



## 2021-2022 Choir Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide important information to choir members and their parents/guardians regarding choir objectives, activities and organization, student rights and responsibilities, expectations for personal and group conduct, policies relating to attendance, grading, awards, and our schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. **Please read these pages thoroughly, then sign and return the attached Mutual Consent Form and Student Information Form.** . Please pay particular attention to the Choir Activities Schedule. Please add concert dates on your family calendars and make them a priority in planning your family activities for the school year. Your support of the choral program is most appreciated and absolutely essential to the success of LSHS Choirs.

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# **Choir Mission Statement**

The mission of the LSHS Choral Department is to cultivate, educate and nurture the musical talent and creativity of our students. We will accomplish this through performance excellence, music literacy, history and exposure to a variety of musical styles and genres. Our goal is to make music a lifelong passion in each of our students' lives.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As a member of the Lakeville South High School Choirs, you are an important part of an organization that takes pride in a long-standing tradition of excellence in musical performance. Singing in choir provides you with the opportunity to work as a team with other talented students toward common goals that include refining our performing skills, understanding and appreciating the art of music more fully and sharing the joys of musical performance with our audiences and each other. The objectives, policies and expectations outlined in this handbook have been established to help ensure a positive, worthwhile, artistic and fun choral experience for everybody involved.

## **CHORAL MUSIC COURSE OBJECTIVES**

### **Choral music students will:**

- 1) Learn through performing, listening, and studying a variety of choral music representing the major historical periods of western music, music of other world cultures, and popular music.
- 2) Understand the basic concepts of healthy, efficient vocal production and sing with proper vocal technique.
- 3) Demonstrate a working knowledge of music fundamentals and the ability to recognize and interpret the musical terms and symbols in the literature studied.
- 4) Demonstrate growth in the areas of musicianship including sight-reading, pitch and rhythmic accuracy, independence in part and solo singing.
- 5) Develop positive attitudes about singing and the ability to make informed aesthetic judgments about music performed or heard.
- 6) Grow in confidence and self-esteem through public performance.
- 7) Experience the joy of working together as a team to realize our shared group goals.

# LSHS CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

## Courses and Activities

### Choral Courses

**Chorale.** Select mixed chorus, grades 11-12. Chorale performs in 4 major home concerts, the South Suburban Choir Festival and takes an extended tour on alternate years.

**Bel Canto.** Treble voices, grades 10-12. Performs at four major home concerts each year, and the South Suburban Conference Treble Festival.

**Cougar Choir.** Non-auditioned mixed choir open to singers in grades 9-12. Performs in four major home concerts.

**Encore.** Select mixed ensemble, specializing in the performance of vocal jazz, a cappella pop and chamber literature. Performs regularly at community functions, a cappella festivals, home choir concerts, and presents Encore Night in June. Auditions are held in the spring for the following year.

### Co-curricular Activities

**Harmony.** Select Women's Ensemble performs a variety of literature, including vocal jazz, pop, and madrigals. Sings at home concerts and region solo/ensemble contest. One/two rehearsals per week depending on schedule. Auditions in the fall.

**The Tritones.** Select Men's Ensemble performs a variety of literature, including vocal jazz, pop, and madrigals. Sings at home concerts and region solo/ensemble contest. One/two rehearsals per week depending on schedule Auditions in the Fall.

**Tour Choir.** LSHS Choirs are on a biannual tour schedule. In Spring of 2022, LSHS Choirs will tour Southern France and Northern Italy.

**Spring Musical.** Fully staged Broadway musical presented in April. Auditions in early second semester (February). There are many opportunities for lead singing and acting roles, chorus people, dancers and stage crew.

**Solo/Ensemble Contest.** Choir members have the opportunity to participate as soloists, ensemble members or both at the Region I-AA Solo/Ensemble Contest. Performances are heard by qualified adjudicators who give constructive comments and score each performance to determine a rating for a possible medal or certificate -- a great learning experience for singers. Participants may also perform at a local recital.

