

8th Grade Choir Handbook

2018-2019



Please fill out pages 5&6 and return them (along with T-shirt money)
to Mrs. Conrad by September 12th. Thanks!

8th Grade Choir Schedule 2018-2019

This is the calendar as of September 1.

Any changes will be given to students and parents as soon as possible.

- Sept. 6 (Thurs.) - 7th & 8th Grade Choir Parent Meeting, 7:30 pm, Choir Room
- Sept. 13 (Thurs.) - Auditions after school and evening for: Honors Choir, Regional Honors Choir, and Invitational Choir (7/8 singers sign up for audition time)
- Sept. 28 (Fri.) - Century Resources Fundraiser Kickoff
- Oct. 20 (Sat.) - Regional Honors Choir; Location TBA (selected students only)
- *Oct. 22 (Mon.) - Auditorium Rehearsal after school, LHS**
- Oct. 23 (Tues.) - Fall Concert, 6:15 pm warm up, 7:00 pm concert, LHS
- Oct. 30 (Tues.) - MS Invitational Rehearsal and Performance (selected students only)
- *Dec. 5 (Wed.) - EI/MS Auditorium Rehearsal after school, LHS**
- Dec. 6 (Thurs.) - EI/MS Choirs' Holiday Concert, 6:15 warm up, 7:00 pm concert, LHS
- Feb. ? - Clinician works with choirs during classes
- Feb. 25 (Mon.) - District Choral Festival, The Chapel, times for each choir TBA
- March 9 (Sat.) - Chicago Trip for 7th & 8th Graders
- March 23 (Sat.) - MS Vocal Solo & Ensemble, LMS (open to 7th & 8th Graders)
- May ? - State Choral Festival?
- May 13 (Mon.) - Pre-Auditorium Rehearsal for some MS singers after school
- *May 20 (Mon.) - Auditorium Rehearsal (all choir students) after school, LHS**
- May 21 (Tues.) - Spring Concert, 6:15 pm warm up, 7:00 pm concert
- May 30 (Thurs.) - 8th Grade Honors Night, Honors Choir sings

*Auditorium Rehearsals: We will go by bus to the HS Auditorium just before the end of the school day. Ending times for the rehearsal and other concert details will be given about a week ahead of time: in class, on the LMS Choir website, and on a take-home note.

Find Your Voice!
Lakeshore Middle School Choirs

Welcome to 8th Grade Choir!

Whether you are new to the Lakeshore Middle School Choirs, or you are returning to us - welcome! We're glad you've joined us! Please read through this handbook carefully as it contains a lot of important information, some of which is new this year. At the end of the Handbook you will find forms. Please return them to Mrs. Conrad by **September 12th**.

The Lakeshore Middle School Choirs are an important part of the Lakeshore Choir Family. We have an Elementary Choir program which builds the foundation of singing and performing. Our 6th Grade Choir meets daily, does more performing, and introduces reading music and sight reading. Our two 7th Grade Choirs and our 8th Grade Choir build on that foundation with additional performance opportunities, music reading/writing instruction, sight reading training, teamwork building, and vocal training. There are also opportunities to grow your musical skills outside of choir classes through programs such as: Honors Choir, Regional and State Honors Choir, Concert Specialty Acts, Middle School Invitational Choir, and Vocal Solo & Ensemble. These experiences will prepare you for High School Choir where you can continue your training and prepare for a lifetime of music!

Please keep informed about our choirs through the Choir Website, and through PowerSchool Email. The website is a great resource for parents and students. You will find updates, parent notes, announcements, celebrations, pictures, schedules, meeting dates, and practice recordings. Please check it out at: lakeshoremschoirs.weebly.com. You can also get to it from the Lakeshore Public Schools' website by using the Performing Arts tab. PowerSchool email allows me to quickly get updates and reminders to parents. If you have not registered your email address(es), please do so using link (Power Announcement/Student Grades) which is on the on the Middle School page of Lakeshore's website. Thank you for helping with communication in these ways!

If after reading the Handbook (or at any other time!), you have questions or comments, please contact me! I'm looking forward to working with you this year, and having a great year in choir!

Mrs. Carole Conrad, Lakeshore Middle School Choirs
(269) 428-1408, ext. 3099
cconrad@lpslancer.net

"I can not imagine my life if I didn't have a music program in my school." - Beyonce

Behavioral Expectations: It is expected that students will treat other class members, teachers, substitute teachers, and student leaders with respect. Student behavior that is detrimental to the group may result in the removal (temporarily or permanently) from the choir.

Choir Parents: All parents of Lakeshore Choir students are members of Lakeshore Choir Parents Organization (formerly called "Choir Boosters"). This group meets monthly and helps with fundraising, newsletters, publicity, and more. Parents are invited, and encouraged, to attend these monthly meetings! Check the choir website for dates, times, and locations.

