

Lakeside Jr. High

Chorus Handbook

22.23

This handbook should provide you with all the important information necessary to have a successful and productive year. If you have any questions or problems refer to this guide. If you cannot find the answer here, be sure to ask! Naturally, not all circumstances can be foreseen. If you find yourself, or your child, in a situation that concerns you, please talk to me as early as possible. Again, welcome to the chorus and have a super year!

Sincerely

Michelle DuChemin

LJHS Choral Director

Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy.

-Ludwig van Beethoven

Contacts and Web

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Chorus Web Site: www.lakesidechorus.com

Four Major Goals

There are four major goals that we will try to meet throughout the school year.

1. **QUALITY MUSICIANSHIP:** To become the best musician you can.
2. **SELF-DISCIPLINE:** The ability to control yourself and behave in a mature manner in all types of situations.
3. **STUDENT COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY:** Being informed and keeping your parents, and those involved, informed of choral activities including any and all changes that may occur. Making sure you attend all rehearsals and performances on time. We depend on you being with us to do your part.
4. **STUDENT EFFORT:** To do your best as an individual, and as a group member, at all times. Attitude is everything! Grades are designed so every student should do well by simply applying themselves both in the classroom and in performances.

Grades

Letter grades are based on the following:

- **50% Performance/rehearsals** (100% attendance at required events to receive full credit as well as 100% participation at these events.)
- **25% Class participation**; the effort that you put forth every day in class.
This is based on rehearsals. See rehearsal expectations.
- **25% Written work**; which includes notebooks/notes, quizzes, reviews, signature sheets, invitations and other writing assignments.

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59-0 = F

Conduct grades are based on the following:

- **O - No more than 3 off task behaviors**
- **S - No more than 6 off task behaviors**
- **N - No more than 9 off task behaviors**
- **U - 10 or more off task behaviors**

* NOTE * to be invited to any reward activity you must have an "O" in conduct!

Gum = INSTANT DETENTION! NO QUESTIONS ASKED! This is a safety issue. You can take a deep breath to sing and inhale gum. NO GUM ALLOWED!!

Rehearsal Expectations These expectations will provide each student's weekly participation grade.

- 1) **Every student is expected to be in their seat ready to begin rehearsal at the appropriate time.** (when the bell rings, early morning rehearsal time, etc.)
- 2) **Every student is expected to be prepared to work with all supplies.** (music, pencil, notes, etc.)
- 3) **Every student is expected to have proper posture at all times while singing.**
- 4) **Every student is expected to be a working, productive member of the group.** (no student should stop the flow of rehearsal by talking, using the restroom, moving around the room etc.)

When students follow the rules they will be rewarded with notes or phone calls home, special extra-curricular activities, better conduct grades, extra privileges, etc. When students fail to follow rules the following things will happen, in this order:

- Visual/verbal warning
- See teacher after class
- Note/phone home
- Before school detention
- Referral to the Assistant Principal
- Severe Clause: Removal from extra-curricular choral activities.

Outside of Class time Rehearsals

Even though we use class time to prepare for chorus concerts and events, there will be times when we will need to rehearse outside normal classroom time. These are important and are scheduled based on specific events. **Please make transportation arrangements prior to rehearsal times.** Any extra school rehearsal will be on the calendar at least **20 school days in advance** of the activity. Please check the chorus website at www.lakesidechorus.com regularly. Absence from a rehearsal will result in the following make-up: **a written explanation of your absence and a three-paragraph paper discussing what was covered in the rehearsal.** Your grade for the missed event will come from this work. If you are involved in other LJHS activities that might cause conflict, it is YOUR JOB TO INFORM ME!

