

LAKE NONA MIDDLE SCHOOL

CHORUS HANDBOOK

Welcome to the Lake Nona Middle School Chorus Department! You have chosen to be a part of a family of students who share a passion for learning and performance. The quality of the Lake Nona Chorus will be the result of the hard work, passion, and dedication that students, teachers, and parents will give to the program!

The handbook is designed to help you become familiar with the Middle School Chorus Department and what it offers, as well as to give you valuable information that you will need throughout the year. After reading the handbook, there is a **Statement of Understanding**, via google form at the very bottom of this screen. This digital contract should be completed by student and parent/guardian by **Friday August 24, 2018**. Please take note of the important dates listed on the calendar so that you know what is happening in chorus!

The education of your child is a team effort among student, teacher, and parent. Each part of that team needs to feel the support of the other two in order to ensure a productive and positive learning environment. We are very interested in developing a strong core of parent volunteers who will collaborate together and work hard for all of the students in the Chorus Department. All parents will have the opportunity to volunteer during the year, as their schedule permits. Please go to www.lakenonachorus.com (Parent section) and update your ADDITIONS Volunteer Application – this must be completed each school year. Even if you are not sure at what capacity you will be able to help this year, by filling this out you can chaperone at any time. **Stay informed with us through email, Lake Nona Middle School Chorus Facebook page, Remind (text reminders) and/or our chorus website.**

www.lakenonachorus.com

The website will be your resource to find information about what is happening in the chorus department throughout the year. Every item and piece of information that is sent home with the students will also be emailed to you. Please check your email! Materials that are sent home will also be uploaded to the site.

We are dedicated to making sure each child can achieve their best in one of the most enjoyable and accessible windows of the arts- MUSIC! This is going to be a year with many diverse events and memorable activities. By working together we can make it an outstanding year!

Sincerely,

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The Choirs at LNMS



Beginning Sixth Grade Chorus

This class comprised of 6th grade girls and there is no required audition to join. Through a variety of fun and meaningful pieces, students will learn fundamental vocal technique, ensemble skills, basic music literacy, and ear training through the preparation and performance of a variety of appropriate repertoire. This choir will meet during 7th period each school day. They will perform in both the Winter and Spring Chorus Concerts held at the Lake Nona High School Auditorium. There are also many optional musical activities for students to be part of throughout the year such as All-County, Solo & Ensemble, the Spring Musical and the Lake Nona Carolers (for sixth grade exclusively).

Men's Chorus

Men's Chorus is comprised of 6th – 8th grade men and is divided into two class periods, beginners meet during first period and experienced during second period. No audition is required to join this choir. The chorus will study and perform a variety of choral repertoire that represents many genres and styles of music. Through this, students will gain knowledge of fundamental vocal technique, develop choir (TTB) ensemble skills, music literacy, and ear training through the preparation and performance of a variety of appropriate repertoire. This choir will rehearse as a class every school day. This ensemble performs at several concerts and assessments throughout the year. There are many optional musical activities for students to be part of throughout the year such as All-State (*7th & 8th grade only*), All-County, Solo & Ensemble, the spring musical, Lake Nona Carolers (*6th grade*), and a special male elite choir, the American Choral Directors Association Honor Chorus. The Men's Chorus also participates in a recruiting concert in the spring where we will visit the feeder elementary schools. We will also have opportunities to perform the National Anthem at a professional sporting events.

7/8 Women's Chorus

Women's Chorus is comprised of 7th–8th grade women. No audition is required to join this choir and it is comprised of beginner students and also students with one year prior chorus experience. The chorus will study and perform a variety of choral repertoire that represents many genres and styles of music. Through this, students will gain knowledge of fundamental vocal technique, develop choir (SSA) ensemble skills, music literacy, and ear training through the preparation and performance of a variety of appropriate repertoire. This ensemble performs at several concerts and assessments throughout the year. There are many optional musical activities for students to be part of throughout the year such as All-State, All-County, the Spring Musical, and opportunities to share music with our Lake Nona Community.

