

Lee's Summit West High School

Choral Handbook

2009-2010



Director: Amy L. Krinke

Accompanist: Terrin Pabst

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Dear Titan Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Lee's Summit West Choral Music Department! I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your choral director. As we embark on another year of great music making, you will find that I have extremely high expectations for you as a member of the LSW choral program. It is my goal not only to sustain the level of quality that has been established here over the past 5 years, but to reach for even higher standards and push ourselves to the next level, both musically and emotionally. We can only achieve this through dedication, discipline, compassion, and a great work ethic. I will demand your best effort in every rehearsal and, in return, I will give every bit of myself to create with you a musical experience that is exciting, challenging, passionate and inspiring!

This Handbook is designed to be a reference for you and your parents. Regardless of the choral ensemble you are involved in, you are responsible for understanding the contents of this handbook and how this information applies to you. In order to offer the many activities within the department, we require parental support and encouragement, both physically and financially. I hope that you will take a moment to look over this information carefully. In an active program like this one, your cooperation and support helps insure a successful experience for all.

Welcome, and have a wonderful year!

Mrs. Krinke

Course Descriptions

Freshman Women's Choir

The Freshman Women's Choir is a select auditioned ensemble. The Middle School Choral Director recommends the singer for the choir. It is a two-semester course in which the student may earn one unit of Fine Arts credit. The curriculum is designed to further develop the singing voice, ear training, sight-singing skills and competency in reading three and four part voicing. Phonetics of various languages and a variety of musical styles are presented. Work includes singing exercises to build and strengthen the voice, improve diction, breath support and resonance. Music Theory and Music History are also included in daily instruction. Sight-singing technique is practiced on a daily basis. Additional work includes singing in small ensembles, written tests, singing tests, and required evening performances. Early morning or evening rehearsals will also be required. This class meets 1st hour daily.

Men's Choir

The Men's Choir is a select auditioned ensemble of men grades 9-12. The Middle School Choir Director either recommends the singer for the choir or they audition for the High School Director. It is a two-semester course in which the student may earn one unit of Fine Arts credit. The curriculum is designed to help young singers understand and develop the changing male voice, ear-training, sight-singing skills, and competency in reading three and four part voicing. A variety of music styles are presented. Work includes singing exercises to build, strengthen, and carefully guide the voice through its change to improve diction, breath support and resonance. Music Theory and Music History are also included in the daily instruction. Sight singing technique will be included on a daily basis. Additional work includes singing in small ensembles, written tests, singing tests, and required evening performances. Early morning or evening rehearsals will also be required. This class meets 3rd hour daily.

Women's Choir

The Women's Choir is a select, auditioned choir of women, grades 10-12. The director auditions the singers. It is a two-semester course in which the student may earn one unit of Fine Arts credit. The curriculum is designed to help young women further develop freedom, beauty and maturity in the singing voice. It is also designed to empower singers with more advanced ear training, sight-singing skills, and competency in reading four part and double choir voicing. Phonetics of various languages and a variety of musical styles are presented. Work includes singing exercises to expand the range and flexibility of the voice, improve diction, breath support and resonance. Music Theory and Music History are also included on a daily basis. Additional work includes singing in small ensembles, written tests, singing tests, and required evening performances. Early morning rehearsals will also be required. This class meets 2nd hour daily.

Concert Chorale

The Concert Chorale is an advanced mixed choral ensemble for the dedicated and serious musicians, grades 10-12. The director auditions singers in January of the previous school year. It is a two-semester course in which students may earn one unit of Fine Arts credit. Concert Chorale provides opportunities for the further development of a mature singing voice and sight-singing independence. Students perform a variety of choral compositions of contrasting periods and styles: major works and double choir works are included. Students continue to expand their musical knowledge through the study of harmony, melodic and harmonic dictation, and Music History. Guest performers and clinicians are occasionally utilized in the rehearsal setting. Expectations include a sincere desire to improve understanding and technique. Some out of school rehearsal and activities occur throughout the year. Students are required to attend all performances. This class meets 4th hour daily.

Una Voce Chamber Choir

This choir meets during 5C daily and on Monday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Students must be enrolled in Concert Choir to audition and are selected by the director. These students are auditioned in February of the previous year. This class is for the highly motivated and talented choral musician. Students are required to purchase a tuxedo and evening gown for this ensemble. Only the most advanced choral music is performed. It requires many outside performances for the community; therefore, the singer must maintain an exceptionally high grade point average. Optional credit is granted for this course.

Student Expectations

The success of a choir depends on how it rehearses. How it rehearses depends on the conduct and cooperation of the students. Be attentive and cooperative in observing these rehearsal expectations. When the director has to discipline rather than direct, the rehearsal and eventually the choir is headed for failure. Good behavior, attitude and self-discipline are essential to producing a GREAT CHOIR. If you are successful, the Choir is successful.