Rehearsals are often short, so be on time. Arriving 10 minutes late for a 15 minute rehearsal accomplishes nothing; a little late is too late. Before every concert there are scheduled "morning rehearsals". These rehearsals are scheduled in advance on your calendar before every concert and allow all choruses to run through the entire concert before the actual day. **Morning rehearsals are required of all chorus students and are a part of their quarter grade**, meaning, an absence from these rehearsals will need to be made up. By having morning rehearsals, we eliminate the need for rehearsals in the evenings, which I know is a busy enough time for other activities. I plan the program so students can be involved in other activities as well as chorus at school. Other morning rehearsals have also been scheduled for extra choral events, for example, All County and Solo & Ensemble. All County and Solo & Ensemble are not required for any chorus student, however, once a student commits, these rehearsals then become required. Please make sure you can be at everything before you make a decision. The last set of morning rehearsals are for The Clay County Choral Critique. This is required for all choruses. Because we have a small chorus program, we sometimes combine choruses for this event. The students will learn the music in class, but we must practice all together at the extra rehearsals.

Performances

Chorus is a performance-based class, and so much of what we hope to accomplish is measured through our concerts. For this reason concerts are as important as any other part of your child's choral experience. **Concerts are to chorus what a written evaluation is to any other class.** Not only will we measure the success of nine weeks' worth of work at a concert, but we also hope to have a finished product that will be enjoyable to our audience as well.

All students will be expected to participate in all performances and extra rehearsals! All performances and rehearsals will be announced at least 20 school days in advance. Please check the calendar at www.lakesidechorus.com often. Updates will also be sent out through the website and quarterly newsletters. **Students are required to be at the entire concert in full uniform for all performances;** failure to show up in proper attire will mean a loss of points and in some cases loss of performance with the group.

Since performances are the "major project" for all choral students each quarter, EVERYONE will be expected to successfully perform their music and show audience skills for the choral director to receive their grade.

If your child does not attend a performance you must do the following:

1. **Submit a note from the parents explaining the absence**
2. **Make an appointment to sing the music for Mrs. DuChemin**
3. **Watch a video of the concert**
4. **Write a 3 paragraph review of the concert**

Students have two different roles at performances:

1. **As a performing group - 50% of Grade**
2. **As a member of the audience. - 50% of Grade**

I will expect the highest standards of all students at all performances in both capacities. The student will extend "professional courtesy" to the audience as well as the performing group. Professional courtesy will be defined as "treat others as you would have them treat you OR perform as the chorus director would expect you to". Any infraction of the professional courtesy rule will be treated with a lowering of the grade for the concert as well as a lowered conduct grade. Remember, your performance off the risers can often be more impressive than your performance on the risers. Concerts usually last about an hour to an hour and a half; you are expected to attend the entire performance...not just your part. The concert serves two functions, to show what you have learned this quarter and to learn from what others have learned this quarter!! If there is an emergency that requires that you leave early, be sure that this has been cleared, prior to the concert with the Director. Everyone is required to attend the entire concert to receive full credit for the event. If you do leave early for any reason, you will be required to make up the parts of the concert that you have missed. Although performance is not the only goal of the choral program, performance plays a vital role in meeting our goals. Attendance at all performances is important for two main reasons: (1) the morale of the section and the entire group is hurt by people who do not show up, and (2) a lack of attendance destroys the balance of the group thus affecting the quality of the performance. Naturally, when everyone is where they should be, we can do our best. It is very unfair to the rest of the group if someone must be asked to "cover" a part for which they may not have been trained. We expect to perform with the same number of students and the same balance of parts that we rehearse with.

The majority of our performances take place at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. If you do not attend an event with your child, please be prompt in picking your child up. Concerts are usually over by 8:30 PM. Any time we have to wait more than 15 minutes after an event with a child the parent or guardian will have to be present the entire time for the child to participate in the extra-curricular event.

