

Loveland High School Choral Department

Director of Choirs
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August 20, 2018

Dear Loveland Choir Member & Family:

Welcome to the LHS Choral Department! Loveland High School is proud to offer a choral program that will emphasize learning, accomplishment, growth, and excellence. We believe that discipline and hard work in an environment of energy and fun are the basis for what we will be able to achieve. Thank you for committing yourself to a year of choral excellence, and it will certainly be an exciting one!

The Choir Handbook is designed to foster the success of the Loveland Choral Department, inform the students and their parents, and address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the school year. Answers to most questions concerning procedures in our department can be found within this book and/or on our choir website at <http://www.lovelandhighchoirs.org>.

The Loveland choral program has established a strong tradition of excellence both on our campus, in our local community, and across Colorado. In an effort to provide students with every educational opportunity possible, we maintain a very active choral program with many activities.

A successful organization has great support systems in place, and we rely heavily on the involvement of our parent community. We will be hosting a parent information meeting on **Wednesday, August 29th at 6:30 pm** in the LHS Auditorium. We will be discussing policies/procedures, uniforms, and field trips. We will also give you information of ways to get involved with new choir fundraisers, our parent booster, and information regarding the spring musical production. This is an excellent opportunity for you to be informed about the workings of the music department and areas that you can offer your support. **All Parents/guardians are asked to attend this meeting.** It is crucial to have attendance at this meeting! If you are unable to attend, please email Ms. Steketee for updates.

Please take time to read through ALL of the information in this handbook. Return the signed agreement form and uniform sheet to Ms. Steketee on or before **Thursday, August 30th**.

I make effort to community effectively with parents and students. It is best to reach me via email. I would like to ask that ALL students and parents provide an email address to be used for LHS Choirs. Please make sure to update me if your email address is changed at any time. There will also be a quarterly email newsletter for parents, along with a newsletter publication by our Choir Council. We have so many events available to students throughout the year, and want you to know all about them!

I am absolutely thrilled for the upcoming school year, and anticipate it to be a fantastic one of choral music for LHS! I welcome you as a part of our choir family and look forward to your involvement with the choirs. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Nicole Steketee
Director of Choirs

BEING A MEMBER OF LHS CHOIR!

Membership in the Loveland Choral program is open to every student at Loveland High School, regardless of musical experience. All students are audition and placed in an appropriate choral ensemble for their level of musicianship. Students are expected to represent our department positively!

Members of the Loveland choirs are expected to demonstrate the following:

Responsibility
Professionalism
Dignity
Integrity
Compassion

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE & PROCEDURES

The single most important factor to the success of any choir is the work it accomplishes in its rehearsals. How you rehearse is how you will perform.

1. Strive daily to demonstrate the qualities of Responsibility, Professionalism, Integrity, Dignity, and Compassion as outlined in the Loveland High School Choir Code of Conduct.
2. Participate in all daily rehearsal activities
3. Respond to instructions and requests of the director the first time given. Not singing is not an option.
4. Cell phones are not to be seen or heard during any rehearsal. The choir director reserves the right to take the students cell phone to the front office, or hold onto it until the end of class.

DAILY REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

1. Enter the room in a calm and dignified manner.
2. Place all personal belongings in designated place on the side of the room.
3. Pick up your folder and pencil and be in your seat when the bell rings.
4. Be ready to focus on our main priority of making music. This requires absolute attention, positive attitude, and a willingness to make a mistake.

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE PLAN

1. Verbal Warning
2. 2nd Verbal Warning
3. Excused from Rehearsal Participation, Student Conference and Parent Contact
4. Office Referral

Any physical/verbal violence, Drug and alcohol use, major infraction of LHS or TSD Policy, or student refusal to cooperate in discipline procedures of time out and written contact will result in an Immediate Office Referral or action listed in the LHS/TSD Handbooks.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Students will be systematically assessed concerning their mastery of the Colorado Common Core Standards for High School Music and the Loveland vocal Music Department “Expected Student Outcomes” that follow in this handbook. Grades will be calculated using the following system:

I. Music Performance – 45%

Students are required to attend and perform in music concerts. This is their exam for each quarter, and the culmination of the hard work they have been putting into rehearsals! Music Performance will also cover music part tests in class, as well as sectionals that are required each quarter.

II. Music Literacy and Evaluation – 45%

Students will be regularly assessed on music theory, aural skills, and understanding of music elements addressed in class. This will be assessed through partner music theory assignments and in-class quizzes.

III. Work Habits – 10%

Work Habits will be assessed through daily conduct (professional behavior, staying on task, having all materials, promoting digital citizenship). Each rehearsal day earns 1 point for the week (4 points per week).

