

lafayette choir

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HANDBOOK

2018-2019

For Students and Parents

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Lafayette choir

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of our administration, the music staff and ourselves, we gladly welcome you to the Lafayette High School Choral Music Program. You are now a very important member of what has been recognized as one of the finest high school choirs in Kentucky. We sincerely hope you will enjoy being a part of this organization, which continues to build a tradition of superior performance and musical **excellence**. We know that you will embrace and live up to the expectation of excellence this year!

We believe that our choir program offers many things to the individual student: an opportunity to demonstrate and build his/her musical ability; an opportunity to develop leadership skills; an opportunity to develop a sense of responsibility; an opportunity to meet and make new friends; an opportunity to participate in music field trips; an opportunity to perform as a representative of Lafayette High School; and an opportunity to discover the unique thrill of performance. We will be constantly working **very** hard to learn music for our performances. Our participation in concerts, contests and festivals will keep us busy and involved.

The Lafayette Choral Department has established an outstanding reputation in Kentucky, as well as around the United States. As members of the department, it should be our goal to continue building on that reputation. **We can be as outstanding as we want to be; it all depends on you!** Superior music groups are a result of many hours of hard work as well as a strong dedication and commitment from each member. If we work well together and have high expectations for the group, and even higher expectations for ourselves, we will have a successful year.

This handbook was developed to make your orientation to the Choral Music Department a quick and easy task. We encourage you and your parents to read this handbook so that you may better understand our policies and regulations, and your obligations. A Lafayette High School Choir Member should be cooperative, strive for the highest possible scholastic record, develop a positive attitude toward the choir, school, and community, and in general, distinguish him/herself by always doing the right thing at the right time.

We are looking forward to working with each one of you this year. Whether you are new to the program or a seasoned member we will all face many challenges but with the right attitude we can make it a fantastic year. Your talent and group effort can make this year at Lafayette very exciting, fun-filled, and musically rewarding for all of us.

In order to conserve paper, the handbook will be distributed electronically to advanced choir students this year. If need a paper copy, please let us know.

www.lafayettechoir.org/handbook

Sincerely,

Ryan Marsh, Director
Laura Howard, Vocal Instructor/Director



lafayette choir

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Choir is designed as a study in ensemble singing, vocal production and music fundamentals. Students will have many opportunities to sing for personal enjoyment and perform a variety of choral literature.

Our goals are:

- To develop correct vocal techniques.
- To develop fundamental music skills in notation and sight-singing.
- To recognize musical elements and demonstrate expressive qualities in varying styles of choral music.
- To contribute to the blend, balance, and quality of the ensemble by developing the ability to sing a part securely and independently.
- To develop confidence in performing by practicing performance etiquette and decorum.
- To develop rehearsal skills that will allow us to rehearse and perform at the highest level.
- To have opportunities for the enjoyment of music through active participation.
- To develop self-discipline by functioning as a responsible member of the organization.
- To experience successful achievement and pleasure through group involvement.
- To develop personal character traits of leadership, poise, and dependability as well as provide an avenue for self-expression.
- To develop a desire to continue musical experiences.



CLASSROOM CONDUCT AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

We are all here because we have something in common; we enjoy singing. How we sound as a group has a lot to do with how we work together. If you will follow the class procedures listed below every day of the year, the result will be a choral group that truly makes beautiful music. The success of our group rests upon your individual self-discipline.

Be seated quietly in your assigned seat with folders within one minute after the bell.

★ **Students are expected to have a pencil every day. Marks in the music are to be in pencil only.**

Gum, candy, food and drink are not permitted in the choir room. When we have gum, candy, or food in our mouths, our tonal production and diction are affected. The only exception to this rule is bottled water. There is also a water fountain in the choir room.

Demonstrate good posture for singing during rehearsal.

★ **Talking during a rehearsal will not be tolerated.** Rehearse in a professional manner and be courteous to your fellow students.