Rehearsal and Concert Absences

Anytime a concert or rehearsal is missed a parent note must be submitted to the director ten school days prior to the event if you are aware of a conflict or two days after you return to school if it was an emergency, accident or severe illness. **TRANSPORTATION IS NEVER AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE.** You must make an appointment to sing your music for the director (50% of your grade). For the second part of your grade you can either

(1) attend another live performance, bring back a signed program and a three-paragraph review of the concert (The concert requires prior director approval.) OR (2) make arrangements with the Director to view the entire video of our concert and do a three paragraph review. Everything **MUST** be completed prior to the end of the quarter. Using school board criteria, the school administration will determine whether the absence is "excused" or "unexcused". If the student's absence is "excused", the student's grade will not be affected **PROVIDED** that the student comes and makes up **BOTH PARTS** of the event for the chorus teacher in the prescribed amount of time. The student could still be eligible for the Orlando Trip at the end of the year. However, if the student's absence is "unexcused" and he/she does not attend or make up **BOTH PARTS** of that performance or rehearsal for the chorus teacher in the prescribed amount of time, two things will happen: (1) the student fails that performance and (2) he/she becomes ineligible for the End of Year Trip. Naturally, an emergency, illness, or accident, cannot be planned. These absences (with a note signed from the parent, submitted within two school days of the students return to school) are usually excused, and the grade will not be affected **PROVIDED** that the make-up work is completed for the chorus teacher upon the student's return. The student may remain eligible for the End of Year Trip. Although the time to sing may not occur for several days the student **MUST** talk to the Director about setting up the appointment **RIGHT AWAY!! THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT!!!!**

Judged Activities

There are two annual judged events that we participate in... Clay County Choral Critique (CCCC) and Solo & Ensemble Festival (S&E).

CCCC: All students are required to take part in this event, as it is the stepping-stone to many other choral opportunities that await you during the year. CCCMF is a requirement for any other festival or out of town performance.

S&E: involves both piano and vocal solos as well as vocal ensembles of no more than 16 students. **S&E is not required, however, once you are invited and commit to the rehearsals and performance it becomes a part of your grade.**

Both Judged Activities are wonderful experiences for our students. They are financed by the chorus fee and have certain requirements:

- Students must have a 2.0 GPA.
- Parents must be willing to chaperon on an "as needed" basis for the event that their child enters.
- S&E becomes required only when YOU decided to participate. At that time they become a part of your grade.

County Activities

Every year in January, students are given the opportunity to audition for the Clay County All-County Choir. The Choir will rehearse and perform in **January 2024**. This is a WONDERFUL opportunity for the choral students from all over the county to work together with an outstanding clinician. The final results are astounding. **This event is not required BUT if you try out and are selected, it is treated like any other graded event. Once you commit and are selected you are required to perform at all All County rehearsals and concert.** You must have all chorus fees paid to audition. Do not audition and get a spot in the chorus if you do not intend to follow through. Auditions are in November with many morning and evening rehearsals in January and February.

Uniforms

Everyone is required to provide their own “concert black” uniform following the following guidelines:

- Black blouse or button up collar shirt
- Black floor length slacks or skirt
- Black closed toed dress shoes
- Royal blue “pop” of color - this can be a bow, tie, belt, broach, etc.

Every student must assemble their uniform and send a full length picture to Mrs. DuChemin before the concert. The due date is on the calendar. Please note that everything except your one pop of color must be completely black no writing or logos. You can find examples of appropriate uniform parts on our website: www.lakesidechorus.com.

Chorus Fees

Each chorus should contribute a chorus fee of \$60.00 for the 2023-2024 school year. The chorus fees keeps the director from “nickel and diming for every expense the group incurs. This fee will take care of all mandatory events and supplies. These include (but are not limited to)

- offsetting uniforms
- venue fees
- registration fees (All County, CCCC, S&E)
- awards
- accompanist fees (4 concerts, S&E, CCCC)
- music

Chorus fees can be paid in one payment or it can be spread out of 3 payments. Lack of participation in the chorus fee could prevent your child from participating in certain events. **THE CHORUS FEE IS NON- REFUNDABLE AND IS NOT PRORATED.** Students entering the program late will be assessed the full amount.