Rubrics for each standard will be posted in Google Classroom in the rubrics folder. Please refer to this folder for further explanation of each grading task and level of understanding. A copy of the Colorado Music Standards is also in this folder for your review.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Attendance at concerts is REQUIRED. Concerts are considered “exams” for choir. Good communication between students, teacher and parents can prevent misunderstandings.

1. Written notices from parents are required for all absences. Verbal or written excuses from students are not accepted.
2. Advance notices are required for all prior commitments (a date already committed to another event when the schedule is announced). Students are expected to arrange work schedules and social calendars to accommodate choir events.
3. In case of illness or family emergency, please notify the director. Please follow up with a written note from parents as soon as possible. This is the ONLY category where absences will be excused the same day, or after, the event.
4. Conflicts with religious holidays or individual religious beliefs are considered excused if the teacher is notified in writing by the parent.
5. Students must stay for the ENTIRE CONCERT. It is very important to the musical development of a young musician to hear the older singers.
6. All absences in the above categories, verified by parent note, will be considered excused.

Please note: Once a student commits to an "extra" performance, then attendance no longer becomes optional and the previous attendance policy applies.

LOVELAND HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR UNIFORM INFORMATION

Choir uniform rental is required of all members of the CHAMBER SINGERS choir. Below is the information regarding the cost associated with the uniforms. Because this is a rental service, ALL materials must be returned at the end of the year.

LADIES	GENTLEMEN
Red formal dress - \$30	Black tuxedo w/ red (Chamber) - \$30 Red accents (Chamber w/ tux already) - \$10

Chamber uniform contract will be distributed separately

All students will provide their own black dress shoes & socks/hosiery to accompany the uniforms. Failure to do so may result in not being able to participate in choral concerts until items are attained.

*Students in all other choirs will provide their own uniforms (details below)
This is a change from previous years and will be discussed in each ensemble*

Treble Choir (Beginning Women's Choir) will need to have all black attire, and will wear an accent scarf. Black dress pants, knee length dress/skirt are all great options.

All gentlemen in **Tenor/Bass Choir** (Beginning Men's Choir) will need to have all black attire, and will wear an accent tie.

Bella Voce (Advanced Women's Choir) will wear all concert black and decide as a class for a matching accent piece as a group.

Mixed Choir will wear all concert black and decide as a class for a matching accent piece as a group.

It is the responsibility of the student to provide their concert black attire (or Chamber rental attire), and get approval by the director prior to the first concert. Failure to wear appropriate attire will result in revoking the student's privilege to sing in the concert, and require further work to make up the missed points.

STUDENT/PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In an effort to make our handbook paperless, parents and students will electronically sign the handbook at the google form link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/GOssf9NntgGS3qpB2>

Parents and students will need to access the online acknowledgement form, or those unable to, can fill out this form and turn in by August 30th. By signing electronically, you also agree to the below terms.

I will agree to the following terms for all choir ensembles in the LHS Choir Department:

- I will attend all scheduled rehearsals and will be on time, unless I have notified Ms. Steketee in advanced and have been excused. Rehearsals will be held during the school day, with some rehearsals extending past normal school hours. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed at the discretion of Ms. Steketee.
- I will all scheduled performances and will be on time. I will also clear any work related issues upon receiving a minimum two-week notification from Ms. Steketee. Missing rehearsals for work is not an option.
- Tardiness will not be tolerated as it affects the entire ensemble's progress!
- The student will pay all fees and expenses in a timely fashion, unless arrangements have been made with Ms. Steketee.
- I understand that I am highly encouraged to enroll in private voice instruction. For more information, see Ms. Steketee!
- Drug and alcohol use will not be tolerated. Students found involved in such activities will be dismissed from the group and will be dealt with according to rules stated in the LHS student code of conduct.
- I will represent the ensemble in a positive light by my actions both in an out of the group. I understand that failure to do so will jeopardize my membership.
- I understand that if I become ineligible, I could jeopardize my membership in the ensemble.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name (Printed)

