

LEON CHORUS



"tradition in a song"

Leon High School Choral Program

550 E. Tennessee St.

Tallahassee, FL 32308

(850) 671-5700

www.leonperformingarts.org

Tabitha Peck, Director of Choral Activities

Peckt2@leonschools.net

Peter Pursino, Associate Director

Pursinop@leonschools.net

WELCOME TO THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR!

The Leon Choral Department upholds a proud tradition of excellence, and we are delighted you have chosen to become part of our musical family. Our goal is to provide quality music education to every student at Leon. There are 47 Performing Arts classes at Leon this year with an enrollment of more than 800 students!

Please read this handbook and ask your parent/guardian to read it carefully. Please have your parent/guardian initial and sign page 8 and return to your chorus teacher by **August 17**. Please keep the handbook at home or refer to it online at www.leonchorus.com. In addition to returning the signed form, you must sign up for CHARMS on the chorus webpage. You will receive a grade for this assignment and a grade for turning in the handbook signature pages.

ABOUT OUR CHORAL PROGRAM

The Leon Choral Program has been in existence since the 1920s. We have SEVEN curricular choir classes and FOUR co-curricular choral ensembles. (We also have a lot of performances!)

The following curricular choirs are non-auditioned classes. They have ONE required performance in the first quarter, and TWO required performances each quarter thereafter.

Beginning Treble Chorus: non-auditioned, for treble voices who have not yet had chorus at the high school level
Beginning Men's Chorus: non-auditioned, for tenor/bass voices who have not yet had chorus at the high school level
Opus: 10th-12th grade treble voices (10th by director placement, 11th-12th require one or more years of high school chorus.)
Concert Chorale: SATB chorus, one year of high school chorus required, 9th graders by director placement only.

The following curricular choir classes are auditioned during the previous school year and have **many** performances:

Madrigal Singers: 11th and 12th grade mixed chamber choir (also enrolled in Capital Singers)
Melodears: 11th and 12th grade female chamber choir (also enrolled in Capital Singers)
Capital Singers: 11th and 12th grade mixed large choir; Leon's Top Choral Ensemble (sophomore men by audition only)

Our Co-curricular ensembles meet once a week, and perform at the Chili and Dessert Fundraisers, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and the Pops Concert. They are:

Cantabile: Open to all treble voices, meets after school on Wednesdays, directed by Mr. Pursino
Tempo: Open to all T/B voices, meets after school on Wednesdays, directed by Mrs. Peck
Mane Event: Auditioned in August, co-ed, meets on Thursdays from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, directed by Mrs. Peck

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Rules:

1. Always be kind and respectful to your classmates and director(s).
2. Do not disrupt rehearsal (verbally, physically, via phone usage, headphone wearing, makeup application, staying in your assigned seat, etc)
3. Participate to the best of your ability, making eye contact with the director during the rehearsal.

*More than half of your grade is based on the **quality** of your participation in class. This refers to being mentally present, not on your phone, giving the director your undivided attention/eye contact, and singing with proper technique – see rubric posted in the chorus room!

Classroom Procedure:

1. The outside door to the chorus room will remain locked at all times for safety. It can be safely exited.
2. Be in your assigned seat with music and pencil in hand by the time the tardy bell rings.
3. Water bottles/choral materials only at your seat. (No gum. No food.)
4. You may use the music/science building bathroom **after warm ups**. The class bathroom pass is required. Please try to use the bathroom in between classes and during lunch. Frequent or extended periods of use of the bathroom during class time will be addressed with the individual and parents/guardians. If restroom accommodations are needed for a medical reason, please let your director know promptly.

Absences/Tardies:

The seats in the chorus room are numbered and assigned. Attendance is taken by looking at the EMPTY chairs and recording the number. Roll is **not** called by name. Student aides may check the seating chart, but are NOT permitted to enter attendance on the online portal. Per LCSB policy, persons not seated in their assigned seat by the time the tardy bell rings will be marked Absent(A). Tardies(T) will be given to those who get to their seat in minutes 1-9 after the time the tardy bell rings. A Late(L) will be assigned to anyone entering class 10+ minutes after the tardy bell. Per LCSB policy, a Late(L) is the same as an unexcused absence. Every 4th Tardy(T) is also a Late(L).