- Students are expected to project a POSITIVE and RESPECTFUL attitude toward all students, accompanists, and teachers.
- Students are to be **STANDING** on the risers in their assigned 'verticals' with their *music* and their *pencil* immediately following the bell.
- Students are to be on task and attentive throughout the entire rehearsal, maintaining a calm and focused approach to learning and rehearsing.
- Students are expected to not be a disruption to the learning environment in any way.
- Students will not have gum, candy, food or drinks in class. Having a clear water bottle is the only exception.
- Students will not play the piano or any other instruments unless requested to do so. Students are not to be in offices or practice rooms unless requested to do so.

** If a student fails to meet any of these expectations, their rehearsal contribution grade will be lowered accordingly. A subsequent offense will lead to a conference with the Mrs. Krinke. A third offense will mark the beginning of the LSW commitment process and the director will make a phone call to the parent. If a student cannot work in this environment, a schedule change will be made.

Grading Criteria

Rehearsal Contribution (45%)

Grades are calculated MONTHLY using the rubric below, and are based upon the Student Expectations.

100 points - A	Earned by students who meet and exceed the student expectations. They <u>never</u> need to be corrected by the director. They rehearse to their potential consistently. They are consistently an asset to the learning environment.
85 points - B	Earned by students who usually meet the student expectations. They occasionally need to be redirected by the director. They rehearse to their potential most of the time. Most of the time, they are an asset to the learning environment.
70 points - C	Earned by students who sometimes meet the student expectations. They frequently need to be redirected by the director. They often do not work to their potential. They are occasionally a distraction to the learning environment.
55 points - D	Earned by students who may participate, but do not meet the student expectations. They consistently need redirection. They do not work to their potential. They are a distraction to the learning environment.
0 Points - F	Earned by students who are present for class, but choose to not participate in class activities.

** Class Attendance: Students do not need to complete make-up work for missed rehearsal until they have had 5 absences from choir. Once they have had 5 absences, they will need to complete make-up work assigned at the discretion of the director.*

Concert Performance (35%)

STUDENTS MUST ATTEND ALL REQUIRED PERFORMANCES. Work is not an excuse! Not having a ride is not an excuse! Having to babysit your siblings is not an excuse! Etc! Use the calendar provided to clear your schedule and request off of work NOW!

Family emergencies and/or illness must have a written excuse from a parent/guardian PRIOR to the missed performance. If the time frame does not allow for prior written notification, the parent/guardian must contact the office phone voicemail as soon as possible. 986-1499 Ext. 8974. If the absence is deemed 'excused' by the director, then the concert points may be made up. If a parent/guardian fails to notify the director of an absence prior to the performance, it will be considered unexcused and points may not be made up. The student's grade will be lowered one full letter grade for each unexcused required performance.

Students must wear the required concert attire. Inappropriate concert dress will result in a deduction of points. Incorrect attire will also prevent the student from performing with the choir.

Students will attend the ENTIRE concert. Students may not leave the concert after performing with their choir. It is important that each student support the entire choral program. It is only polite and also a very important part of the total music education. Early departures from concerts will result in a 50% grade reduction. Students will behave appropriately and be a quiet and polite listener during performances. Students who have discipline issues at concerts may have their concert points reduced accordingly. (proper concert etiquette will be discussed in class)

**** Failure to comply with ANY of the above criteria will be dealt with at the discretion of the director and the student's concert grade will be reduced accordingly.**

Written Work and Exams (20%) Written work will consist of music theory, sight-singing, dictation, etc. Exams will include singing tests, sight-singing tests, and a Final Exam (10%)

Concert Attire

Proper attire is considered an integral part of the performing aspect of this course. Each choir has a specific "uniform" listed below. Students who arrive to the concert without the assigned apparel will NOT be eligible to perform, thus resulting in a loss of the performance points.

Freshman Women's Choir

The women of Freshman women's Choir will be asked to furnish a 'Concert Black' outfit to fit the following specifications:

- A black button down blouse (purchased through the choral department for \$30.00)
- Solid Black dress slacks (no patterns or pin stripes, SOLID BLACK)
- Black CLOSED TOED dress shoes
- Black Hosiery, stockings, or socks

Men's Choir

The men of this choir will wear a black suit coat and tie (provided by the school). The coat and tie are the property of the Lee's Summit School District. If they are damaged, lost, stolen, or mishandled in any way, the student is financially responsible for its replacement. Men must purchase a blue button down shirt (purchased through the choral department for \$35.00). The men also need to provide:

- Solid black dress slacks
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks
- A Black belt

Women's Choir

The women of this choir will be asked to purchase a concert gown through the Music Department (more information coming soon!) The women also need to provide:

- Black CLOSED TOED dress shoes
- Black hosiery

Concert Choir

The members of this ensemble will be issued a Concert Chorale Robe and Stole. The robes may only be dry-cleaned. A \$25 robe fee is due on Friday, August 28th (checks are preferred and should be made payable to LSWHS). This choir robe is the property of the Lee's Summit School District. If the robe or stole is damaged, lost, stolen, or mishandled in any way, the student is financially responsible for its replacement. Women of the choir are to wear concert black, black hosiery, and black closed toed dress shoes under the robe. Men should wear a white, long sleeved dress shirt, black tie, black dress slacks, black socks, and black shoes.

Una Voce Chamber Choir

Women of this ensemble will purchase an evening gown and shoes. Men will purchase a tuxedo, shirt, vest, tie and shoes.