Pay attention and follow along in rehearsal. Sometimes in the course of rehearsal, only one section will be singing. The members of other sections should be **carefully following the musical part that is being rehearsed** so that the total knowledge of the score is achieved.

Listen closely for each instruction given by the director, so that the follow-through of the instruction can be done correctly by every member of the group the first time.

★ **No texting or other use of your cell phone during rehearsal or performance.**

Lafayette Choirs will have a no-tolerance policy for cell phones during rehearsal this year.

Cell phones will be confiscated if seen/heard. Phones will be turned over to the LHS administration. If you must use the phone, you should ask permission to use the choir office telephone. Students who wish to avoid temptation may put their phones in a storage pocket for the duration of class.

★ **Always have your folder in rehearsal** and return it to its appropriate location following rehearsal. Music folders may be taken home overnight.

Exhibit common courtesy toward others at all times. Treat others as you would want them to treat you. This includes substitutes, student teachers, guest directors, Lafayette staff, and other students.

★ **Restroom passes** will be limited. Please take care of everything before you come to class.

★ Always give your best! ★



PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE EXPECTATIONS

During a performance a choir is evaluated as much on its professional behavior and appearance as it is on the performance it offers.

Pre-Concert Instructions

- Wear designated performance attire. You must inspect all the pieces of your uniform the day before the performance to make sure they are clean and wrinkle free,
- Avoid flashy jewelry, abnormal piercing, and extreme hair styles/colors or anything that could become a distraction to fellow singers or our audience.
- Arrive at the designated call time for that performance. Enter the building quickly and quietly.
- Take care of personal business prior to lining up with the choir.
- Listen carefully to all pre-performance instructions.
- Always be in the appropriate designated place at the appointed time prior to performance.
- Prior to a concert, turn off any cell phones, or wristwatches that make noises.

During a Concert:

- Maintain a proper singing posture with a quiet body. (Do not stand with hands in pockets or clasped together in the front or back of your body.)
- Always keep eyes on the conductor. Do not look around or to the audience.
- Never sing directly behind a singer in front of you. Everyone should be visible from the audience.
- Do not talk or whisper to your fellow performers during a performance.
- Remain focused throughout your time on stage.
- Avoid all scratching, bringing hands up to the hair, adjusting glasses or hair, etc.
- Never do anything that would call unnecessary attention to yourself or that would distract other performers. Remember you are a part of an ensemble and want the audience's attention on the music.
- Exercise discipline in walking on and off the risers. This sets the mood for the performance. Walk on and stand with dignity and pride. The director will indicate when to walk off stage. The first person off the risers should be alert for this direction. Keep in mind the performance is not over until the last person is off of the risers.
- If you are ever incapacitated on the risers for any reason, do not wait until it is too late. Sit down quietly in place. If you need assistance from those on either side, give a tug on their arm. If you develop a cough or must be sick, leave the stage.
- Quiet must be maintained back stage before the concert begins and between performing groups. If you are seated in the audience while another group is performing, you should set an example as an outstanding audience member.

Always remember that whether you are wearing formal attire, choir t-shirt, singing on stage, or simply walking to your car after the concert, YOU ARE REPRESENTING THE CHOIR!

Grades for each performance will be based on the following:

- **Punctuality**
- **Proper Attire (including appropriate shoes and socks)**
- **Having folder when required**
- **Following Instructions**
- **Proper Concert Etiquette as detailed above**
- **Singing to the best of one's ability**
- **Staying for entire concert**

Failure to meet the above expectations will result in not singing the concert and/or points deducted.