Discipline Procedure:

We do not expect discipline problems in our chorus classroom. When a rule is broken or a student behaves inappropriately, however, we generally adhere to the following procedures:

1. First offense – verbal redirection
2. Second offense - Contact with parent/guardian to discuss the behavior and how it can be managed
3. Third offense – Referral written and parent/guardian contact made

*Please note – serious offenses may warrant an immediate referral.

GRADING POLICY (grades updated frequently on FOCUS)

Non-Auditioned Choir Grading Rubric:

(Beginning Women, Beginning Men, Chorale, Opus)

Auditioned Choir Grading Rubric:

(Capital Singers, Madrigals, Melodears)

CLASS PARTICIPATION	50 %
PERFORMANCE GRADE	25 %
ASSESSMENTS (WRITTEN AND MUSICAL)	15 %
WORKBOOK/CONCERT REFLECTIONS	10 %

CLASS PARTICIPATION	40 %
PERFORMANCE GRADE	30 %
ASSESSMENTS (WRITTEN AND MUSICAL)	19 %
COMMUNITY SERVICE/MENTORSHIP	11 %

CONCERT ATTENDANCE POLICY

please note: Madrigals and Melodears are frequently asked to perform in addition to our set school performance season, especially around the holiday season. Ample notice (for asking off work, etc) is always given, and each member is expected to be at each performance

All Chorus members are expected and required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Since chorus is a performance-based class, rehearsals and performances are an integral part of the curriculum, and of the overall success of the program. No one is “on the bench” in chorus! The success of each choir depends on all members being present and participating in class and in performances.

Students who are not in attendance at any concert will receive a 0 for that concert grade unless the absence is excused PRIOR to the performance. Students who must miss a performance for ANY REASON MUST request this absence at least 60 days prior to the absence. The calendar of performances is attached to this handbook. We expect our performers to be responsible to check the calendar and notify us of any current conflicts.

Absences not requested with sufficient notice will automatically be marked unexcused. There are exceptions in situations of extreme emergency or sudden illness. It is understood that in these situations, an email will be sent to Mrs. Peck or Mr. Pursino with 24 hours of the absence.

Please know that we can HELP make accommodations for rides, etc. to our performances!

Do not let transportation be the reason a performer misses a concert!

For EXCUSED absences:

Students who miss a performance for any excused reason may do the makeup assignment for **90%** of the performance grade.

EXCUSED absences from performance include but are not limited to:

- LEON sporting game
- Extreme illness
- Death in the family
- Other LEON performance

For UNEXCUSED absences:

Students who miss a performance for any unexcused reason may do the makeup assignment for **65%** of the performance grade.

UNEXCUSED absences from a performance include but are not limited to:

- Lack of transportation
- Student/Parent had to work
- Forgetfulness
- Other non-Leon performance/activity

AFTER CONCERT PICKUP POLICY

Student safety is the #1 priority of the Leon Choral Department. Our concerts are listed on page 7 of this handbook; we request that arrangements for rides after field trips/concerts be made BEFORE the event. Mr. Pursino and Mrs. Peck both have young children at home and we ask that you respect our families by picking up your student in a timely manner from field trips and concerts. For field trips – your student will notify you upon our departure from the event, and when we are 30 minutes from Leon. Please make every effort to be on time for your student. Fall, Spring, and Pops concerts usually last no more than 1.5 hours. PAWS is a 2 hour performance. Please attend these concerts to support your student or make sure you have secured proper **timely** transportation for them afterward. We cannot leave a student unattended after a performance or trip. If the waiting time exceeds 30 minutes, we reserve the right to call for law enforcement to secure a safe return home for the student. Habitual “stranded students” may be asked to do alternate assignments rather than participate in our performances/trips.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

At some point this year, you may want to consider taking voice lessons. Private voice lessons are a wonderful way to become more comfortable with singing, in a solo or choral context. Voice students work on separate repertoire, range development, maintaining vocal health, as well as expressive elements. There are a number of quality voice teachers in town that we would be happy to recommend to you (they have their own home-based private studios.)