Treble Singers

Treble Singers is comprised of 7th–8th grade women who have been in chorus 1–2 years prior and have shown they have all the skills necessary for an advanced ensemble. Sight-reading skills, performing with a pure and healthy tone quality and confident solo singing are requirements for this course. This chorus will study and perform a variety of advanced treble choral repertoire that represents many genres and styles of music. Through this, students will gain knowledge of advanced vocal techniques, develop choir (SSA & SSAA) ensemble skills, music literacy, and ear training through the preparation and performance of a variety of appropriate repertoire. This choir will rehearse as a class during 6th period every school day. In addition, members of this ensemble are expected to attend occasional extra school rehearsals and performances. This ensemble performs at several concerts and assessments throughout the year. There are also many optional musical activities for students to be part of throughout the year such as All-State, All-County, the Spring Musical and opportunities to share music with our Lake Nona Community.

What do I Need for Chorus?

SUPPLIES: ½ inch three inch binder (any color), a three ring pencil pouch, blank notebook paper inside binder, pencils in pouch, and a dry erase marker

\$25 for UNIFORM/ THEORY BOOK/T-SHIRT (one-time payment due on or before September 28th)
(can be paid via cash or School Pay – www.schoolpay.com)

This price will include a formal uniform rental, a Chorus T-shirt to keep that will be worn for casual performances and on Fridays, and a music theory book. Students are responsible for alterations of the formal uniform if needed. If there is a financial concern about the uniform/T-shirt/theory book policy, all monetary dues can be paid through student accounts by a payment plan or fundraising. No student will be turned away from chorus because they cannot afford the uniform, t-shirt or theory book.

Uniforms are required for each chorus member and have been ordered through the Choral Department. Lake Nona Choruses will maintain a professional appearance when performing in public. It is important for everyone to look unified to enhance the performances for the audience by eliminating distractions.

BOYS – will wear traditional black tuxedo pants, a white tuxedo shirt with a vest and long tie. This uniform is exactly the same as the band uniform, so if you take both classes, you can use the same uniform for concerts. The only items that students will need to supply from home are black dress shoes and socks AND a white undershirt for your tuxedo shirt. Shoes need to be formal and socks must be black. Please make sure your uniform is clean and ironed before each performance.

GIRLS – will wear a formal black knit dress and hair accessory provided by the choral department. Each member is responsible for purchasing black dressy flats. They need to be closed toe and heel and can have a bow or an embellishment. Ladies with long hair will need to fasten hair back with an invisible or black hair tie. A ribbon that matches your dress will be provided. No jewelry, including watches, wristbands, or earrings may be worn, unless it may not be taken off for religious reasons and there is a note from home. Only small stud earrings for ladies may be worn if absolutely necessary. Only basic stage makeup (no glitter) and no cologne or perfume should be worn. Please make sure your uniform is cleaned and ironed before each performance.

FUNDRAISING

Chorus families, friends, and area businesses support the chorus budget through fundraising and donations. Some of the expenses that occur during the choral season are: payments to accompanists and choreographers, clinicians, music, travel related costs, director participation in professional conferences, concert recording, MPA registration, classroom equipment, technology, and numerous concerts. In an active middle school chorus program, a typical year's expenses can exceed \$30,000.

Some ways we fundraise to maintain a successful chorus program...

- *Uniform, T-shirt & Theory Book \$25*
- *Concert Ticket Sales*
- *Community Spirit Nights*
- *Community Donations*
- *World's Finest Chocolate Bars*
- *Program/Digital Ad Sales*

How do I earn my grade in Chorus?

Daily Rehearsal Participation	50%
Performance Attendance & Contribution	35%
Quizzes and Assignments	15%

Daily Rehearsal Participation (50%) is earned by meeting the Classroom Responsibilities and Expectations. Students can earn 100 points weekly for putting forth their best effort and for contributing to the productivity of the rehearsal. By working together as an ensemble and maintaining an energized focus, we can achieve a high standard of musicianship that will define Lake Nona Choirs. Points can be deducted for each occurrence of the following: tardiness, talking when inappropriate, chewing gum, not singing, not participating, lack of focus, disrespectful attitude, poor posture, missing music, causing distractions, and other things at the discretion of the director.