Concert and Auditorium Rehearsal Attendance: All choir students are expected and required to be at all concerts and auditorium rehearsals (auditorium rehearsals are the rehearsals in the auditorium the day before a concert). Festival performances are also considered "concerts" in this policy. Choir is a "team effort" and we rely on the responsibility of those around us. Choir schedules are given early in the year and updates made as soon as possible. Students and families are asked to plan around concerts and auditorium rehearsals. If you have an emergency on a concert night, please leave a message at 428-1408, ext. 3099. The Lakeshore Performing Arts Policy for Middle and High School choirs and bands applies to this choir. According to this policy, there are two kinds of absences: excused and unexcused.

Excused absences: personal illness, death in the family, and those given at the discretion of the director when notified *in advance* by the parent/guardian. Students with schedule conflicts in sports and other school organizations need to make the director and coach of both events aware of the conflict *as soon as possible* so that an agreeable plan can be reached in advance. In the case of excused absences, students can "make up" the time missed through Musical Community Service. Musical Community Service can be arranged through the director, and may include: sorting music in the music library, helping with an Elementary Choir rehearsal, updating choir folders, or assisting with music for a church or community group. A form will be provided by the director.

Unexcused Absences: An absence which is not excused will result in a zero for the event. Since performances are a large part of what choirs do, they are also a large part of the choir grade. Unexcused absences for performances or auditorium rehearsals may result in the student being dropped from the choir program.

Fundraising: The choir will be participating in fundraisers to help defray the expenses of our choirs. The money will go toward: music, supplies, reward parties, travel expenses, scholarships, etc..., and some will go toward individual student accounts.

Individual Student Accounts: Every choir student has the opportunity to let their fundraising money work directly for them through student accounts. Usually these accounts are started in the 6th Grade Choir. Our 7th & 8th Graders can continue to add to them through fundraising. The money can be used for the Chicago Trip (this is a Trip Year!!), solo & ensemble fees, and festival medals. This money rolls over to following years and can be used for choir related expenses even in high school! Students who leave the choir program forfeit their account and the money goes into the general choir fund. Please note, each student does not have a savings account in his or her name, but rather through careful bookkeeping the Choir Parent Treasurer keeps track of that which is specifically designated for individual student accounts. The effort is made so that those who work the hardest at fundraising, have the most benefit.

*"What a tragedy it would be if we lived in a world where music was not taught to children."
- H. Norman Schwartzkopf*

Concert Donations: At some of our concerts we take donations. The money donated at concerts goes directly back to the choirs and enables us to buy additional music for our growing choir program. Thank you to all who help with this!

Grades:

- 30% Participation - Students are expected to sing, listen, and join in class discussions at the appropriate times. They are also expected to have their materials ready when class begins. Additionally, there is a zero-tolerance policy for teasing. Singing is a vulnerable activity for most of us and we will always encourage the best from each other!
- 30% Concerts & Auditorium Rehearsals - Students are expected at these required events on time, in uniform (for concerts). Behavior and attitude also contribute to this total. Choral Festival is also considered a "concert" performance. Please note the "Concert and Auditorium Rehearsal Attendance" section from this handbook.
- 25% Classwork - There will be some written work (music theory) and group work done in class.
- 15% Quizzes - There will be occasional quizzes on music theory work.
- Semester Exams - An assessment will be given at the end of each semester. It typically includes both a written portion and a voice test*.

Supplies: Students need to have a pencil and a pocket folder (for music theory papers). The music and choir folders are provided by the school (and they need to be returned in good condition). Generally, music will be left in the choir room.

Transportation for Auditorium Rehearsals: The auditorium rehearsals are after school on the day before the concert. For safety reasons, ALL choir students will ride school buses to these rehearsals. Please arrange for rides home from the High School Auditorium.

Uniforms: For performances, choir members wear a black choir T-shirt purchased through the school, (see back page of this Handbook for an order form), black dress pants, black shoes (closed toes, no high heels please). If purchasing these pieces presents a hardship, please contact Mrs. Conrad (early!). We have some donated items and our Choir Parents Organization will provide uniform pieces when needed. At our concerts, we try very hard to look "uniform" so that the audience's attention is drawn to the high-quality music we are making (not to the sparkly, red sequined headband, green hair, or unique jewelry). Individual expression is important, but not appropriate when "in uniform". The director has final discretion in this matter. Therefore:

Hair - should not be in the singer's face. Hair accessories should match hair color.

Jewelry - small earrings and rings are allowed, but no necklaces or bracelets, please.

*Much effort goes into making singers comfortable with the Voice Tests. They are usually done while the whole class is singing (passing a microphone), covering music that has been well learned in class.

"It occurred to me by intuition, and music was the driving force behind that intuition. My discovery was the result of musical perception." - Albert Einstein, when asked about his theory of relativity

Statement of Philosophy - Lakeshore Public Schools

Students are encouraged to become involved in extracurricular activities. Student's participation in such activities is provided as an opportunity for students as long as they agree to follow the rules and guidelines as outlined in the Student Handbook. Inasmuch as participation is a privilege (not a right), students who violate the guidelines will be subject to the penalties outlined, up to and including suspension from participation in such activities.