GRADING

Grades are based primarily on participation. 40% of the student's grade results from daily participation demonstrating cooperation, enthusiasm, preparedness, good vocal technique, and effort. Musical skills tests, in-class assessments and written work are also included in this category. Performances and performance-type assessments make up 45%. **Written Final exams will be weighted 15% of the semester grade.**

**This grading policy is prescribed by Lafayette SBDM Policies.*

Grading Scale:

92-100% = A 83-91% = B 74-82% = C 65-73% = D below 64% = F

40% - Daily Participation and Written Work (Formative)

A typical week will have 20 or 30 (10 per class) possible participation points. A student will start the week with all points. Deductions will be made for any or all of the following:

- lack of effort in rehearsal
- demonstrating a poor singing posture
- not following directions
- no noticeable attempt to improve in skill areas
- not cooperating with other choir members/section leaders
- not having a pencil in rehearsal
- not having music for rehearsal
- having gum, food, candy or drink in rehearsal
- tardiness to class
- disruption in rehearsal
- unexcused absence from class or truancy

Written Work: Musical Skills Tests and Assignments

Each choir has skill objectives specific to that class (see section specific to your choir). As these skills are presented and practiced in class, assessments (in written and/or oral forms) will be given. Vocal skill and technique assessments may be recorded onto cassette or video tape in a practice room during class time. Written assessments will include both in-class and out of class work.

45% - Performances and Performance Quizzes

Performance Quizzes take place in class and are announced several days ahead. They involve singing an assigned piece or section of a piece in small groups. Each performance quiz has different expectations and requirements. At least one performance quiz is given each term. Grading periods with few or no performances will have at least two performance quizzes.

15% - Final Exam



ATTENDANCE

Daily Participation/Attendance

Attendance is crucial for every choir member! Due to the nature of the course, when a student is absent from school, he/she misses rehearsal and explanations that cannot be made up. In addition, the entire choir suffers because that student was not in school to learn his/her part along with the rest of the choir. If a student's absence is excused, he/she may make up the participation points by doing a makeup assignment. This privilege is not extended for any unexcused absences or truancies. It is the student's responsibility to talk to the director of your choir following an absence to determine if make-up work is to be given.

★ **Excused Class Absences and Makeup Work:**

Students are allowed 3 EXCUSED class absences per semester.

Upon the 4th absence and for every absence thereafter, makeup work is due.
(not including extra rehearsals or performances outside of class)

Since choir is primarily a performance/rehearsal course, makeup work for excused absences will consist of supplemental activities including computer drills, web activities, and worksheets.

The makeup packet is available online or in the back of the choir room.

<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/makeup>

If no makeup work is completed for excused absences above 3, the participation score will be marked as a zero. Students have 1 week to complete makeup work after returning from their absences. All makeup work must be turned in 1 week prior to the end of the semester. Excused absences for class are tracked and determined according to the LHS attendance office. It is the student's responsibility to check with the director for any regular course assignments you have missed during any absences.

★ **Unexcused class absences** will cause all class participation points to be deducted without possibility for makeup. Unexcused absences for class are tracked and determined according to the LHS attendance office and Infinite Campus. *Excessive excused or unexcused absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. This is a performance class and if a student is absent for a majority of class times, credit cannot be earned.

Vocal Problems and In-Class Participation Notes:

Students who are unable to sing 100% in a rehearsal should write a short note for the director and place it on the podium at the front of the room within the first two minutes of class. If students are not participating fully due to sickness, students must complete in-class participation notes.

Students are allowed to sit out of rehearsal and take notes to receive participation credit, up to 3 days per semester without a note from home or the doctor. For any days beyond the 3 allowed, a note from home or from the doctor must be presented in order for the student to get credit for taking notes that day. A record of this, along with the excuses and notes taken in class, will be kept on file by the teacher and will be reflected in the grade book.



★ Extra Rehearsals

ALL EXTRA REHEARSALS ARE REQUIRED and for a grade. The difference between a superior and a poor musical performance is determined by the amount of rehearsal time spent in preparation. Extra rehearsals allow for many things: individual and small group work, help from visiting clinicians, and more time for that "extra polishing." They are vital for any good performing organization. You will always be notified of any extra rehearsal well in advance in order to make arrangements to attend. If students are late or have to leave early, they must have a **written note** from their parent or guardian. Excuses for missing extra rehearsals will be considered only if notification is received *prior* to the rehearsal. The director will determine whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

An **unexcused absence** from an extra or combined rehearsal may result in that student not singing in the upcoming concert. Unexcused absences from the final rehearsal before a concert may result in the same.