Leon Chorus also contracts through LCSB with voice teachers who teach here at Leon, after school hours. We will have two to three voice teachers. Space in the studios is limited and priority is given to returning voice students. Information concerning voice lessons will be given during upper level chorus classes. If there is any available space, students in intermediate and beginning classes will be given information. Lessons must be paid for in advance for the semester. 12 lessons=\$240.00. There are partial and full scholarships available through Leon Friends of Music. Scholarship for voice lessons is solely based on need and timely request. Applications are on the bulletin board at the front of the chorus room.

UNIFORM AND FEE INFORMATION

Beginning Men: \$25/year

Ties (men) are provided and rented to you for the year. Please provide black, flat, closed toed shoes to wear at each performance. You will purchase your own long sleeved white shirt and khaki pants to wear with the tie. Please notify a director if (for religious reasons) you have special uniform needs.

Your fee covers: rental of the tie, a chorus t-shirt, a workbook for class, busses for MPA, any festivals/assessments we attend, as well as awards given at the banquet.

Beginning Women/Concert Chorale/Opus: \$40/year

Dresses and Tuxes are provided and rented to you for the year. Please provide black, flat, closed-toe shoes to wear at each performance (black socks for tuxes.) Jewelry and colorful headbands/bows/scarfs must not be worn (earring studs are OK.) Please notify a director if (for religious reasons) you have special uniform needs.

Your fee covers: rental of the dress/tux, a chorus t-shirt, a workbook for class, any bus expense we may incur, food, any festivals/assessments we attend, as well as awards given at the end of the year banquet.

Capital Singers \$100 (\$125 if also in Madrigals/Melodears) per year

Dresses and Tuxes are provided and rented to you for the year. Capital Singers should also have a pair of KHAKI pants to wear with our Caps Polo, and WOMEN should purchase and wear BLACK CHARACTER SHOES to wear with their dress. Jewelry and colorful headbands/bows/scarfs must not be worn (earring studs are OK.) Please notify a director if (for religious reasons) you have special uniform needs.

Your fee covers: rental of the dress/tux, a chorus t-shirt, a polo, Mads/Melos separate uniform pieces, a workbook for class, any bus expense we may incur, food, festivals we attend (MPA-district and state), as well as awards given at the end of the year banquet.

*****AT NO TIME WILL A STUDENT BE DENIED PARTICIPATION IN OUR ACTIVITIES DUE TO FINANCIAL STRAIN. THERE IS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE THROUGH LEON FRIENDS OF MUSIC-PLEASE NOTIFY US IN WRITING WITHIN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS OF SCHOOL IF A PARTIAL OR FULL SCHOLARSHIP IS NEEDED!!!*****

LEON FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Founded as Leon Choral Parents, 1971. Incorporated as Leon Friends of Music, Inc. May, 2000

- The Leon Friends of Music, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization whose sole purpose is to provide assistance to the Leon Choral Department students and faculty. Through financial contributions and volunteer hours the organization makes possible the continued quality of music education for all of our students.
- Subsidies for student fees, uniform rentals, All State, and Honor Choir expenses are available through LFM. Parents who need assistance for their student are asked to contact one of the directors concerning this need.
- We rely on donations from parents/community members and minimal fundraising to assist with voice lessons, summer music camps, class fees, All State, and Honor Choir trips. Scholarships are primarily need-based and information will be provided to students in class and online.
- **The Dale Pullen Golf Tournament ended as of April 2017.** That tournament was a MAJOR source of funding for Leon Chorus and Leon Friends of Music. We will definitely need to solicit as many donations as possible to try to minimize fundraising the “old fashioned” way (aka selling things!)

