, select the Show Choir tab, and select the Parent Portal button. You may also scan the QR code below to register.

MNSC PARENT REGISTRATION:



MNSC APPAREL:



Show Choir Competitions - Overview

Show Choir Competitions are day-long events at which show choirs from different schools, many times different states, and at different levels compete against one another. Most times, the show choir competition is a fundraiser for the school's show choir and/or show choir parent organization or booster club. For competition purposes, the show choirs are broken into Middle School, Prep Groups (Junior Varsity, usually co-ed group), Unisex or Single-Gender (All Ladies or All Men), and Open (Varsity or top level show choir at a high school). The competitions customarily last a full day with Preliminary performances held in the morning and afternoon followed by the announcement of placement order within a division for preliminaries and caption awards. Caption awards spotlight excellence in different performance areas (e.g., Best Male Soloist, Best Female Soloist, Best Band, Best Choreography, Best Ballad). At the end of the awards ceremony, the names of those show choirs that qualify for Finals are announced. Eligibility for Finals is dependent upon who is hosting the show choir competition (e.g., Open level only, Open and Unisex, or all divisions). Customarily, there is a dinner break followed by the Finals in the evening. At the end of Finals, the ranking of the competing choirs is announced with the highest level being "Grand Champion" followed by First Runner Up, Second Runner Up, etc. With all this in mind, you will find that your student will need to be at MNHS very early in the morning to depart with the other students in the Show Choir program on buses and return to MNHS very late at night or into the early morning hours of the next day.

Parents are welcome to attend all Show Choir competitions whether in the Omaha area or outside of the state. You are responsible for your own transportation to the event. All show choir competitions charge an admission fee for those attending the competition. The amount of this fee depends on the school hosting the competition but can range approximately from \$8-15 and may or may not include a program. Please note, that just because

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a person pays an admission fee does not mean that it guarantees that person a seat. Sometimes a person may need to stand or sit on the steps in an auditorium until a seat becomes available. Some schools have the person wait until the next show choir performance at which a seat may become available. Students participating in the competition are not charged an admission fee but are part of a general registration fee that is paid for through your costume fee. Show Choir competitions are fundraisers for the hosting school. The fees paid go to support the school's show choir program. You and your student will find food available for purchase at these competitions (e.g., usually breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks). As parents, you are also able to leave the school to enjoy a break and a meal away from the competition. Students are to stay at the competition at all times unless arranged with his/her Director.

Show Choir Competitions - Helpful Hints

- **Arrive early** to the Show Choir Competition. Seats fill up in the auditorium gradually throughout the day. Bonus! You get to see other Millard North Show Choir groups perform, as well as Show Choirs from other high schools. If you do not plan to arrive to the Show Choir Competition early, then it is a good idea to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your show choir's performance. This will allow you time to find parking (which can be challenging at some competitions), purchase admission at the entrance to the school and to join the line for admission into the auditorium. If the auditorium seats are full, you might need to wait in line for another group to perform before you have the opportunity to be admitted into the auditorium. The auditorium doors are open between performances and closed during the performances, with no admittance once closed. Most show choir performances last 15-20 minutes. If you are in the auditorium saving a seat for someone and they are not going to make it back to their seat, it is polite to release that seat for the next performance to accommodate the school that is performing. Generally, the first 3-4 rows are saved for the performing school and are cleared out completely after each performance.
- **Dress in layers.** The temperature in a high school auditorium will vary from school to school and during the day as well.
- **Wear your Millard North gear** so you can find other Millard North Show Choir parents. Say "hi" and get to know them!
- When attending competitions, please remember that **you are representing Millard North High School**. Please keep conversations positive about all students, schools and performances. You never know who is sitting near you.
- **Clapping, cheering, and hollering** are encouraged during dance-only portions of the show (dance break). **Spirit fingers** are customary after any solo as to not interrupt the vocal portions of the performance.
- **Show your support** and encouragement during the competition by standing and clapping for the group that just performed.

Costumes & Make Up

Costumes and their Care: Costumes will be provided for each choir member, including shoes. These costumes are very expensive and need to be well cared for, so they **MUST** remain in MNHS at all times. Each student will be assigned a costume bag and roadies get costumes where they need to be; students are responsible for their own shoes. Students are also responsible for hanging their costumes correctly (roadies direct this process) and reporting costume issues immediately after a performance to the costume chief. Students may not have any food or drink other than water at any time while in costume. Students are to properly store their costumes after each performance, leaving the garment bag open until the end of the night so the costume can air.

Makeup: Girls will need to purchase additional makeup and hair products. A list and/or video tutorial will be provided to ensure uniformity. It is not necessary to purchase every product, but makeup colors need to match, as does hair. The lipstick is the only purchase requirement.

Miscellaneous

Share Your Photos: Parents are welcome to upload their show choir competition photos and other related show choir photos to the parent Facebook page - @MillardNorthShowChoirParents.

Also, photos of each student from the competition season are needed for a special event at almost the end of the season. Each family is asked to submit 3-5 photos of their son and/or daughter from debut night during the competition season. Your student can be on or off stage at a show choir competition or rehearsal. Watch for communication and link to submit photos in late February.

Food: During the school year, there could be times when your student may not be able to go home from school before a rehearsal. Students are welcome to bring a meal from home. A microwave is available in the music wing to heat meals if needed. If students are able to drive, they can pick up food on their own or a parent is welcome to bring food to the school. If not in use by another organization, the students are welcome to eat in the cafeteria area. Sometimes a pre-arranged meal is organized for a group. In this instance, you will be notified of the arranged meal by the appropriate director, and many times parents are able to sign up to donate food for the meal.

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Galaxy of the Stars - Millard North Show Choir Competition

The Galaxy of the Stars Show Choir Competition is hosted by the Directors, Students, and Families of the Millard North Show Choir program. It is the major fundraiser for our show choir program and requires all to participate in order for it to be a success! Funds raised at the Galaxy of the Stars Show Choir Competition go to a variety of program expenses including choreography, lighting, and travel expenses (e.g., bus, hotel) to larger show choir competitions outside of Nebraska.

Planning for this competition is year-round for the Chairman while planning for the committee chairs begins in the fall and lasts through the middle of March. From year to year, we seek to fill committee chair positions due to vacancies. More information on open committee chair positions will be coming. Some volunteers are needed leading up to the event, but most are required for the Friday and Saturday of the event, March 10th & 11th, 2023.

Attendance at Galaxy of the Stars is mandatory for students in the MN Show Choirs. Parents are also required to volunteer at least 8 hours between March 10th and 11th. Beginning in early January, parents will have an opportunity to volunteer for shifts in different areas of responsibility: greeters/admissions workers, food service, judges' assistants, door monitors, hospitality assistants, auditorium monitors, hallway/stairwell monitors, just to name a few. It takes an army to host a show choir competition, and we want a very successful event for our students! More information on Galaxy of the Stars will be coming soon!

Co-Chair: Stephanie Herr, stephaherr@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Kendra McIvor, dmicvor@cox.net

Co-Chair: Lindsay Whelan, lindsaywhelan6@gmail.com