



Dear LHS Choir Students and Parents:

On behalf of the Music Department at Lincoln High School, I would like to welcome you to the Lincoln Choral Program! I am delighted that you have chosen to be part of our choir family.

To help everyone begin to plan for the coming year, please take the time, now, to read the LHS Choral Handbook and fill out the attached forms. It is important that both student and parent read the handbook as it will ensure success in the classroom throughout the year. Please make sure to address any and all concerns at the beginning of the school year.

I am looking forward to working with all of you. My desire is that each student would commit to excellence in both rehearsal and performance and would grow both as a musician and a human being. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the email below.

With great expectation for the upcoming year,

Toni Micik,

Choral Director

Lincoln High School

micik@lincolnk12.org

Website: www.lincolnchoirs.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LincolnChoirs

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LincolnHSChoirs>

Lincoln Choral Boosters: PLEASE HELP

All parents of vocal music students are boosters and are welcomed and encouraged to become active in our booster organization. Community members are welcome as well to volunteer.

Join us Tuesday September 26th from 7-8pm in the high school choir room for a Parent Volunteer Information Meeting where you can find out more about the Lincoln Choral Boosters and other ways to help out the LHS Choral Program. Even just one hour of time invested in our program makes a difference!

The purpose of the *Lincoln Choral Boosters* is to support and promote the vocal music programs at Lincoln High School. They support our students by raising funds, coordinating activities and provide volunteers for those activities. Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month, from October to May from 7:00-8:00pm in the LHS Choir room.

2017/2018 Lincoln Choral Booster Officers

Wendy Snook

Christin Hitchcock

lincolnchoirboosters@gmail.com

Introduction

It is very important that all choir members and their parents carefully read this handbook. Concerns should be addressed with the choir director at the beginning of the school year.

It is equally important that all choir members retain this handbook for reference throughout the school year. A copy will always be available at www.lincolnchoirs.com

As a member of the Lincoln High School choral program, each student assumes the responsibility to understand and abide by the guidelines and policies contained in this handbook.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lincoln High School Music Department is

- To foster and support an environment of musicianship, hard work and friendship
- To be an example of character, leadership, dedication, cooperation and discipline
- To inspire community involvement and school spirit and to always strive toward our full potential.

The Lincoln High School Choirs

Women's Chorus is open to all women who are interested in singing, grades 9-12. Students learn the basics of choral performance. Vocal technique, rehearsal, and music reading skills will be developed as the students explore a broad range of musical time periods and styles. Performance is required. Uniform rental and black dress shoes are required. No audition required.

Men of Lincoln is open to all men who are interested in singing, grades 9-12. Students learn the basics of choral performance. Vocal technique, rehearsal, and music reading skills will be developed as the students explore a broad range of musical time periods and styles. Performance is required. Uniform rental and black dress shoes are required. No audition required.

Bella Voce is an intermediate level course for WOMEN, grades 9-12. Students will study music written for treble voices from a variety of musical time periods and styles. This class is designed for the self-motivated singer who is interested in preparing and performing at a higher level. Prior choir experience suggested no audition necessary. Freshmen are not allowed to sign up for this class without teacher approval. Performance is required. Uniform rental and black dress shoes are required. No audition required.

Split Dimensions is a small advanced ensemble solely for the accomplished, self-disciplined, and committed choral singer. This group maintains a performance intense schedule, performing numerous community and school concerts in and out of the normal school day. Performance commitment is essential to this group. Students will sing in solo and small group formats. Intermediate to advanced level literature is explored and performed. Uniform rental and black dress shoes are required. Audition Required

Vocal Essence is a select, extra-curricular, mixed ensemble. This group maintains a performance intense schedule, performing numerous community and school concerts in and out of the normal school day. Performance commitment is essential to this group. Rehearsal and performance attendance is mandatory. **Students MUST be actively enrolled in LHS Choirs on a full time basis to qualify.**

Classroom Expectations

All rules and procedures outlined in the student's handbook are to be followed in class.

- Be on time. Any student outside of the room, when the bell rings will be marked tardy.
- Come prepared for class: Pencil, Music Binders, Community Folder
- Do quality work and do it on time.
- Raise your hand when you have a comment or question.
- Electronic devices are to be out of sight during class unless the teacher has given specific permission for their use.

Guidelines for Success:

- Attend class regularly and be on time.
- Demonstrate tenacity in practice and daily skill repetition.
- Inform your teacher if you are confused or in need of extra help.
- Prepare and perform all assignment on time.
- Pay attention in class and be courteous to others.
- If absent from class, find out what you have missed and make sure you understand all that was covered.
- Acknowledge that you are responsible for your own success.

Grades

Quarter grades will be determined by calculating the percentage of points earned by the number of points possible. Assignments will consist of daily rehearsal evaluations, written work, dress rehearsals and performances.

Each marking period grade (percentage) is worth 40% of the semester grade. The midterm and the final exam grades are each 20%.