HOW TO DONATE:

All donations are **tax deductible** and go directly towards expenses incurred by the Choral Department. Donations to LFM, Inc will gladly be accepted at any time! Information is online and all contributions are tax deductible. Membership cards grant admission at our choral events (fall, spring, Pre-MPA, and POPS concerts)

\$50=PATRON; 2 Membership Cards

\$75=BENEFACTOR; 4 Membership Cards

\$125=ANGEL; 6 Membership Cards

\$250=ARCHANGEL; 6 Membership Cards and 2 Reserved Seats at the annual Performing Arts Winter Showcase (PAWS)

\$500=BUSINESS PARTNER; 8 Membership Cards, 4 Reserved Seats at Performing Arts Winter Showcase (PAWS), and 2 Summer Musical Tickets

Donations can be made at www.leonchorus.com

CALENDAR (Grey events are mandatory for all choral students)

All calendar dates (for all Performing Arts classes) are always updated on www.leonperformingarts.org

Date	What	Where	When	Who	cost?
August 10	Caps at Orientation	LPAT	7am	Capital Singers	
August 21-23	Mane Event Auditions	Chorus Room	3-5pm	open to any chorus student	
September 7-8	Mane Event Retreat	Leon Chorus Room/TBA	after school/all day SAT	Mane Event	
September 10	Parent Meeting	LPAT	6:30pm	all curricular choirs!	
September 11	All-State Musicianship Exam	Lincoln High	3pm	select students	
September 14-15	Capital Singers Retreat	Chorus Room/TBA	after school/all day SAT	Capital Singers	
September 18	All-State Sightreading Exam	Leon	3pm	select students	
September 27-29	Jacksonville Sings Trip	University of North Florida	itinerary to follow	select students	
October 15	All-State Vocal Quality Test	St. Pauls United Methodist	3pm	select students	
October 16	Fall Choral Concert	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$5/\$3
October 23	Caps Masterwork Concert	Faith Presbyterian Church	7pm	Capital Singers	free!
October 25-27	ACDA honor Choir Trip	Deland, FL	itinerary to follow	Capital Singers	
November 6	Chili Dinner Fundraiser	St. Johns Alfriend Hall	6:30pm	Mads/Melos and all co-curricular ensembles	\$10
November 15-20	New York Trip	New York, NY	all 5 days	juniors and seniors who opt to go	
December 1	Downtown Winter Festival	Downtown	time TBA	Mane Event	free!
December 6	PAWS Rehearsal	LPAT	3-6pm	all curricular choirs!	
December 7-8	PAWS Performances	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$10/\$25
January 9-13	All-State Honor Choirs	Tampa, FL	itinerary to follow	students selected by audition	
January 24-25	Unity Concert Rehearsals	FSU	7pm	Capital Singers	
January 26	Unity Concert w/Tall. Comm. Chorus	FSU	9-12am and 7pm	Capital Singers	yes
January 29	Men's Day Festival	Chiles HS	all day, concert@6p	all Leon chorus men!	donation
February 8	District Solo and Ensemble	St. Pauls United Methodist	times TBA	some ensembles, those who take voice	
Feb 27-March 2	National ACDA	Kansas City, MO	details TBA	students selected by audition	
March 5	Pre-MPA Concert	Faith Presbyterian Church	7pm	all curricular choirs!	
March 7-8	Choral MPA	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	all curricular choirs!	
April 2	Spring Choral Concert	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$5/\$3
April 9	Dessert Delight Fundraiser	St. Johns Alfriend Hall	6:30pm	Mads/Melos and all co-curricular ensembles	\$10
April 16	Opus Adopt a Choir Concert	Concert at FSU	7:00pm	Opus and FSU Women's Glee	free!
April 29-30	State MPA	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	Capital Singers, Madrigals, Melodears	
April 22 (week)	Summer show Auditions	Chorus Room	after school/evening	anyone auditioning for summer show	
May 5	Voice Recital	Faith Presbyterian Church	4pm	students who are in the Voice Academy	
May 6	St. thomas More Rehearsal	St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral	2-4pm	Capital Singers, Madrigals, Melodears	
May 7	St. Thomas More Concert	St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral	7pm	Capital Singers, Madrigals, Melodears	free!
May 7	Westminster Oaks Concert	Westminster Oaks	7pm	Madrigals and Melodears	free!
May 16	Spring "pops" concert	LPAT	7pm	all choirs and co-curricular ensembles!	\$5/\$3
May 21	Mane Event Concert	LPAT	7:30pm	Mane Event	\$5
May 23	Choral Banquet	St. Johns Alfriend Hall	6:30pm	everyone and parents!	\$10

I have read the concert attendance policy on p.3 parent initial _____
 I have read the parent concert pickup policy on p.4 parent initial _____
 I understand there are chorus fees (p.5) parent initial _____
 I received the 2018-2019 calendar (p.7) parent initial _____

I have received and read the Leon Choral Handbook

Student Name(print)_____ Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Name(print)_____ Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Email Address:_____ phone #_____

Class Period _____

Leon Chorus Student Driver Permission form 2018-2019

This applies to IN TOWN Performances and Rehearsals ONLY (students will never drive out of county!)