Optional Fun Field Trips

Because it is so hard to do the right thing and make the right choices, we like to reward the students that have followed through and completed tasks with a great attitude and good behavior. We have reward trips set up throughout the year. Students may participate in these trips by invitation only. **These trips are not required.**

Reward Invitation Requirements: (see the chorus calendar for dates and times)

Skating *See calendar for date*

Requirements –

- Fall Concert attendance
- Reserve Rehearsal attendance
- "O" in conduct
- Chorus Fee Paid
- All school field trip requirements

Prism Concert *See calendar for date*

Requirements –

- Chorus fees paid
- "O" in conduct
- All school field trip requirements

Wild Adventures *See calendar for date*

Requirements –

- Attend CCCC
- Participate in either All County or S&E
- Chorus fees paid
- "O" in conduct
- All school field trip requirements

Awards

Five types of awards are given each year.

***The Director's Award:** awarded by the Chorus Director to the student that has served the chorus in a most outstanding way.

***The Music Excellence Award:** awarded to students who participated in All County, Solo and Ensemble and End of Year Competition for two years.

***Outstanding Member:** selected by secret ballot by fellow students and awarded to the most outstanding member in each class.

***Most Improved Member:** selected by the Chorus Director and awarded to the most improved member in each class.

***Chorus Certificate:** awarded to students for one year of involvement with no unexcused absences from required events, no grade lower than an "A" in chorus and only an "S" or an "O" in conduct. To be eligible for the Director's Award or Outstanding Member Award you must have only "S" or "O" in conduct and no missed required events.

Lakeside Jr. High Chaperon Regulations

CHAPERONAGE REGULATIONS (TO BE STRICTLY ENFORCED)

1. No student should be allowed to accompany a group on a trip until he has agreed, in writing, to abide by the rules set up and has submitted the written consent of his parents for him to make the trip.
2. All chaperons should be approved by the local school district. It is required that the person in charge of the trip shall be a teacher. No other individuals should be allowed to travel with the group.
3. Travel in private cars should be avoided as much as possible. Driving into the wee small hours in the morning to return home should be ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED. A chaperon must be in each car.
4. Chaperons should be sure to have all rooms checked before leaving hotels and motels so that damages, if any, can be determined immediately.
5. A curfew should be set by chaperons and all members of the group notified. The time should allow a reasonable amount of time after the close of the last event. It is strongly recommended that your curfew be no later than 11:00 p.m.
6. Chaperons should never retire until all students are checked in for the night, all visiting between rooms has stopped and the chaperons are reasonably sure that the groups are quiet and in their rooms.
7. Chaperons should keep an accurate check on the members of the group assigned to them at all times.
8. Students should engage in school activities of group nature only. Under no circumstances will social dates involving students be allowed.
9. Hotel rooms are bedrooms. Under no circumstances should students of opposite sex visit, play cards, or entertain guests in their hotel rooms. If a student is to entertain a visitor, he should check with his chaperon and receive permission to do so in the hotel lobby.
10. When a student has been assigned to a group or a chaperon, he is to remain with the group at all times unless other traveling arrangements are made prior to the time of departure.
11. No student should be permitted to visit relatives or friends while on a trip without previous arrangements of his parents with the director or chaperon.
12. Students should wear appropriate clothing at all times. Everyone: shoes at all times. Free time: pants, shirts, swim suits, according to activity as long as good taste is exercised.

Lakeside Jr. High Chaperon Regulations Continued

CHAPERONAGE REGULATIONS (TO BE STRICTLY ENFORCED)

13. If a group includes members of each sex, there should be chaperons from each sex or arrangements made with a chaperon from another school so that responsibilities may be shared.
14. Use of any tobacco products is prohibited.
15. When the housing makes close supervision impossible or when rooms are easily accessible by outsiders; a security officer is recommended during the evening and/or night hours.
16. Alcohol in any form is absolutely prohibited.
17. Illegal use of drugs in any form is absolutely prohibited.
18. Policies are of no value unless they are rigidly adhered to.
It is not a matter of discretion on the part of chaperons as to whether or not they are to be adhered to. Regulations once decided upon should be carried through.