Performance Attendance and Contribution (35%) is earned by being present, on time, in proper uniform, and participating positively and fully. Points can be deducted for each occurrence of the following: tardiness, not in full chorus uniform, inappropriate behavior, or lack of musical focus. Mark your calendars now for the concerts and MPA dates which are the required performances in chorus. Please do not plan a vacation during school time, missing classes and concerts can have a negative effect on your musician's grade. If getting a ride to these performances might be a problem, arrange a ride you can count on, or let your teacher know at least a week in advance so that we can help you find a ride. There are over 200 kids in chorus, chances are someone lives near you!

ABSENCE FROM PERFORMANCE: Performances are a large part of the student's chorus grade. Any absence which is not brought to the Director's attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences from performances result in a zero for that grade. Students who have an excused absence from a performance may make up for that part of their grade by completing a project agreed upon by the director. **If you anticipate an unavoidable absence from a performance this year, please submit a written request to the directors for approval right away. Any excuse given within two weeks of a performance (with the exception of emergencies) will be considered unexcused.** In the case of an emergency, parents should call the chorus office at 407-858-5522 ext. 5342124.

****Directors reserve the right to dismiss students from a performance if they are unable to demonstrate positive behavior etiquette. If a student is dismissed from the performance, they will not receive credit for the performance.*

Quizzes and Assignments (15 %) will be an average of the grades for all written and oral quizzes and assignments. Some examples of this might include music theory assignments, sight-singing, music writing prompts, music dictation and composition. The purpose of these activities is to reinforce concepts that have been identified through the choral music.

Classroom Responsibilities and Expectations



Communicate

- Call or email if you are going to be absent.
- Let your teacher know well in advance about any schedule conflicts.
- If you would like some extra help, just ask.

Attend All Rehearsals and Performances

- Be at all rehearsals and performances on time.
- Being absent from a rehearsal or performance affects the entire team. When even one member of a performing ensemble is gone the total musical experience is diminished for all. Attendance at rehearsals is essential. Attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and performances is mandatory. If you have conflicts because you are incredibly well rounded and involved in multiple school activities, please let us know as soon as you recognize a schedule conflict.

Respect Property and Each Other

- Respect the space and the amazing equipment.
- Candy, food, gum and drinks are not permitted in the chorus room, practice/ ensemble rooms, or auditorium.
- Do not fold, tear, or damage music. You are encouraged to create musical markings in your music, however, *always use pencil, not ink!*
- Respect the right of others to learn and the teacher to teach by not causing an interruption during the rehearsal.
- Be positive and willing to help your chorus family members.

Execute Rehearsal Procedures

- Be in your seat, prepared and ready to make music when the bell rings.
- Be prepared with all supplies at every rehearsal.
- Always sit in your correct seat for voicing purposes.
- Cell phones should be turned OFF and put away in your book bag during rehearsal. Be in the moment and enjoy your music making!

Chorus Room Expectations

1. Respect each other and the chorus room.
2. Refrain from talking when a teacher is speaking.
3. Be prepared with all chorus supplies and positive attitude.
4. Stay in your seat during rehearsal.
5. No food and drink (except water) in the classroom.
6. Cell phones should be in your backpack turned OFF.
7. Practice rooms and pianos may be used with permission only.
8. Put your folder away after rehearsal.

Restroom Policy

We need all chorus members in rehearsal so that instruction is not missed. Therefore, we encourage you to use the restroom before and/or after school, during transitions or at a **different** time than your chorus class. However, we know there may be times or emergencies where you will need to use the restroom.

1. Raise your hand to ask for permission.
2. With permission, sign out on the music library door and take the pass.
3. You are allowed 3 passes per 9 weeks.
4. You **and** your parents should communicate with us if you have health concerns regarding the restroom.

Tardy Policy

*If you are tardy to chorus without a pass, this is considered an **unexcused tardy** and 10 points are deducted from the “Daily Rehearsal Participation Grade”.