★ Performance Attendance

This is a performing organization. We work constantly to be prepared to perform. When performing, students receive a deeper appreciation of music and a greater feeling of unity from the organization and the people with whom they are involved. Every member of the choir plays a vital role in the success of the entire organization.

There is no other way as a director to duplicate a performance for the student who is absent. There is no other means to make-up the unique thrill of performing, feeling the reaction from the audience, or the excitement of knowing the hard work in preparation for the performance was worthwhile.

For these reasons, the following policies regarding performance attendance apply:

*All performances and rehearsals on the schedule at the beginning of the semester, as well as those with at least three weeks notice, are **required** performances. Should you have a conflict that cannot be resolved, **notify the Director at least 2 weeks in advance verbally and by absence request form.** The further ahead problems are discovered, the easier they are to deal with.

****In an emergency situation, parents should email or call the choral department office at 381-3492, and leave a message explaining the situation as soon as possible and submit an absence request online within 24 hours after the event.**

Excused absences include personal illness, death in the family, or an emergency over which the student has no control. **Work is not an excused absence** for a performance or rehearsal that was scheduled at least three weeks in advance. If an absence is excused, it is the student's responsibility to get a make-up assignment from your director. If an absence is unexcused, the student will **not** be given the privilege of making up the points lost due to the absence. It is a good idea to give a copy of the performance schedule to employers. **The directors are willing to write a note to an employer if necessary.**



Grades for each performance will be based on the following:

- * **Punctuality**
- * **Proper Dress**
- * **Following Instructions**
- * **Proper Concert Etiquette**
- * **Singing to the best of one's ability**
- * **Staying for entire concert**

★ **School absences on the day of a performance or rehearsal**

Students must be present in school on the day of performance or rehearsal in order to be eligible to participate in and earn points for that after school activity. Unexcused absences or truancy may result in loss of points, and lost opportunity to perform.

Resolving Student Activity Conflicts

Although we try our best to avoid scheduling performances at the same time as other school related events, occasionally conflicts do arise which cannot be remedied.

When a practice or rehearsal and an event (game, contest, concert) are scheduled simultaneously, the **EVENT** takes precedent.

When two events are scheduled simultaneously, a District competition event takes precedence over a regular event, a Regional event takes precedence over a District event, a State event takes precedence over a Regional event, and a National event takes precedence over a Regional event.

When two practices or rehearsals are scheduled simultaneously, work with your director to determine your attendance. **The student should notify the director of all conflicts at least two weeks prior to the event.**

Absence Request Form

All after-school absences (performances and rehearsals) must be requested via the online absence request form.

<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/absences>

SCAPA VOCAL STUDENTS

The School for Creative and Performing Arts, (SCAPA), is an arts program within Lafayette High School. SCAPA vocal students receive special class instruction in music theory and history as well as individual instruction in voice, are a part of the Lafayette choral program. Additional criteria must be met for these students to receive advanced credit.

All Lafayette choral students who wish to receive advanced credit in the auditioned choral ensembles may complete the same requirements as SCAPA students and receive the weighted credit. Any student interested in auditioning for the SCAPA program or wishing to complete the criteria for advanced credit please speak with Mrs. Howard.

<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/scapa-voice>



PERFORMANCE ATTIRE FOR ALL CHOIRS

Our choir has a reputation of looking very professional. In order for us to look this way, we must all wear the same outfits. Formal concert attire is provided to all members of the Lafayette Senior High School choirs. These garments will be issued to students before the first performance. They are to be used strictly for the purpose of Choral performances (NO EXCEPTIONS). Each student will be assessed a \$85.00 chorus payment (advanced ensembles) or \$65.00 (beginning ensembles) per year. A portion of this payment will be used for the purpose of dry cleaning and maintenance of the garments, prior to issue. If garments should need cleaning during the year it will be the responsibility of the individual student. All uniforms must be wrinkle-free and in top condition for **ALL** performances. Students not wearing appropriate attire for a performance will lose points on their performance grade and may not be allowed to perform. Please read the section pertaining to your choir to determine your uniform requirements. (See LHS Chorus Booster Association information for more details regarding fees.)