**Regional Festivals.** Select individuals will have the opportunity to participate in major festivals in the area;

**MMEA All-State Choir.** Auditions are held for sophomores and juniors in March for the All-State Choir program. Audition involves performing a prepared solo and a sight-reading skills check. Singers who are selected spend one week in August on a college campus as a member of an elite Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus or Mixed Choir and perform again in February with their group at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

**9-10 Honor Choir.** Online auditions will be made in late September for select 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Recorded audition will be made at school, sent in and judged by members of ACDA. Students who are selected students will perform with the group at the winter convention of MMEA.

### **CHORAL SINGER'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

As members of a choir, as with any family or team who work together for a common purpose, we each have certain rights, all of which carry with them certain responsibilities. An awareness of both our rights and our responsibilities to others in the choir is absolutely essential to our success as a group!

#### **Rights**

1. Be respected
2. Be in an engaged rehearsal
3. Have pride in your performance
4. Use high quality materials

#### **Responsibilities**

1. Be POSITIVE and respectful to all
2. Be focused and present
3. Always seek to improve
4. Take care of materials entrusted to you

### **CHOIR ROOM EXPECTATIONS**

We all want to be part of a class act. These guidelines for behavior in rehearsal will enable us to help each other to become a choir of which we can be truly proud.

- 1) Be neat and litter-free.
- 2) Be present in the ensemble. Put your cell phone away.
- 3) Only water is allowed.
- 4) Read the white board daily, but refrain from writing on it.
- 5) If you want to use equipment, ASK.
- 6) POSITIVE language at all times.
- 7) EXHIBIT HIGH SCHOOL BEHAVIOR.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Consequences of persistent failure to accept responsibilities: warning, individual reprimand, private conference, referral to parents and dean, reduction of grade, loss of credit, permanent dismissal from choir.

## CHOIR ORGANIZATION/JOB DESCRIPTIONS

**Director.** Employed by the school district to develop quality choirs and vocal ensembles and provide outstanding musical experiences for students. The director, therefore, is primarily responsible for decisions in matters pertaining to those groups and their activities, including selection of appropriate repertoire. *Suggestions and input from choir members are encouraged*, either directly or via elected or appointed student leaders.

**Choir Members.** Responsible for helping your choir become the best it can be by striving to become the best singer you can be. Members are also encouraged to support the group by helping out with committee work, concert staging, etc. Whenever student leaders are put in a position of responsibility, all choir members are expected to respect their efforts through complete cooperation.

**Choir Officers.** Elected by the membership of the choir to provide for student participation in the planning and carrying out of musical, social and fund-raising activities throughout the school year. The Choir Council for each choir consists of four positions. Officers are requested to check-in with their director once per week outside of class time.

**President.** Officially recognized **student leader** of the choir and assistant to the director. Responsible for seeing that the right things happen when the director is not present in the room. Serves as a **positive role model** for others in the choir. Chorale President is responsible for organizing crews to set up the stage before concerts and to strike the stage afterward, and coordinate publicity for choir events. He/she is also responsible for planning and organizing social activities.

**Vice-President.** Responsible for choir student and parent communication on social media. Responsible for seeing that photos are taken and displayed on bulletin boards throughout the year. Assists the President whenever help is needed to fulfill assigned responsibilities. Fills in for Secretary when he/she is absent.

**Treasurer.** Responsible for keeping *complete/accurate records* whenever money is involved, such as fund-raisers, choir apparel, field trips, etc. Deposits money in the office, signs vouchers, files receipts.

**Secretary.** Records attendance and tardiness at daily rehearsals, festivals and concerts. Responsible for communications, including thank you notes when appropriate and cards to members in cases of extended illness. Notifies director of birthdays in the group. Coordinates Uniform handout/take in.