*If you are tardy to chorus and have a pass, this is considered an **excused tardy** and no points are lost.

Performance Opportunities and Special Events

Dates are provided on next page

School Concerts (Required)

The Lake Nona Middle School Chorus Department will present two concerts throughout the year; the Winter Concert and the Spring Concert. All choirs will be represented in these concerts.

All-State Chorus (Optional)

All-State Choruses are made up of the finest vocalists and musicians in the state. Auditioning for All-State is a rigorous process, including a musicianship skills test, a sight reading test, and a vocal audition. Being selected for any of these choirs is a great honor. Though auditioning for all-state is not required, Lake Nona Middle School would like establish a great tradition of choral students who are selected to participate. All-State test preparation classes will be offered starting the first week of school (schedule to be announced) The All-State audition fee is \$20.00. The event will take place in Tampa, FL.

All-County Chorus (Optional)

All-County Chorus will take place in January. This choir is comprised of the best choral musicians throughout Orange County. There are two rehearsals during the evening prior to the event and then a culmination concert which includes the Middle and High school All-County Honor Choirs. There is no entry fee for this event, but students must audition for a director.

ACDA Men's Honor Choir/ACDA Southern Division Honor Choir (Optional)

The American Choral Directors Association holds its annual conference every November at Seminole Community College. As a part of this conference, the State ACDA Middle School Men's Honor Choir rehearses with a nationally renowned director and performs for the state membership and parents. This choir is made up of the finest singers from all over the state of Florida, and should include many Lake Nona Chorus students. On alternating years, (2019) the National ACDA Conference sponsors a Honor Choir for male and female vocalists. This year it will take place in Kansas City Missouri! Selection for these choirs is by recorded audition and is highly competitive among singers from all over the region.

Lake Nona MS Carolers (Optional for sixth graders)

The Lake Nona Carolers is a group of extraordinary students who are passionate about people. This auditioned ensemble will perform holiday carols throughout our Lake Nona community for the sole purpose of bringing joy to others through singing. Auditions for this group will take place on October 5th and 6th before school in the chorus room. Rehearsals will take place two days a week starting in October through December.

MPA- Music Performance Assessment (Required)

Music Performance Assessment is attended by all members and will take place in March. It is the culmination of the seven months of study and hard work! Each choir is assessed by four distinguished judges on technique, tone quality, dynamics, expressive elements and appearance. Choirs from all over Orange County are required to participate in this evaluation and are given a rating for their performance.

Lake Nona Chorus Department

2018-2019 Calendar

Items in bold are required performances for all chorus members. All other events are optional.

August

13th Mon. First Day of School
 31st Fri. Chorus Handbook Contract Due

September

3rd Mon. Labor Day - No School
 15th Sat. All-State Chorus Test #1 8:00 a.m. Evans HS
 28th Fri. Chorus Uniform/T-Shirt/Theory Book Money Due (\$25 - School Pay or Cash)

October

4th-5th Thurs-Fri. Carolers Auditions (open to sixth grade) 8:00 a.m. Chorus Room
 20th Sat. All-State Chorus Test #2 8:00 a.m. Freedom HS
 25th-27th Thurs-Sat. ACDA Men's Honor Chorus 8:00 a.m. Stetson University

November

8-10 Thurs.-Sat. OCPS All-County Chorus Event TBA. TBA
 29 Thursday Carolers LN Country Club Performance TBA Lake Nona Country Club

December

6 Thursday Piano Outreach Tour During School Various
 Locations
 11 **Tuesday Winter Concert (All Choirs) 7:00 p.m. LNHS Theatre**
 13 Thursday Carolers Community Outreach Tour During School Various Locations
 17 Monday Holiday Concert Rehearsal (Treble Voices Only) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cathedral of St. Luke
 18 Tuesday Holiday Concert (Treble Voices Only) 7:00 p.m. Cathedral of St. Luke