Pay online at www.afayettechoir.org/payments or make checks payable to Lafayette Chorus Boosters and bring to Choir class.

Ladies – will be assigned a properly fitted dress. Black shoes (pumps with closed toes and no straps, or ballet slipper) will be required. Only “tan” or “neutral” hose should be worn. It is the girl’s responsibility to see that under-arm protection is provided (shields).

Gentlemen – will be assigned a black tuxedo (coat and pants), shirt, bow tie, and cummerbund. It is the student’s responsibility to provide black socks and shoes (no athletic shoes).

An extreme amount of time and effort has been given (by students, parents, and teachers) to assure that Lafayette Choirs are outfitted professionally. Students will be assessed additional fees at the end of the year of \$10.00 if:

- A dress or tuxedo is found on the floor
- A dress or tuxedo is found lying on a chair, table, or somewhere other than its assigned place.
- A bow tie or cummerbund is lost.
- Any part of the garment is damaged by negligence.

Fines for missing or damaged uniforms and will be assessed depending on the cost of replacement!

Minimal jewelry is to be worn, and all hair ornaments must blend in with hair color. In general, don’t wear anything that draws attention to you as an individual -- we want to look like a group.

We will also have a casual uniform for less formal performances, travel, and to wear to school on performance days.



UNIFORM USE AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

In general, students should not wear their uniform in any way that would draw undue attention to themselves as individuals. Uniforms must be wrinkle-free and in top condition for ALL performances. Students not wearing appropriate attire for a performance will lose points on their performance grade and may not be allowed to perform. If the garments need cleaning during the school year, it is the responsibility of the student and family.

Ladies – are assigned a properly fitted dress that may require hemming. Hemming should be done well and is the responsibility of the student’s family. To determine the hem length, the student should wear the shoes she will wear for performances, and the hem should be measured so there is one inch (1”) from the bottom of the dress to the floor. Do not use glue, tape, iron adhesive or other adhesive to hem dresses. This will result in a fine for the full replacement value of the garment.

--Students are expected to follow good hygiene practices when wearing choir apparel, being especially diligent with cleanliness and antiperspirant.

--Black, close-toed dress shoes are required. Pumps or flats are preferred. Wear the heel-height you indicated when your dress was fitted—care was taken to see that each lady’s dress is the same approximate distance off the floor.

--Minimal jewelry is to be worn, and all hair ornaments must blend in with the hair color.

--Hair should be neatly styled.

--Dress Care – Please launder your dress as needed. Newport Cleaners will dry-clean it for less than \$4, or you may wash your dress by itself, inside out, in COLD WATER and hang it to dry. After it air dries, place it in the dryer for a few minutes on the AIR FLUFF or DELICATE cycle to remove wrinkles. Dresses should be COOL-IRONED (Be careful!) Place your dress on a plastic or padded hanger after each use and secure the shoulders with loops, if available. Hang your dress where it does not drag the floor.

Gentlemen – are assigned a properly fitted tuxedo coat, shirt, cummerbund, bow tie, and pants--that may require hemming. Hemming should be done well and is the responsibility of the student’s family. To determine the hem length, the student should wear the shoes he will wear for performances, and the hem should be measured so there is one inch (1”) from the floor in the back and so that the bottom of the pants “break” at the flattened part of the shoe in the front. Do not use glue, tape, iron adhesive or other adhesive to hem dresses. This will result in a fine for the full replacement value of the garment.

--Buttons that come off should be sewn back on or replaced.