The following grading scale is set in Power School

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|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| 100-93% A | 92-90% A- | 89-87% B+ | 86-83% B | 82-80% B- | 79-77% C+ |
| 76-73% C | 72-70% C- | 69-67% D+ | 66-63% D | 62-60% D- | 59 and Below |

Daily Rehearsal

Students receive 125 points per quarter for consistent daily rehearsal effort. Combined teacher and student (self-assessed) rehearsal evaluations will be based on the following:

Exhibits leadership; excellent posture; good breath management; fine tone production; appropriate vowel shapes; clear articulation; honest attempts at intonation; good dynamic control; cooperative attitude; speaks only at appropriate times; actively follows their music when another section is singing; participates fully in warm-ups; helps others; contributes actively at all times.

ABSENCE FROM CLASS

When a student is absent from class, daily rehearsal points cannot be earned. Students may make up the missing points by practicing at home and completing a practice journal. *Practice journals* must be signed by a parent and submitted within one week from the return to class.

CONCERTS/PERFORMANCES

Lincoln Choirs performance calendar is available on the choir website: www.lincolnchoirs.com

Concerts

Concerts are an authentic way to evaluate what students have learned in class. Concerts are 100 points. Students lose points due to tardiness, talking in appropriately, and inappropriate behavior. Students are required to participate in dress rehearsal.

Community Performances

Split Dimensions and Vocal Essence often represent Lincoln High School choirs with multiple other concerts in and around the community. Other choirs do so as well on a limited basis.

Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) Choral Festival

ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CHORAL FESTIVAL. At festival, choirs sing for a panel of adjudicators. Festivals are held over multiple days, between the hours of 8am-8pm. Choir schedules are not finalized until 2 weeks prior to the festival, so flexibility is needed.

MSVMA Honors Choir (Voluntary: Advanced)

All students are eligible to audition for HS Honors Choir. Information is available from Mrs. Micik and is due by the end of the second week of school.

MSVMA Solo and Ensemble Festival (Voluntary: Advanced)

Solo and Ensemble Festival provides opportunities for interested intermediate, and advanced singers to individually prepare two traditional folk/classical songs for an adjudicator. The deadline to apply for District Solo and Ensemble is in the end of November.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be assigned the first month of school and a Uniform Contract will be sent home which will require a rental fee based on the uniform for each class. Rental Fees cover the cost of the initial fitting including the hem and the normal wear and tear of the use of the uniform for the full school year

- Students must be in complete uniform to participate in a concert
- All components of concert attire should be neat, clean and wrinkle free for each performance.
- Students who are not in complete uniform will not be allowed to participate in a performance and will receive a failing concert grade for that performance.

Concert Attendance Policies

Choir is a curricular activity, meaning that we have required events outside of the school day. All of our events are graded events and serve as group exams. It is very important that all members and their families review the Google choir calendar and note conflicts as early as possible.

- **EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM DRESS REHEARSALS/PERFORMANCES**
Excused absences from events are rare, as families have the calendar early in the year so as to minimize conflicts. When a student is excused from a required event, they will have the opportunity to make-up full credit through an alternate assignment. Examples of excused absences include: Student illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, suspension, legal proceedings, or family vacation.
 - *Planned Absence notes* are to be submitted no later than 7 days prior to an event.
 - *Emergency Absence notes* are required *within 3 days of a missed performance*
- **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM DRESS PERFORMANCES**
Unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal or performance will result in a student not receiving concert points. Examples of unexcused absences include: Oversleeping, employment of the student, transportation problems, and doctor or dentist appointments not cleared in advance.
- **ATHLETIC / OTHER CURRICULAR CONFLICTS**
Many Lincoln choir students participate in various sports activities. Countless singer-athletes have participated fully in both activities without incident. It is the student's responsibility to manage both schedules, bringing conflicts to the attention of both the director and coach as soon as possible. As a general rule, performances take priority over practices and games, and games take priority over rehearsals. Please bring calendar conflicts to the director's attention no less than 7 days prior to a performance.

Website/Facebook:

The LHS Choirs Handbook, uniform information, handouts, and Calendars are available on our website. The LHS Facebook page is another way in which you can receive information and reminders about upcoming events.

Website: www.lincolnchoirs.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LincolnChoirs

PAYPAL:

Payments and Donations may be made to Lincoln High School Choirs, Ypsilanti, Via micik@lincolnk12.org at PayPal.com. A convenience fee will be added to cover the PayPal service and does not go to Lincoln Choirs.

Parent-Teacher Contact:

Parents may contact the instructor with questions or concerns or questions by email. The instructor will communicate a response within 24 hours, Monday through Friday.

LHS Choirs Annual Student Forms Packet

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Class _____

Included in packet:

- Handbook Acknowledgement
- Uniform Care and Expectations Contract
- Annual Permission Slip and Travel Expectations Form
- Annual Student Health Form

Handbook Acknowledgement

- I have read, understand and agree to all policies set for in the Lincoln Choir Handbook.
- I have filled out the Student Information Form located on the Choir Website at: <http://www.lincolnchoirs.com/forms.html> or at <https://goo.gl/forms/cIrZaaxGvkXLhgiq1>
- I understand that the Choir Handbook, calendar, and all forms mentioned in the handbook are available on the choir website: www.lincolnchoirs.com

Comments:

Student Signature _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____

If interested in volunteering, in any way, or if you have any questions or concerns please contact me at micik@lincolnk12.org