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LEON CHORUS



"tradition in a song"

Leon High School Choral Program

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WELCOME TO THE 2023-2024 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.

Please read this handbook and ask your parent/guardian to read it carefully. Please have your parent/guardian initial and sign the last TWO pages and return to your chorus teacher by **August 25, 2023**. 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 our database on the chorus webpage. You will receive a grade for completing database registration, and for turning in the handbook signature pages (7&8).

ABOUT OUR CHORAL PROGRAM

The Leon Choral Program has been in existence since the 1920-1921 school year.
We have SIX curricular choir classes and one co-curricular choral ensemble.

The following curricular choirs are non-auditioned:

Prelude: non-auditioned, for treble voices who have not yet had chorus at the high school level

Overture: non-auditioned, for tenor/bass voices

Opus: 10th-12th grade treble voices who have had at least one year of high school chorus

The following curricular choir classes are placed by audition only:

Madrigal Singers: 11th and 12th grade SATB chamber choir (also enrolled in Capital Singers)

Melodears: 11th and 12th grade SSAA chamber choir (also enrolled in Capital Singers)

Capital Singers: 11th and 12th grade SATB large choir; Leon's Top Choir (10th grade TB)

Our co-curricular ensemble perform at the Dessert Delight and Pops Concerts, as well as in the community (downtown winter festival, chain of parks, etc)

Mane Event: ~Auditioned~9th through 12th grade SATB ensemble, meets Thursdays from 7:00-8:30pm

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 giving the director your undivided attention/eye contact, not distracted or on your phone, having choral materials every day, and singing with proper technique – see rubric posted in the chorus room!

Classroom Procedures:

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 folder, & pencil in hand by the tardy bell.
3. Water bottles/choral materials only at your seat. (No gum. No food.)
4. One at a time you may use the music/science building bathroom **after warms 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 with their folder in their assigned seat by the time the tardy bell rings will be marked Absent(A).

Tardies(T) will be given to those have their folder and 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/getting folders 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: (Prelude, Overture, Opus)

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

Auditioned Choir Grading Rubric: (Capital Singers, Madrigals, Melodears)

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. At least 2 weeks notice (for asking off work, etc) is given, and each member is expected to be at each performance

All Chorus members are expected and required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Because 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.

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 Mrs. Smith within 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

UNIFORM AND FEE INFORMATION

FEES can be paid online! Visit www.leonchorus.com for the link!

Prelude/Overture: \$45

Your fee covers: a chorus t-shirt, tie(Overture)/scarf(Prelude), a workbook for class, subscriptions to ChoralTracks and Sightreading Factory, and MPA that we attend in the spring. Prelude will need to procure ALL BLACK (floor length, with sleeves) for their uniform, Overture needs a white button up long sleeve shirt and black pants.

Opus: \$45 (\$55 if you need the chorus shirt, or would like a new one)

Your fee covers: rental of your chorus dress, a workbook for class, subscriptions to ChoralTracks and Sightreading Factory, and MPA that we attend in the spring.

Capital Singers \$100

Madrigals and Melodears an additional \$25

Your fee covers: Dress or Tuxedo rental for the year, your Capital Singers polo, rental of Mads/Melos separate uniform pieces, a workbook for class, festivals we attend (MPA-district and state), subscriptions to ChoralTracks and Sightreading Factory, and trophies/awards we give at the end of the year.

*****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!!!*****

PRIVATE 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 studios.)

Leon Chorus also contracts through LCSB with professional voice teachers who teach after school hours. Lessons must be paid for in advance for the semester. 12 lessons=\$240.00. There are partial 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 and online at www.leonchorus.com

LEON FRIENDS OF MUSIC

Founded as Leon Choral Parents in 1971 and 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.

