

Lakeside Middle School Concert Choir

Director: Ms. Wichmann
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Hi, I'm so glad you're here! Welcome to the Lakeside Middle School Concert Choir. 😊
This year, we'll be diving into the nuts and bolts of vocal technique and breath management, while exploring the nuances of choral singing. This is a safe, supportive, and judgment free zone. We'll be working together this year to develop a choral community where we are creative, expressive, hard-working, and collaborative. As we work towards personal, group, and performance goals, we will support each other with kindness, respect, and compassion. I'm so excited to get to know each of you, and I look forward to helping you explore your unique voice, improve your vocal skills/technique, and work towards our collaborative goals while having fun. Go, Eagles!

What to Expect:

Community Norms

During the first week of class, we will come up with community agreements that will help us accomplish our work together in a positive, professional manner.

School Rules (See the Student Handbook for more information)

1. Behavior.
 - a. Do the right thing
 - b. Work hard
 - c. Be yourself
 - d. SOAR! Be Safe, Own your actions, **Act Responsibly and with Respect.**
2. No cell phones. (Please see the Student Handbook for more information)
 - a. Phone visible = warning
 - b. 2nd time = phone in the basket, administration notified
3. Dismissal.
 - a. The teacher dismisses students, not the bell.
4. Physical.
 - a. Keep hands/feet/objects to yourself.
5. Dress code.
 - a. Keep it appropriate, no hoods, no midriffs, skirts/shorts below fingertip length.
6. Don't get expelled!
 - a. No harassment, fighting, weapons, drugs, or alcohol.

Restroom & Water breaks:

Please try to take care of these things before, or after class. If you must, please show me the W sign for water or the R sign for the restroom. A nod from me means that you may go, quickly please!

Being Ready for Class:

When you arrive in the auditorium, please get your choir folder and a pencil, and then go and sit in the central auditorium seats. **All food/snacks/beverages other than water should be put away before class starts.**

Choir Room Expectations:

1. Students are allowed on stage when an instructor is present, or when specific permission is granted.
2. Students can only use the director's telephone with the director's permission.
3. Students must ask to use the stereo.
4. No students are allowed in the office without permission.
5. No food, gum, or drinks (except water) are allowed in the auditorium.

Other Expectations:

1. All school codes of conduct, choir expectations, and government laws apply to any choir concerts/events/trips. Failure to meet expectations may result in removal from the activity and the student being transported home at the parent/guardian's expense.
2. Be mindful and respectful of the equipment on stage. Many dollars have been spent to purchase audio equipment, and it's expected that you'll treat all equipment with care.

Performances

All performances will be at Lakeside Middle School unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, November 6	7:00 pm
Fall Concert with Lakeside High School Choir	
Wednesday, December 18	7:00 pm
Holiday Concert with Lakeside High School Choir	
Friday, December 20	7:30am-2:00 pm
Caroling Trip w/Lakeside High School Choir	
Tuesday, March 20	7:00 pm
Choir Festival Concert with Lakeside High School Choir	
March, Dates/times TBD	
NorthEast Music Educators Association Choir Festival	
Wednesday, May 21	7:00 pm
Finale Concert with Lakeside High School Choir	

Additional Performance Opportunities:

Solo/duet/feature during a regular concert, time permitting!

- Auditions will be held three weeks before the concert. You must be performance ready when you audition.

Solo and Ensemble festival (Dates TBD- Spring)

- Prepare a solo or duet to sing for a panel of professional musicians that will give you a score and constructive feedback to help you grow as a musician. If you're interested in participating, communicate that to Mrs. Dorfman when the time comes. We will choose repertoire, set a rehearsal schedule, and organize a performance for me or your peers prior to the festival.

Grading Policy:

To be successful, we all need to do our best. You will be graded on your **effort** to excel in the following areas.

Professionalism (40% of your grade):

- Preparation: Please come to class ready to work. Keep your choir folder organized and have a pencil ready to go.
- Attitude: Everyone has days that they struggle, but are you a positive, respectful, contributing member of our choir most days? That's the goal!

Vocal Technique (25% of your grade):

- Tone Production:
 - Resonance & Vowels: Discover the voice through vowel shape and space; chordal tuning.
 - Vocal Independence: Sing simple melodies clearly and accurately.
 - Intonation: Generating good pitch through unison singing, vowel matching, and chordal tuning.
- Breathing for Singing:
 - Breath management: Learn to breathe together and extend exhalation.
 - Dynamics: Discover dynamics through ensemble and sectional singing.
- Choral Techniques:
 - Blend & Balance: Learn to listen to each other through matching vowels/sectional volume.
 - Articulation: Develop clear articulation using text as a guide.
 - Diction: Learn to enunciate together with open vowels and precise consonants.

Musicianship (25% of your grade):

- Artistry
 - Rhythm (precision, clarity, expression): Discover rhythm, pulse, and energy, and sing simple rhythms accurately.
 - Expression & Artistry (style, form, expression): Express the mood of a song through varied dynamics and articulation.
- Music Reading
 - Rhythm & Musical Markings: Learn basic meters, note values, tempo markings, and dynamics.
 - Melody, Intervals, & Audiation: Learn & explore basic melodies, intervals, key signatures, chords, & 2-part harmony.

Performances (10% of your grade):

- Attire: Are you wearing our agreed-upon dress?
- Attitude: Are you showing up to support yourself and your colleagues? Are you carrying yourself with pride and professionalism?
- Effort: Did you try your best?