--Students are expected to follow good hygiene practices when wearing choir apparel, being especially diligent with cleanliness and antiperspirant.

--Black dress shoes (suitable for wear with a tux) & black socks required. No athletic or tennis shoes.

--Hair should be neatly styled.

--Tux Care – Perspiration stains set-in permanently on the shirts if they go unwashed. Please wash and iron your tux shirt after each wearing, as you would any cotton dress shirt. Or, you may take your shirt to Southland Drive Cleaners for laundering with “light starch” for a small fee. Be careful to keep your black tux pieces clean. Southland Drive Cleaners is also the place to take your tux if you have to dry-clean it during the year for some reason.

Hang your tux properly to minimize wrinkling and to keep the tux in shape.

1. Match the leg seams together on pants and hang them over the rod of the hanger.
2. Hang the cummerbund and bow tie on the hanger by their clips.
3. Hang your jacket on a suit hanger, placing the back of the jacket over the curved part of the hanger with the shoulders resting on each side of the hanger evenly.



COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CHORUS

Course Description

These choruses are designed primarily for beginning and intermediate choral instruction. They will provide an understanding of the fundamentals of proper vocal techniques, choral techniques, and music theory (as it applies to singers). We will also focus on musical language, developing music reading skills, and learning about various styles of music. Special attention will be given to individual vocal development through small ensembles and solo work. Students will also be prepared for future membership in Lafayette's advanced choirs. There will be occasional performances.

Goals

Reading musical notation

Writing in musical notation

Working with others as a team toward common goals

Listening to and analyzing performances of choral music

Performing choral music in concert at least once each semester

1st Semester

Begin Music Theory concepts

Read and perform basic rhythm patterns

Sing major scales in tune, alone and with the group

Sight-sing short patterns of diatonic intervals

Identify the notes of the treble and bass clefs

Learn the basic parts of the vocal mechanism and build solid technique

Work on solid vocal technique

Sing in small ensembles and maintain voice part

Identify and demonstrate basic expressive marks in music

Identify basic meter signatures

Work on solo and ensemble music

Prepare music for Winter Concert

Freshmen prepare audition tapes for 9th Grade All-State

2nd Semester

Humanities/Music History Lessons begin in January

Continue with Choral Reading Skills Series

Possible performance in District Contest

Sight-sing short patterns using accidentals and half-steps

Identify melodic and harmonic intervals visually and aurally

Identify Major Key signatures

Identify music from at least three historical periods

Sight-sing harmonic examples in at least three parts

Identify music from at least three cultures

Sing in at least two foreign languages

Sing at least one piece a cappella

Prepare music for the Spring Concert



ADVANCED WOMEN'S CHOIR

Course Description

Singers in this level should already be competent in basic vocal technique, the musical language, musical reading skills and vocal music styles. These singers will be expected to improve their skills in each of these areas, in addition to demonstrating leadership to the beginning level students. These singers will have opportunities to work in small ensembles, learning additional repertoire in a teamwork situation. A variety of repertoire will be studied, including music from different historical periods, cultures, languages and texts. We will sing both formal and informal concerts throughout the year. Students are selected for this ensemble by audition.

Goals

- Improve vocal technique in each singer
- Improve sight-singing skills, which leads to vocal independence
- Learn music from various time periods
- Learn music of various cultures and languages
- Learn music of various styles
- Produce high-quality programs

1st Semester

- Begin Choral Reading Series
- Build a solid vocal technique
- Work on "ensemble" sound
- Review basic music reading skills
- Review rhythmic and pitch notation
- Sing in major and minor keys (diatonic)
- Add accidentals in major and minor keys
- Begin at least one piece for contest
- Begin working on solos and ensembles for contest
- Prepare for Winter concerts

2nd Semester

- Continue Choral Reading Series
- Music History Lessons
- Review major and minor key signatures
- Prepare music for possible contest performance
- Build sight-reading skills as a group and individuals
- Continue refining sight-singing skills
- Prepare music for Spring performance



LAFAYETTE SINGERS

Course Description

The Lafayette Singers serves as the primary mixed ensemble of the Choral department at Lafayette. Its tradition exemplifies the quality of the outstanding choral music that has become a part of the history of Lafayette Senior High School.