LSW Choir Calendar

Mandatory dates are highlighted

<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Una Voce Retreat	Aug. 14-17	All Weekend	YMCA Ozarks Potosi, MO
** Dairy Queen Performance	Sept. 10 Thursday	6:00 p.m.	LSW Courtyard
All-District Choir Auditions	Oct. 3 Saturday	All Day	LSW
** Fall Concert	Oct. 15 Thursday	7:00 Perf. Call: TBA	LSW PAC
All-State Choir Auditions	Oct. 24 Saturday	1:00-5:00	LSW
Musical Auditions (Chorus Line)	Nov. 19-20	After school	LSW PAC
** Holiday Concert	Dec. 10 Thursday	7:00 Perf. Call: TBA	LSW PAC
All-District Choir/Band/Orchestra (by audition)	Jan. 9 Saturday	All-Day	LSHS
9-10 Honor Choir All-District Women's Choir (by audition)	Jan. 23 Saturday	8:00-5:00	William Jewell College
MMEA Convention Tan-Tar-A (by audition)	Jan. 27-30	-	Lake of the Ozarks
Musical Production	Feb. 19-20 Feb. 26-28	7:00	LSW PAC
SLMS Choir Invitational (Chamber Choir only)	Feb. 23	4:30 – 6:00	SLMS
MSHSAA District Festival Solo and Small Ensemble	March 5 Friday	3:00 – 10:00 p.m.	LSW
** Pre-Contest Evening Rehearsal (WOMEN)	March 2 Tuesday	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	LSW PAC
** Pre-Contest Evening Rehearsal (MEN)	March 4 Thursday	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	LSW PAC
** PRE-CONTEST CONCERT	March 8 Monday	7:00 p.m.	LSW PAC
** PRECONTEST Evening Rehearsal	March 22 Monday	5:30 – 6:45 Women 7:00– 8:15 Men 8:30-9:15 Una Voce	LSW PAC
** MSHSAA Large Ensemble State Festival	March 27 Saturday	All Day	LSW
** Parade of Choirs	April 20 Tuesday	7:00	LSW Fieldhouse
MSHSAA State Festival Solo/Ensemble	April 30 Friday	All Day	MU-Columbia
** Friday Nite LIVE!	May 7 Friday	7:00	LSW PAC
Music Awards	May 11 Tuesday	7:00	LSW PAC

LSW Music Parents

We acknowledge that parent and community involvement and support for our program is our greatest asset. LSW Music Parents is a group of exceptionally dedicated and supportive parents who provide organization and support for all music students through fundraising activities, chaperoning, rehearsal and concert support as well as helping the students create wonderful memories in a quality music program. Please get involved with this fabulous organization!

Our choir liaison this year is Lisa Houston: E-mail - slogrown1@hotmail.com
Home Phone - 816-246-6402.

Eligibility for MSHSAA Events

Students must be passing 6 classes in order to be eligible to perform in MSHSAA sponsored activities and/or athletics. Students may continue to practice but will not be allowed to compete until they are passing at least 6 of their classes. This affects choir members in the following ways:

- If failing, choir members may not participate at any MSHSAA sponsored Contest. Failing students may only participate in LSW concerts and/or events, as it is not a competition and is part of their academic grade.
- Failing students may not audition or participate in honor ensembles such as KC Metro All-District Choir, Missouri All-State Choir, 9-10 District Honor Choir, ACDA Honor Ensembles, etc.
- Make-Up assignments will be assigned accordingly if a student is ineligible to perform at MSHSAA events that are a part of the grade.

Lettering in Choir

To letter in choir you will need to complete a lettering form in the spring. The basic lettering requirements are that you are enrolled in Choir for the entire school year, maintain an A in scholarship and citizenship in all music classes, and be at all required performances. You must also take a solo or small ensemble to District Contest and receive at least a II rating. Lettering with Distinction, Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude will be determined in the spring.

Required Materials

Students will be required to purchase a ½ in black binder through the choral department for \$3.00. This is where you will keep the music that is being 'leant' to you. You will have an assigned storage slot for your folder in the choir room. You are responsible for storing your folder in that slot and bringing it with you to the risers every day. Failure to do this will result in a reduction of your weekly Rehearsal Contribution grade. Your choir folder is the equivalent of a textbook for your other classes. You **MUST** have it everyday. If the folder is lost, destroyed, misplaced, etc. the student is financially responsible for its contents.

Student and Parent Contract

I, _____, have read and understand my responsibilities as outlined in this handbook for membership in the Lee's Summit West Choral Department.

I understand that Choir is a performance based class, and that performances outside of the school day are a required component of the overall grade. I acknowledge that I have received a calendar with all required dates for this school year. I have read and understand the procedures outlined in this handbook regarding absences to concerts and required rehearsals.

I agree to do my part as a contributing member of the LSW Choral Department. As the parent/guardian, I agree to support those policies as they apply to my student.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____

Parent Email Contact: _____

Parent Phone Number Home: _____

Work: _____

COPY

This copy is for your records.
The yellow contract is due on Friday, August 21

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Parent Phone Number Home: _____

Work: _____