January

9-12 Thurs.- Sat. FMEA/ All-State Conference TBA Tampa, FL

February

26 to March 2 Wed.-Sat. ACDA National Honor Choir Event in Kansas City, Missouri

March

11-13th Mon-Wed. **Choral MPA (only one of those dates) TBA Apopka HS**

April

26 Friday Spring Concert 7 p.m. LNHS Theatre

May

State Testing

PLEASE SIGN UP TO GET OUR TEXT REMINDERS FOR 2018- 2019:

(these are new codes and classes, so please renew from last year by following the codes below)

Period 1 Boys Chorus - Enter this number: 81010 Text this message: @p1bc

Period 2 Boys Chorus - Enter this number: 81010 Text this message: @p2bc

Period 3 Womens Chorus - Enter this number: 81010 Text this message: @p3lnchorus

Period 6 Treble Voices - Enter this number: 81010 Text this message: @p6treblev

Period 7 Sixth Grade Girls Chorus - Enter this number 81010 Text this message: p7sggc

ALL STATE PREP GROUP Enter this number: 81010 Text this message: @allprep19

Lake Nona Middle School Chorus Parents

All chorus students will review the Chorus Handbook in class with their teachers. In our efforts to “go green” parents and students should go to our CANVAS CLASS to review the **entire** Middle School Chorus Handbook. After you read the handbook, please fill out the google form at the bottom of this document stating that you understand and have read the handbook by 8/24.

Please let your teacher know if you would like to request a hard copy.

WAYS TO STAY INFORMED

CANVAS

www.lakenonachorus.com

***Lake Nona Middle School Chorus* has a Facebook page for parents!**

Find us and click LIKE to stay updated about chorus events.

Statement of Understanding

Click on the GOOGLE FORM below to show that you have read the Chorus Handbook online, and understand the expectations involved in the Lake Nona Middle School Chorus Department; including Uniforms, Conduct, Rehearsal and Concert Attendance, Grading Policies, Concert Etiquette, Communications, and Financial Obligations.

This states that you understand that there are several required performances throughout the school calendar year: Winter Concert on **December 11**, Music Performance Assessment on **March 11-13** (will only be one of those dates) and Spring Concert on **April 26** (Periods 2 and 6 will have additional graded performances that can be found on our chorus calendar).

[Chorus Statement of Understanding Google Form](#)

Please complete this Statement of Understanding GOOGLE FORM on or before **Friday, August 24th, 2018**

UNIFORM/T-SHIRT/THEORY BOOK MONEY \$25 is due Friday, September 28th.



Orange County Public Schools
P.O. Box 271
Orlando, FL 32802

Model Release Form

CONSENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE

Note to parents/guardians: We promote Orange County Public Schools ("OCPS") students and programs through photos, videos, on Facebook, on our website, in the new spaper, and by any other means available. This form gives us your permission for your child to be in OCPS informational or promotional sites or materials for current or future use.

For and in consideration of benefits to be derived from the furtherance of the educational programs of the School Board of Orange County, Florida (the "Board"), I (We), personally and on behalf of _____ ("Student"), do hereby consent, authorize and grant permission to the Board and OCPS and their respective members, superintendent, agents, employees and the representatives of each to take photographs, video, footage or likenesses with or without sound (collectively, "Images") of the Student, and do further consent that such Images may be broadcast or published in perpetuity by all public media now known and in the future including, but not limited to, local newspapers, the Internet, websites, online, television or any other type of social media or any duplication of same for any purposes the Board and OCPS deem appropriate.

In granting such permission, I (We) give to the Board and OCPS all right, title and interest I (We) may have in the pictures, negatives, reproductions or copies of the Images and waive any and all right to approve of the use of the Images and waive any right to compensation for the publication or other use of the Images. The parent or legal guardian releases, discharges, covenants not to sue, indemnifies and holds harmless the Board and OCPS and the respective members, superintendent, agents, employees and the duly authorized representatives and assigns of each (collectively, the "Released Parties") from any and all claims, damages, injuries to persons or property, causes of action, threats of litigation, loss, costs, expenses (including attorney fees) and liabilities of any nature whatsoever arising from or in any way related to the use of the Images.

Signature _____ Date _____

Permanent Address _____
(Number/Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Relationship _____ Phone _____