HOW TO DONATE:

All donations are **tax deductible** and go directly towards expenses incurred by the Choral Department. Donations to LFM, Inc will be accepted at any time! Information is on our website 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	\$250 =ARCHANGEL; 6 Membership Cards and 2 Reserved Seats at the annual Performing Arts Winter Showcase (PAWS)
\$75 =BENEFACTOR; 4 Membership Cards	\$500 =BUSINESS PARTNER; 8 Membership Cards, 4 Reserved Seats at Performing Arts Winter Showcase (PAWS), and 2 Summer Musical Tickets
\$125 =ANGEL; 6 Membership Cards	

Donations can be made at www.leonchorus.com

2023-2024 CALENDAR

Date	What	Where	When	Who	cost?
August 8	Caps at Orientation	LPAT	7am	Capital Singers	
August 12	Capital Singers Retreat	Chorus Room/TBA	12pm-8pm	Capital Singers	
August 21-23	Mane Event Auditions	Chorus Room	3-5pm	open to any chorus student	
August 26	Mane Event Retreat	Leon Chorus Room/TBA	10am-4pm	Mane Event	
September 9	All-State Musicianship/SR Exam	Lincoln High School	8am	select students	
September 11	Parent Meeting	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	
October 2	Fall Choral Concert	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$5/\$3
October 10	All-State Vocal Quality Test	Montford Middle School	after school	select students	
October 19	Caps NYC Parent Meeting	Leon Chorus room	5:30pm	anyone going and a parent	
October 26-28	ACDA honor Choir Trip	Deland, FL	itinerary to an day,	students by audition	
November 6	Treble Day	Chiles HS	concert @ Chiles	all soprano altos	
November 14	Caps Masterwork Concert	LPAT	7pm	Capital Singers	\$10
November 16-21	NYC TRIP!!!				
December 1	Madrigal Dinner	TBA	6pm	Madrigal Singers	
December 2	Downtown Winter Festival	Downtown	time TBA	Mane Event	free!
December 3	"Music in the Woods"	address TBA	2-6pm	Mads and Melos	
December 4	Westminster Oaks Concert	Westminster Oaks	7pm	Mads and Melos	
December 7	Melodears Lunch Gig	TBA	lunctime	Melodears	
December 7	PAWS Rehearsal	LPAT	3-6pm	all curricular choirs!	
December 8	 anytime Middle School PAWS show	LPAT	during school	all curricular choirs!	
December 8-9	PAWS Performances	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$10/\$25
January 10-13	All-State Honor Choirs	Tampa, FL	itinerary to an day,	students selected by audition	
January 30	Tenor Bass Day	Chiles HS	concert @ Chiles	all leon chorus tenor/basses!	donation
February 9	District Solo and Ensemble	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	by sign up	
February 20	Pre-MPA Concert	Faith Presbyterian Church	7pm	all curricular choirs!	
February 26-27	Choral MPA	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	all curricular choirs!	
March 26	Dessert Delight Fundraiser	LPAT and Cafeteria	6:30pm	Mads/Melos/Mane Ev/cantabile/tempo	\$10
April 11	State MPA	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	Capital Singers	
April 15	St. Thomas More Rehearsal	St. Thomas More	2-4pm	Caps, Mads, Melos	
April 16	St. Thomas More Concert	St. Thomas More	7pm	Caps, Mads, Melos	free!
April 20-21	Lemoyne Chain of Parks Festival	downtown	time TBA	Mane Event	free!
May 3	Spring "pops" concert	LPAT	7pm	all choirs!	\$5/\$3
May 4	State Solo and Ensemble	Niceville	all day	those who made superiors @ district	
May 9	Chorus Awards Ceremony	LPAT	6pm	everyone and parents!	free!
May 10	Mane Event dress rehearsal	LPAT	6-9pm	Mane Event	
May 11	Mane Event Concert	LPAT	7pm	Mane Event	\$5
May 23	Leon Graduation	Civic Center	TBA	All of Caps sings!	

I have read the concert attendance policy on p.3

parent initial ____

I understand there are chorus fees (p.4)

parent initial ____

I have taken note of the calendar and when
my student's required performances are

parent initial ____

**By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and read the
Leon Choral Handbook**

Student Name(print)_____ Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Name(print)_____ Signature_____

Parent/Guardian Email Address:_____ phone #_____

Chorus class period _____

Leon Chorus Student Driver Permission form 2023-2024

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**21/22**A. Student Name _____ Grade _____ School LEON HIGH 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 LEON HIGH 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 LEON HIGH 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.