“Singers” is a performance-oriented class geared to expose students to a wide variety of choral literature, ranging from the various historical styles through rehearsal and performance. Students will be given the opportunity to learn proper vocal/choral techniques, breathing skills, sight-reading skills, and basic musicianship (theory and history). Performances will take place throughout the school year and students will be given opportunities to participate individually, as well as in the choral ensemble. Lafayette Singers is open to students by audition.

Goals

- Improve vocal technique in each singer
- Improve sight-singing skills, which leads to vocal independence
- Learn music from various time periods
- Learn music of various cultures and languages
- Learn music of various styles
- Produce high-quality programs

1st Semester

- Establish and refine vocal technique
- Work on “ensemble” sound
- Begin sight-singing process (rhythmic, melodic)
- Begin at least one contest level piece
- Prepare for Fall programs
- Prepare for All-State
- Explore vocal timbres as related to musical style
- Prepare music for Winter Concerts
- Continue sight-singing process (harmonic, rhythmic, melodic)
- Work on at least two contest level pieces
- Study Medieval and Baroque Music periods
- Begin working on solos and ensembles for contest

2nd Semester

- Perfect solos and ensemble for District and State contest
- Study Classical, Romantic and 20th Century Music Periods
- Continue to refine ensemble skills
- Focus on music for contest
- Begin music for Spring performances
- Continue sight-singing (increase in harmonic activity and rhythmic complexity)
- Concentrated study of music for Contest
- Continue refining sight-singing skills
- Refine music for spring programs



MADRIGAL SINGERS

Course Description

This is a small ensemble open primarily to advanced vocal music students (gr. 11-12). Students in this ensemble will study and perform music from virtually all stylistic and historic periods, and they will learn advanced vocal/choral techniques, sight-reading, and basic musicianship (theory and history). Because of the small size of this organization there are usually more requests for performances throughout the school year. The nature of the smaller ensemble places more emphasis on students being independent musicians. This will be fostered in this class.

Goals

- Improve vocal technique in each singer
- Improve sight-singing skills, which leads to vocal independence
- Focus on smaller ensemble singing
- Learn Music at a rapid pace
- Provide more opportunities for ensemble singing at a high level
- Learn music from various time periods
- Learn music of various cultures and languages
- Learn music of various styles
- Produce high-quality programs

1st Semester

- Establish and refine vocal technique
- Work on “ensemble” sound
- Begin sight-singing process (rhythmic, melodic)
- Begin at least one contest level piece
- Prepare for Fall programs (UK choral festival)
- Prepare for All-State auditions
- Explore vocal timbres as related to musical style
- Prepare music for Winter Concerts
- Continue sight-singing process (harmonic, rhythmic, melodic)
- Work on at least two contest level pieces
- Begin working on solos and ensembles for contest

2nd Semester

- Perfect solos and ensemble for District and State contest
- Prepare music for UofL Chamber Choir competition
- Continue to refine ensemble skills
- Focus on music for contest
- Begin music for Spring performances
- Continue sight-singing (increase in harmonic activity and rhythmic complexity)
- Concentrated study of music for Contest
- Continue refining sight-singing skills
- Refine music for spring programs



LAFAYETTE CHORALE

Course Description

The Lafayette Chorale serves as the advanced vocal ensemble of the Choral department at Lafayette. This choir will build on the tradition of the outstanding choral music at Lafayette Senior High School.