**Music Librarian.** Is in charge of student folders, makes sure that folders are complete with all music.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

*You get only one chance to make a first impression. Appearance counts!*

**Bel Canto/ Cougar Choir .** A robe and stole will be assigned by number to each singer to wear at concerts throughout the year. Only wear the robe assigned to you. Required attire with robes: black pant or skirt tight and black dress shoes.

**Chorale.** Each singer will be assigned a black formal dress or tux coat .

**Dress requirement:** black closed toe dress shoes, black tights

**Tuxedo requirement:** white shirt, black dress pant, black dress shoes and black socks.

Uniforms will be distributed by a choir officer. It is the responsibility of each individual to check out and in his/her own uniform on the proper hanger, in the proper bag, for each performance.

**Encore.** Encore students will need both formal and non formal wear for their events. More information to follow.

**Harmony.** Harmony students will need a blue formal to wear for their events. More information to follow.

**TriTones.** TriTones will need a black shirt, black dress pants and tie to wear for their events. More information to follow.

## ATTENDANCE POLICIES

**Daily Rehearsals.** Daily participation is critical for any student to achieve choir objectives. You need to be here to learn the music and positively contribute to our group effort. Daily participation points will be applied toward final grades. Students and parents also need to be familiar with the Lakeville South High School attendance policies and procedures as spelled out in the Student Management Policies. Excessive absences can result in loss of credit for any course, including choir.

**Punctuality.** Being on time means being in the room before the bell rings and in your place ready to begin warm-ups within one minute of the bell. If you have to be late because of business with another teacher or the office please bring a pass. Any tardies without a pass will be considered 'unexcused'

**Special Rehearsals.** Rehearsals outside the regular school day will occasionally be scheduled in preparation for a performance and it is an important responsibility of all singers to be available to participate. Dates and times of special rehearsals will be posted no less than two weeks in advance to allow time to resolve conflicts with jobs, etc. Unavoidable conflicts and absences should be handled the same as for public performances.

**Public Performances.** Concerts provide us with the opportunity to share the music we have learned with the public, our families and friends and are an essential aspect of the experience of being in choir. It is a very special gift to be able to communicate with others through the language and emotion of music. **The contributions of every singer are vital to the success of our concerts and all choir members are expected to participate in all public performances.**

A schedule of our performances for the year is included at the end of this handbook. Please take time today to get these dates and times on your personal and family calendars and make them a priority in your planning for the year, including work schedules, family vacations, etc.

*According to school policy, to participate in activities outside the school day, including concerts and special rehearsals, a student must be in attendance a minimum of three class hours the day of the event.*

## GRADING POLICY

### Rehearsal Observation (25%)

Each student's level of involvement in daily rehearsals will be evaluated. Criteria include: 1) physical effort, including proper singing posture, 2) positive attitude and leadership, 3) attention paid to directions from teacher, student directors or section leaders, 4) cooperation with rehearsal procedures including score marking and bringing required materials, 5) cooperation with stated choir room policies.

### Concert Participation (25%)

Concert attendance is a must. The others in the ensemble rely on everyone for a polished performance. In putting together the calendar, every effort has been made to avoid LSHS event conflicts. The school policy on the priority of events will be followed. If a student is unable to attend a performance, the director should be advised as soon as possible. Any absence from a performance requires **prior** approval by the director. The only **acceptable absences** from a performance are:

- You are ill the day of the performance and are absent from school. Please email Mrs. Brott, [Julie.brott@isd194.org](mailto:Julie.brott@isd194.org) to report your absence.
- A family emergency occurs. Please email Mrs. Brott, [Julie.brott@isd194.org](mailto:Julie.brott@isd194.org) to report your absence.

For a missed performance with notification prior to the concert, an alternative “comparable” experience will be necessary. This applies to performances missed for suspension from school. Since our performances are similar to major exams, absence is not taken lightly. An individual performance of the concert repertoire will be required, as well as volunteering to help in the music library. A calendar of all performances is found at the back of this handbook and on the webpage.

