



Lakes Community High School CHORAL HANDBOOK

Mrs. Colette Todd
Director of Choirs

Take the time to review this information with your parents/guardians.

Return the Choral Contract to the director with your parent/guardian's signature acknowledging you understand and agree to the material presented in this handbook.

FOR THE STUDENT - CLASSROOM GUIDELINES

These simple guidelines will help ensure our success through productive rehearsals:

1. You must be in the room before the bell rings, and moving toward your seat with your folder. Warm-ups will begin immediately after the bell rings.
2. You are responsible for your folder and music everyday. Keep a rehearsal pencil in your folder at all times, and use it to make appropriate marks in the music. Do not borrow another folder under any circumstances. At the end of rehearsal, return your folder to the proper slot.
3. Food and drink are not allowed in the choir room or practice rooms. Remove any gum you are chewing before rehearsal.
4. Respect the opinions and ability levels of others. The choir, accompanist, and directors function as a team. All members of the team need to be respectful of each other and of the process of creating music.
5. Sing with your breath, your mind, and most importantly, your heart.

FOR YOUR PARENTS – HOW TO BE A GREAT CHORAL PARENT

1. Come to ALL your child's concerts – even if they tell you not to attend! Your support means so much to your child personally, and it demonstrates to you how much they are learning and experiencing in the choral classroom.
 2. Know the choral concert and rehearsal schedule. Please keep the enclosed calendar and put the dates on your family calendar. Also periodically check the LCHS Fine Arts website for any new information.
 3. Join the Friends of the Arts organization, come to meetings, or just volunteer a few hours of your time this year to help the LCHS Fine Arts programs.
 4. Encourage your child to practice just as you encourage them to do their homework. They may give you a private concert!
 5. Make sure your child is prepared for their concerts... on time, well rested, clean, hair out of face, no inappropriate shoes/jewelry, no perfume, etc.
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GRADING PROCEDURES

Your grade will be calculated on the following:

40% - Positive Daily Participation

Daily active classroom participation is essential to the development of our choirs and the singers who comprise them. It is expected that students will not only demonstrate good rehearsal skills, but also continually reflect on ways to maximize improvement. Students will earn a letter grade each week for participation. Grade deductions (A to an A-) can occur for tardies and for lack of preparation for rehearsal (no music or no pencil).

Grade of A - Exceeds expectations
Grade of B - Meets expectations
Grade of C - Some expectations not met
Grade of D - Many expectations not met
Grade of F- Fails to meet expectations

25% - Dress Rehearsal and Concert Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance is essential to our success. Included in this handbook is a calendar of events for the entire school year. Please use this information when planning work schedules, family vacations, and other outside commitments. We set the schedule early so students have time to make adjustments to their personal calendar.

Attendance at these dress rehearsals and performances is mandatory. **Absences will be excused only for significant illness or family emergencies with advance notice given by email or phone to the director.** Absences will not be excused for work or other conflicts. If a student has a conflict with another activity or athletic event the student must contact the director *well in advance* to discuss the conflict. Unexcused absences from concerts and dress rehearsals will have a negative impact on a student's grade. This policy is not meant to punish the student. Being an artist involves making sacrifices and being collaborative. Everything we do in class builds up to the performances, so they are vital to your child's musical education.

15% - Vocal Skills Assessments

Individual recorded assessments will occur at least once every other progress period. Students will record themselves singing excerpts from our concert literature. These recordings will be assessed by the student and the director regarding vocal development and mastery of the repertoire. Not all entering students will be at the same level vocally; therefore the grading is not ability biased. Students will be expected to make progress in their musical ability over the course of a year.

Students will also be expected to write a concert reflection essay after each of the four mandatory concerts for the year. These essays will discuss their individual progress as well as the progress of the choir.