Parent Signature

Date

Student Email

Parent(s) Email

LOVELAND HIGH CHOIR DATES 2018-2019

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Choir</i>
LHS Choir Retreat	August 13-15	11am-5pm	LHS & Boyd Lake	All 2018-2019 choir members
Loveland Corn Roast Parade	August 25 th	8:00am	Fairgrounds Loveland, CO	Participating students
LHS Parent Information Meeting	August 29 th	6:30pm	LHS Auditorium	All Choir Freshmen Parents (others encouraged as well!)
New York City Info Meeting	August 30 th	6:30pm	LHS Choir Room	All families interested in NYC trip for Spring Break
* Parent Information Meeting	September 6 th	6:30pm	LHS Auditorium	All choir parents
CU Honor Reading Choir	September 7 th – 8 th	All Day	CU Boulder	Selected Students
Musical Informational Meeting	September 20 th	6:00pm	LHS Auditorium	Interested students/parents
Choir Carwash Fundraiser for NYC trip	September 22 nd	10am-3pm	Image Car Wash – Taft Ave.	All choir students
Dear Evan Hansen Trip	September 25 th	3:30pm-11pm	Denver Center of Performing Arts	All music students available (spots are almost full)
Colorado All-State Choir Auditions	October 5 th – 6 th	Various – Sign ups	TBA	Auditioning Students
* Fall Choral Concert	October 16 th	7pm	LHS Auditorium	All Choirs
Musical Audition Workshop	November TBD	Time TBD	LHS Auditorium	Interested Students
MSU Choral Celebration	November 1 st	9am-4pm	MSU Denver	Advanced Women's
Musical Auditions	Nov 6 th - Nov 7 th	Various – Sign ups	LHS Auditorium	Interested Students
Musical Callbacks	November 8 th	4:00-8:00pm	LHS Auditorium	Selected Students
Musical Rehearsals begin (info to come)	November 12 th	After school	Choir Room	Selected Students
<i>La Primavera & Pasta</i> Gala Fundraiser	November 30 th	6pm-9pm	LHS Cafeteria	All Choirs and Community
* Holiday Choral Concert	December 12 th	7pm	LHS Auditorium	All Choirs
Rehearsal w/ Loveland Orchestra	December 13 th	7pm	Good Shepherd Church (Loveland)	Chamber Singers
Performance w/ Loveland Orchestra	December 14 th	7:30pm	Good Shepherd Church (Loveland)	Chamber Singers
Sounds of the Season Rehearsal	December 17 th	4:00-7:00pm	LHS Auditorium	Chamber, Bella Voce, Jazz
Sounds of the Season Concert	December 14 th	7pm	LHS Auditorium	Chamber, Bella Voce, Jazz
Middle School Choir Day	January 16 th	All Day	Loveland High School	Current students and 8 th grade choir students
Masterworks Rehearsal	January TBD	TBD	TVHS	Chamber Singers
Masterworks Dress Rehearsal	January TBD	TBD	TVHS	Chamber Singers
Masterworks Concert	January TBD	TBD	TVHS	Chamber Singers

CMEA Conference/All State Jazz Weekend	January 24 th -26 th	Overnight	Broadmoor Hotel, CO Springs	Interested Students Audition October/November 2015
Colorado All State Choir Weekend	January 31 st -Feb 2 nd	Overnight	Colorado Convention Center	Interested Students Audition October/November
LHS Choir Auditions for 2016-2017	January/February TBA	Various	Choir Room	Current Students
Singing Valentines	February 12 th -14 th	Various	Various Location	Jazz Choir & selected students
Combined League Honor Choir	February 21 st	All day	UCCC - Greeley	Selected Students
LHS Musical Production	March 14 th - 16 th	7pm (all) 2pm (16 th)	LHS Auditorium	Selected Students
NYC Choir Trip	March 19 th - 23 rd	Extended stay	New York City	Open to all choir students Register start of year
* Spring Choral Concert	March 27 th	7pm	LHS Auditorium	All Choirs
Choice City Choir Festival	April TBA	TBD	Fort Collins HS	Choirs TBD
A Night in Hollywood Rehearsal	April 2 nd	6pm-8pm	LHS Auditorium	Selected Students & Community
A Night in Hollywood	April 3 rd	7pm	LHS Auditorium	Selected Students & Community
UNC Jazz Festival	April 25 th	All Day	Union Colony Civic Center (Greeley, CO)	Jazz Choir
Vocal Jazz Solo Night Rehearsal	April 30 th	TBD	TBD	Jazz Choir
Vocal Jazz Solo Night	May 1 st	7pm	LHS Auditorium	Jazz Choir
Jazz on the Lawn concert	May 7 th	6pm-8pm	LHS Amphitheatre	Jazz Choir & Jazz Bands
LHS Choir Awards Banquet	May 8 th	6:30pm	LHS Cafeteria	All Choir Students & Parents/Guardians
* LHS Choir Awards Dress Rehearsal	May 13 th	4pm-6pm	LHS Auditorium	All Choirs
* LHS Choir Awards Concert	May 14 th	7pm	LHS Auditorium	All Choirs

*** All required events for all choirs are marked! Every other event is either specific to only particular choirs, and will be discussed in class, or are events that we encourage students to attend and participate in! Remember that attending events count toward lettering points!**

All events are subject to change, and it is up to the students to keep informed on any changes to dates or times