Students with jobs are expected to participate in concerts and special rehearsals regardless of work responsibilities. Most potential conflicts can be eliminated with good planning, so it's important to inform employers early on of your commitment to choir on days and evenings of scheduled choir activities. If you have trouble getting excused from work, a phone call from the director is almost always effective (provided adequate notice is given).

**Written Assessments and Sight Singing(25%)**

Each student will be expected to demonstrate in classroom activities and written tests mastery of the topics covered each quarter in music theory and history. Written Assignments will consist of listening forms, performance evaluations, vocal improvement form etc.

**Vocal Technique/Musicianship/Singing Tests (25%)**

Each student will demonstrate his/her ability to accurately and artistically perform assigned parts from the repertoire studied in individual and/or small group testing each quarter. Each student will be expected to demonstrate growth in the area of sight-reading. Each student will be expected to demonstrate understanding and progress in mastery of specific vocal techniques covered.

## VOICE LESSON PROGRAM

With school back in person and in the building full time, we are so excited to bring back into the building our Voice Lesson program that has been offered at South since this High School opened in 2005.

As a choir member at Lakeville South High School, your son/daughter has the opportunity to study voice with a private voice teacher during the school day. This is a wonderful opportunity for a young singer to explore his/her own voice, learn healthy vocal technique, study solo vocal repertoire, and prepare for performance opportunities. Throughout the years, this enrichment program has been recognized as a significant contribution to the overall choral program here as well as many high schools in the metro area.

Lessons are typically scheduled during choir for ½ of a class period (students may be excused from choir once a week for a lesson). Some teachers may also be available for after school lessons. Tuition, billed monthly, quarterly or on a payment plan and directly to each student, is based on a rate of \$27 per lesson and paid directly to the voice teacher. Accommodations are made for conflicting school events and holidays.

Mrs. Brott presented this opportunity to the choir students during the “voice lesson kick off day” the first week of school, and sign-up sheets were passed around. Based on this information, the voice teachers make follow up calls to parents/students to discuss the opportunity.

Though every effort is made to call all students from the sign up sheets, there is a chance that not all students from the lists will be contacted, as the names are called in no particular order and once the studios are filled, remaining students are put on a waiting list. *If you know that your child is interested do not wait for a call*, but rather, contact a teacher yourself (listed below).

We look forward to working with your child.

Sincerely,

*Voice teachers at Lakeville South High School*

Deb Schlager (612) 867-8941 [schlagerdeb@yahoo.com](mailto:schlagerdeb@yahoo.com)

Claudia Lund (612) 599-3494 [Lundstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:Lundstudio@hotmail.com)

## **FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

Opportunities will be provided for choir members to earn funds for extended trips, field trips, choir shirts, etc. As this is a tour year, we have many opportunities available to raise money. A list of fundraising events is available at **[lshschoirs.org](http://lshschoirs.org)**

Individual fundraising accounts are kept so that all additional profit generated by each student is available for his/her use toward the cost of tours, field trips, uniforms, etc. Funds may not be transferred from person to person (except within immediate families) or between accounts for other activities.

## 2021-2022 LSHS CHOIR ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

\*\*\*PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR\*\*\*

(Concert Dates in bold) Also found at [lshschoirs.org](http://lshschoirs.org)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Choir(s)</b>	<b>Location</b>
September 9		Voice Teachers Presentation	All choirs	
September 15	5:00-9:00 pm	Choir Night Out Chipotle Night!	ALL	Lakeville Chipotle
September 20		Homecoming Coronation	Encore	LSHS
October Orders until 10/21		Gertens Holiday Plant Sale Fundraiser		
October (TBA)		Harmony Auditions	Interested students gr. 9-12	
October Orders until 10/23		Popcorn Fundraiser		
<b>Thursday, October 26</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Fall Choir Concert with MMS/KTMS 8th graders</b>	<b>All choirs</b>	<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
November (TBA)		9-10 ACDA Honor Choir Auditions During Academic Seminar	Interested students gr. 9-10	<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 14</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Winter Concert Performance</b>	<b>All choirs</b>	<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
<b>Thursday, December 17</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Holiday Cabaret Choir Fundraiser</b>	<b>Vocalists, Small Ensembles</b>	<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
February 4, 2022	6:00 pm	Nightclub! Dinner Show	Encore and Jazz Band	Lakeville Arts Center
February TBA		Musical Auditions		
Tuesday, February 8	School day	South Suburban Conference Treble Festival	Bel Canto	Prior Lake HS
Tuesday, Feb 23	School Day	South Suburban Conference Choir Festival	Chorale	Eastview High School
February	TBA	International Championship of High School A Cappella	Encore	Virtual
Tuesday, March 1		Region 1AA Solo/Ensemble Contest		Red Wing HS
<b>Thursday, March 12</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Choral Masterworks</b>	<b>All choirs</b>	<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>