15% - Music Literacy

The ability to sing music at sight and recognize important score markings is an important part of your music foundation. This is what will allow you to continue to be a productive member of singing ensembles throughout your life. Sight singing tests, ear training, and theory assignments will be given during class. Some assignments will require time outside of class for completion. Your effort and enthusiasm in these activities will make you a better musician, and will allow us to learn more music at a faster rate.

5% - Final Exam

Students in all choirs will take a final exam at the end of the fall and spring semesters. The written exam can cover topics such as notation, score reading, musical terms, choral techniques, and dictation.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

LCHS Select Choral Ensembles

Chamber Choir is a group of dedicated singers who are the primary traveling emissaries of the choir. Because of the many (10-20) performances of this group, and because of daytime and overnight trips, members must be good students and reliable young adults. These students must attend summer music camp, summer rehearsals, and *all* evening rehearsals (Mondays from 6:30 – 8:30 pm).

Jazz Choir is a small ensemble dedicated to singing Broadway, popular, and jazz repertoire. These singers perform on microphones and are excellent musicians. These students must attend summer music camp, summer rehearsals, and *all* evening rehearsals (Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:30 pm).

IMEA District and State Festivals

LCHS music students may participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association District and State Honor Choir auditions. Students audition in October with other student musicians from the suburban area for placement in the district choir, orchestra, jazz choir, and bands. Students who score exceptionally well in these auditions are invited to participate in the All-State groups at the IMEA Convention at Peoria, IL in January.

The selection process for spots in the district and state groups is *highly competitive*. Students must prepare several selections on their own time, so you are encouraged to begin working on the music early. If interested in participating, see your director.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

LCHS music students are encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Contest in the spring. This is a competitive contest where students will be rated against a set of specific criteria, along with other soloists in the suburban area. Details will be distributed to students before the winter break. Students participating in Solo & Ensemble must attend both the Recital and the Contest to compete. Students must prepare their selections entirely outside of class so private study is strongly encouraged. Teacher recommendation is required for participation in this event.

OTHER INFORMATION

Friends of the Arts

Congratulations you and your family are officially Friends of the Arts! FOA is a non-profit organization created to foster and promote excellence in the fine and performing arts programs here at LCHS. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Commons, and all parents are encouraged to attend. Parent volunteers usher and sell tickets at concerts and other performances and provide other supporting services to help make programs a success, including hospitality services (refreshments), driving, baking, sewing, publications, publicity, and informational letters to parents, receptions, etc. For more information, please check the Friends of the Arts web site accessible through the LCHS Fine Arts web site.

Uniform Policies

Each student participating in a choir at Lakes Community High School is expected to adhere strictly to our uniform code. Formal wear will be assigned before the first concert. Music students will be given a clean uniform, and are responsible for maintaining its cleanliness and appearance. The uniform is to be kept on the school premises. Please see the attached Uniform Checkout Form for more information.

Performance Code of Conduct

As a member of the LCHS Choirs, you serve as an ambassador of Lakes Community High School. Any conduct which is not exemplary or which reflects poorly on Lakes Community High School will be dealt with according to the infraction and could result in dismissal from the group. We are one of the most visible organizations on campus, and it is expected that you will always behave like mature young adults.

Use of Music Facilities

Please take care of our space! As you know we are in a brand new state-of-the-art music facility. Treat it that way. There are wastebaskets available for student use. Remember that food and drink of any kind are not allowed in the choir room or practice rooms, and that gum chewing is also prohibited. Since we are privileged to learn in such outstanding facilities, it is our responsibility to be good caretakers of our space by taking pride in the appearance of our facilities at all times.

Fine Arts Technology Lab

The computer lab is available to all fine arts students with an appointment. All choir students will need to make an appointment to complete their music theory requirements, but there are also other programs available to you to better your music education. Clearly, no food or drink is allowed in the lab and any misuse of the technology will result in suspension from the lab for the semester. Please see your director for appointment times and more information.