(if this changes – for example, a student becomes a driver during the year, a new form is needed!)

ALL STUDENTS CHECK ONE OF THESE OPTIONS

please do not check more than one of the two below...that confuses us!

_____ My student may ride with another student driver.

_____ My student may NOT ride with a student driver.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF DRIVING STUDENTS ALSO CHECK ONE OF THESE OPTIONS

please do not check more than one thing below...that confuses us!

_____ My student may drive his or her own vehicle, but MAY NOT drive others.

_____ My student may drive his or her own vehicle, and may drive
 other students who have parental permission.

 Parent Printed Name

 Parent Signature

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

18/19

A. Name _____ Grade _____ School _____
Address _____ Home Phone _____ Parent's Work Phone _____

I have read and understood all sections of this form that apply to my child. I certify that _____, who is a student and whose name is as it appears on his/her birth certificate, is my child or my legal ward, resides with me, and has been residing with me since (date) _____ at the following address: _____ (ZIP). I also state that we are now living within the attendance boundaries or have been reassigned by the district to _____ school.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

B. PERMISSION FOR SUPERVISED FIELD AND ACTIVITY TRIPS

During the school year, it sometimes becomes desirable to add to the educational experience of our students through planned visits to points outside of the school building. The visit might be a short field trip to a local point of educational interest, or on the middle and senior high school level, it might involve representing the school out of town in some group activity, such as band, chorus, athletic, academic, service club events, etc.

We request that you grant permission for your child to participate in any such trip during the entire school year so that we may keep this form on file and avoid the necessity of asking for such permission on each occasion. The Leon County School Board has authorized the use of buses, private passenger cars and those approved vans that meet all of the Federal Safety Standards to transport students to any such trips. Notification will be provided to you concerning the type of transportation to be used. School officials will provide trip itinerary for all out of county trips.

Part I: CONSENT

The undersigned as parent or guardian gives consent for the participant to use the Leon County School Board – approved means of transportation as a representative of _____ School for the supervised field and/or activity trips.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

PART II: NON-CONSENT

The undersigned as parent or guardian does not give consent for the participation to use the Leon County School Board – approved means of transportation as a representative of _____ School for the supervised field and/or activity trips.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

C. MEDICAL RELEASE

PART I: CONSENT

The undersigned as the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of _____ do hereby authorize the agent or officials of the Leon County School Board to obtain, through a physician of its choice, any emergency medical care that may become reasonably necessary for the student in the course of such athletic activities or such travel. No action shall be taken until an attempt is made to contact me at the phone number(s) listed below. Payment of all charges incurred for medical treatment is guaranteed by parent/guardian or the insurance company providing coverage for above named student.

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

IN WITNESS of our consent and agreement to the matters stated above, we have subscribed our signature below.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

PART II: NON-CONSENT

As parent or guardian of _____, I do not desire to sign the medical and surgical release form above.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

D. INSURANCE

As parent or guardian of the student identified herein, I understand that the School Board of Leon County is not liable for injuries to participants in school activities. I further understand that all students shall be required to have proper medical insurance before they will be permitted to practice and participate in any co-curricular activity or field trip program.

Date _____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____

The following options shall be the only acceptable ones: (Please check your selected option.)

1. = Personal Medical Insurance. The use of your personal medical or active/retired military insurance shall cover the activity(s) that your son or daughter will be participating in the current school year, and the insurance covers a minimum of \$25,000.
Company _____ Policy Number _____

2. = Student Activities Insurance Made Available through the School Board of Leon County. The cost of the insurance to be paid by the student participating (each year the county will publish the School Board of Leon County Insurance Plan for students). See school front office for details.