Chorale is a performance-oriented class geared to expose students to the highest quality and variety in choral literature, ranging from the various historical styles through rehearsal and performance. Students will be given the opportunity to learn proper vocal/choral techniques, breathing skills, sight-reading skills, and basic musicianship (theory and history). Performances will take place throughout the school year and students will be given opportunities to participate individually, as well as in the choral ensemble. Lafayette Chorale is open to students by audition only. **Chorale is a weighted grade course.** With this comes the added expectation of ALWAYS rehearsing at an exceptional level and working hard each and every day. Your obvious work ethic, rehearsal conduct/techniques, and performance level will determine your grade. Students will learn best practice in rehearsal techniques (including having a pencil) and always keeping talking to a minimum.

Goals

Learn music at a very rapid pace.

Improve vocal technique, musicianship skill, and rehearsal techniques in each singer

Improve sight-singing skills, which leads to vocal independence

Learn music from various style, time periods, cultures and languages

Produce programs of the highest quality

1st Semester

Work on “ensemble” singing and sound

Begin sight-singing process (rhythmic, melodic)

Prepare for Fall programs

Prepare for All-State auditions

Explore vocal timbres as related to musical style

Prepare music for Winter and Spring Concerts including those with Lafayette Singers

Continue sight-singing process (harmonic, rhythmic, melodic)

Begin working on solos and ensembles for contest

Study Medieval and Baroque music periods

2nd Semester

Perfect solos and ensemble for District and State contest

Learn about Classical, Romantic and 20th Century music periods

Continue to refine ensemble skills

Focus on music for contest

Begin music for Spring performances

Continue sight-singing (increase in harmonic activity and rhythmic complexity)

Concentrated study of music for Contest

Continue refining sight-singing skills

Refine music for spring programs



GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

Responsibilities of Choir Members:

To attend school and rehearsals regularly and account for all absences.

To make a real effort to learn and improve daily.

To become responsible for actions and assume the consequences thereof.

To be personally clean and neat, and to dress appropriately.

To have proper respect for those in authority.

To follow the classroom rules, school regulations, and travel instructions.

To be respectful of school property.

To cooperate with fellow choir members and to share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the choral program.

To contribute positively to the music education of others by performing to the best of one's talents and abilities.

To gain understanding of music and to develop good listening habits.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP:

Show an interest in the music study of your child.

Keep a record of the student's various music activities

Notify a director if your child is to be absent or tardy at rehearsals or performances.

Teach your child to be punctual at rehearsals and performances.

See to it that your child keeps up with classroom studies and makes up missed work.

Discuss with the director anything that will help him to understand your child.

****Become a Choir Booster and help with choral activities. We strongly urge parents to get involved with this very fine organization that provides many services and monetary support to every singer in the choral department.

Check the choir website and read newsletters as they are sent. www.lafayettechoir.org

Attend concerts and other events involving your child. Show your support!!!



lafayette choir

HANDBOOK



In order to conserve paper, the handbook will be distributed electronically to advanced choir students this year: www.lafayettechoir.org/handbook

After downloading and reading the handbook, please complete this page, and return it to the choir office by **Monday, Aug 28, 2017.**

This signature sheet counts as a grade.

I, (student name) _____, have read and understand the Lafayette High School Choir Handbook. I feel as though I can make a positive contribution to the Choir program at Lafayette and that I will follow all rules and procedures outlined herein.

Signature of Choir Student

Signature of Choir Parent/Guardian

Date

PARENT CELL PHONE	Send text alerts <input type="checkbox"/>	STUDENT CELL PHONE	Send text alerts <input type="checkbox"/>
STUDENT E-MAIL	T-Shirt Size		
PARENT 1 E-MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if we already have it.		
PARENT 2 E-MAIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if we already have it.		

Lafayette Choir Volunteers

The Lafayette Choir relies on our many parent volunteers to help us offer great opportunities to our students. In order to help the choir in any capacity including ushers, chaperones, volunteers at school, and volunteers at our off-campus events, you must be a registered Chaperone with Fayette County Schools. Volunteers must renew every four years. It is important that you complete this early in the year to facilitate our planning.

www.lafayettechoir.org/volunteer

(For questions: call Betsy Thomas at (859) 381-4345 at IAKSS.)