The District recognizes that substance abuse is a serious problem in our society. Students are encouraged to voluntarily seek assistance for a substance abuse problem. The district will support this effort in a manner consistent with applicable Board policy and administrative regulation.

MUSIC WITH A SACRED TEXT

The Michigan School Vocal Music Association believes that the use of good music with sacred texts is vital to choral music education and to the choral art. MSVMA supports and has adopted the position statement of the American Choral Directors Association in regard to this issue. The following statement is printed with the permission of the ACDA:

*Choral music educators recognize that choral music may fulfill diverse objectives. At one end of the spectrum are aesthetic education and artistic performance that can insure development of musicality and sensitivity. At the opposite end of the spectrum is pure entertainment. Between these two poles may be found opportunities to enhance knowledge and understanding through a growing awareness and perspective of history and art as reflected in great music. **To achieve any selected educational objective, the quality of repertoire is of paramount importance.***

*An assessment of the quality of repertoire which can fulfill the highest objectives of aesthetic education necessitates careful examination of the relationship of text and musical setting. The wealth of choral literature which represents and reflects peoples, cultures, and traditions of all lands and compositional styles of all eras includes much music in which the composer has utilized a sacred text. The term "sacred" refers to all manner of religious belief and not only to the practices of the Judeo-Christian teachings. **It is important that almost all of the significant choral music composed before the 17th century was associated with a sacred text.***

*To study and perform music in which the musical setting of a text is artistically accomplished is a highly commendable objective. While public school teaching objectives and criteria for repertoire selection should not include religious indoctrination, the selection of quality repertoire will invariably include within its broad scope music with a sacred text. **To exclude from a public school curriculum all choral music which has religious meaning associated with the text is to severely limit the possibilities of teaching for artistic understanding and responsiveness.** Such an exclusion has as its parallel the study of art without any paintings related to the various religions of the world, the study of literature without mention of the Bible, or the study of architecture without reference to the great temples and cathedrals of the world.*

Since choral music with a sacred text comprises such a substantial portion of the artistic repertoire representative of the choral medium and the history of music, it should have an important place in music education. Its study and artistic performance have nothing to do with the First Amendment to the Constitution and the doctrine which advocates separation of Church and State.

This statement has been endorsed by the
National Board of Directors
of the American Choral Directors Association

"Education in music is most sovereign because more than anything else rhythm and harmony find their way to the innermost soul and take strongest hold upon it." - Plato

Choir Handbook Form

By signing, I am confirming that I have: read this Handbook, understand the expectations, and am ready to commit to them as a member of Lakeshore Choirs. I am also agreeing to the rehearsals & performances listed in this Handbook. Parents are giving permission for the events in the schedule. Additional information and reminders will be given.

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Lakeshore Choirs Publicity Permission

The Lakeshore Choirs occasionally use pictures OR names of students in the Lakeshore Light, the Herald Palladium, and on web sites. We will use pictures OR names, not both. You may choose not to have your student's name or picture used for publicity.

- Yes, you may use picture OR name for publicity.
- No, please do not use either picture or name for public

Medical Information/Release Form

Student Name _____ Home Phone _____

1. Parent Name _____ Email _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

2. Parent Name _____ Email _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Does your child have any allergies or medical conditions? YES NO

If yes, please explain _____

Is your child currently taking any medication? YES NO

If yes, please list _____

Choir T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Order Form

All Lakeshore Middle School choir students need to own the official "Lakeshore Choirs" T-shirt (black with red and white print). These T-shirts are part of the uniform. The T-shirt cost is \$10 (Please contact Mrs. Conrad if you cannot make this purchase.). Hooded black sweatshirts are available for \$25 and are *optional*. The shirts are basic unisex sizes: Youth Medium, Youth Large, Adult Small, Adult Medium, Adult Large, Adult X-Large, 2XLG. Payment must be recieved with the order unless other arrangements have been made. Parents, you are welcome to order shirts for yourselves too!

Student name: _____ Grade: _____

Please check the appropriate box(s) and fill in the size desired:

- I am purchasing a T-shirt (\$10), Youth or Adult? _____ Size? _____
- I already have the current choir shirt; it fits and is in good condition.
- I am purchasing a hooded black sweatshirt (\$25), size _____

Choir Parent Volunteer Opportunities

It takes many volunteers for the Choir program to run smoothly. Areas where we need help are listed below. Please mark any areas in which you might be able to assist us. The information on this page will be given to the Choir Parents Organization. Thank you!

_____ Choir Parents Org. meetings _____ Festival Chaperone (school day)

_____ Handing out concert programs _____ Fundraiser Help during school

_____ Sitting with choirs at concerts _____ Fundraiser Help after school

Parent Volunteer Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Student's Name _____ Choir _____

Please return this form with payment (for T-shirt/sweatshirt) to your director by:
September 12th

Please make checks payable to Lakeshore Choirs. Thank You!