March	TBD	ICHSA SEMI FINAL	Encore	(Virtual)
March (TBA)		MMEA All-State Choir Auditions	Auditions TBA	
March		Choir Tour France-Italy		
Spring Musical April 23	<b>4:00</b>	Senior Preview		<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
Spring Musical April 24-25, May 1-2	<b>7:00 pm 7:00 pm, 2:00-7:00</b>	Spring Musical Performance		<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 12</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Choral Pops Concert</b>	<b>All Choirs</b>	<b>LSHS Auditorium</b>
<b>Friday, May 14</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Encore Night</b>	<b>Encore</b>	<b>LSHS</b>
Thursday June 4		Commencement	Chorale	

*This calendar is also available online at [lshschoirs.org](http://lshschoirs.org)  
I look forward to a great year!  
Please contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns.*

Mrs. Julie Brott  
Julie.brott@isd194.org  
952-232-3660  
lshschoirs.org  
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## Please Sign and Return

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Choir: \_\_\_\_\_

### LSHS Choirs Permissions



\_\_\_\_\_ I, the **student**, accept membership in the Lakeville South High School Choir and understand that I am responsible for all policies set forth in this syllabus.  
I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.



\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



\_\_\_\_\_ I, **Parent/Guardian**, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the Choir Syllabus. I grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Lakeville South High School Choir. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all choir functions.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Choir \_\_\_\_\_

### PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM

Are you willing to help out as a parent volunteer?

(Examples: chaperoning social events or field trips, accompanying, helping with fundraisers, concert supervision, etc.). Please put your name, phone number, email if applicable, times you are available to help, and how you would like to help.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in helping with:

Concerts    Fieldtrips    Uniforms    Fundraising    other \_\_\_\_\_

## **LAKEVILLE SOUTH CHOIR BOOSTERS**

The LSHS Choir Boosters is a dynamic and energetic organization whose sole purpose is the support of the choral music program at Lakeville South High School. It is made up of a dedicated group of parent volunteers who are deeply engaged in their child's education. They not only recognize the correlation between the development of critical thinking skills & creative problem solving and their child's exposure to the arts, they also understand the relationship between their child's academic achievement and their child's participation in music.

We support the LSHS Choir program in a variety of ways: assisting at concerts and performances by selling tickets, serving as ushers, and handing out choir robes to the performing students; providing chaperones on choir trips; and organizing different fundraising events. The funds we raise are used to defer travel costs for student trips; provide assistance for our honors choir members; pay for accompanists during choir concerts.

We have a variety of fundraising activities planned, ranging from traditional fundraisers to a benefit concert. We are always looking for new ideas to make sure our program appeals to a wide range of interests, talents and schedules. That way, everyone can find their niche in helping support our choir program.

The LSHS Choirs web site ([www.lshschoirs.org](http://www.lshschoirs.org)) is our primary information portal, and is where concert schedules and Booster Club activities and fundraising events are posted. The site has links where people can sign up to volunteer at any of the concert or fundraising events. Details on both of these exciting programs can be found on [www.lshschoirs.org](http://www.lshschoirs.org).