College Information

From time to time, many students inquire about music programs and musical opportunities at various U.S. colleges. Students should always feel free to ask a director for information. In addition, seniors may request college recommendations at any time from your director.

EVENT & REHEARSAL CALENDAR

The Choral Event Calendar is attached. This calendar is also posted online on our website. Please make sure that you are clear about the important dates for you. Take this handbook home and share the information with your parents, so that they are aware of your commitments and can add concert dates to their calendars.

Please note: The online event calendar is the most up-to-date reference for students and parents. Please check this online calendar if you have any questions about our events or rehearsals.

COMMUNICATION

Communication between parents, students and the music directors is important for the success of the program and to help each student reach his/her potential.

E-mail: We will use e-mail to communicate announcements, reminders, and special occasions to parents and students. We request that all students and parents provide our booster organization, Friends of the Arts, with their e-mail addresses to be used specifically and only for LCHS Fine Arts events. We hope to keep parents and students as informed as possible.

Phone: Please feel free to contact me at any time by phone. The best time to reach me by phone is during office hours - between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Website: To access the choir web site, go to www.lakeseagles.com and look under the "Activities" menu to find "Choirs". The Fine Arts Department keeps their website up to date, please bookmark it and visit now and then to be aware of updates and other goings on of the students and our booster program, Friends of the Arts.

Mrs. Colette Todd
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**LCCHS Choral Department
Major Event Schedule for 2008-2009**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Choral Ensembles Involved</u>
25-Aug-08	Chamber Choir Auditions	3:30 pm	
27-Aug-08	Jazz Choir Auditions	3:30 pm	
8-Oct-08	Pre Concert Rehearsal	6 pm	All Choirs
9Oct-08	Fall Concert	7 pm	All Choirs
8-Dec-08	Pre Concert Rehearsal	6 pm	All Choirs
9-Dec-08	Holiday Choral Concert	7 pm	All Choirs
Dec-08	Various Holiday Performances		Jazz Choir & Chamber Choir
12-Mar-09	LCCHS Solo & Ensemble Recital	6 pm	Chamber Choir & Soloists
14-Mar-09	Northshore Solo & Ensemble	All Day	Chamber Choir & Soloists
25-Mar-09	Pre Concert Rehearsal	6 pm	Jazz Choir
26-Mar-09	Jazz Nite!	7 pm	Jazz Choir
14-Apr-09	District Choral Festival @ ACHS	7 pm	All Choirs
16-Apr-09	Pre-Contest Concert	7 pm	aCappella & Adv Treble Choirs
17&18Apr-09	IHSA Organizational Contest	All Day	aCappella & Adv Treble Choirs
11-May-09	Pre Concert Rehearsal	6 pm	All Choirs
12-May-09	Spring Choral Concert	7 pm	All Choirs
15-May-09	Fine Arts Awards Banquet	7 pm	All Choirs
27-May-09	LCCHS Graduation Ceremony	TBA	aCappella & Adv Treble Choirs

Attendance is 25% of your student's grade.

Absences will be excused only for significant illness or family emergency with advance notice given by email or phone to the director. (847) 838 -7132

**This policy is not meant to punish the student.
Being an artist involves responsibility, making sacrifices and being collaborative.**



Lakes Community High School
CHORAL CONTRACT

- 1. We have read the Choral Handbook and understand the grading procedures and other material presented.**
- 2. We are aware of and have marked all dress rehearsal and concert dates on the family calendar.**
- 3. We will contact the director well in advance if the student is unable to attend a mandatory rehearsal or concert.**

FOR THE STUDENT:

I, _____, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE MATERIAL
AND DATES LISTED IN THE CHORAL HANDBOOK.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

FOR THE PARENT/GUARDIAN:

I, _____, HAVE READ THE HANDBOOK WITH MY CHILD AND
AGREE TO THE MATERIAL AND DATES LISTED.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

**** Return this Contract with your parent/guardian's signature. ****