

Tabitha Peck,
Director of Choral Activities
Tabitha.Peck@leonschools.net

Maggie Smith,
Associate Director
Margaraet.Smith@leonschools.net

LEON CHORUS



"tradition in a song"

Leon High School Choral Program

550 E. Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
www.leonchorus.com

WELCOME TO THE 2026-2027 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 **THREE** pages and return to your chorus teacher by **August 21, 2026**. Please keep the handbook at home or refer to it online at www.leonchorus.com.

Students will receive a grade for a pic with a parent and the refrigerator magnet, joining Remind, and for turning in the signature pages of this document(6-8).

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 two co-curricular choral ensembles. Descriptions at www.leonchorus.com

The following curricular choirs are non-auditioned – anyone can join!

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 in lunchtime concerts, community events, and Pops

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

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Rules:

1. Be kind and respectful to your classmates and director(s).
2. Do not disrupt rehearsal (verbally, physically, via electronics, food, headphone/airpods, makeup, hair, moving about the room, 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. Good quality participation = Eye contact with director, having only choral materials & pencil with you, and singing with proper technique!

Classroom Procedures:

1. All classroom doors will remain locked at all times for safety. They can always 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. We will warm up physically and vocally to be ready to sing!
5. You may use the music/science building bathroom **after warm ups**. The class bathroom pass is required, and you leave your phone on the piano to go. Frequent/extended periods of use of the bathroom during class time will be addressed with the individual and parents.

Absences/Tardies:

The seats in the chorus room are numbered and assigned. Empty chair = absence. Roll is not called by name. Student officers may check the seating chart, but are not permitted to enter attendance on the online portal. Persons not seated with their folder in their assigned seat by the time the tardy bell rings will be marked absent.

Discipline Procedure:

We do not expect discipline problems in our chorus classroom. If needed, our procedure is outlined below.

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 second parent/guardian contact made

*Serious offenses may warrant an immediate referral.

We understand we have incredible humans in our room and this is rarely needed!

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	40 %
ASSESSMENTS (WRITTEN AND MUSICAL)	20 %

COMMUNICATION

We try very hard to make sure everyone (including parents) are aware of our expectations and our concert dates. Please make sure your contact info is correct in FOCUS. You can also follow @Leon_Chorus on Instagram or Leon Friends of Music on Facebook!

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

All 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!

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, a Remind message will be sent to Mrs. Peck or Mrs. Smith before the event occurs. A “no call no show” is a 0. We can help make accommodations for rides, etc. to our performances if we know in advance!

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, prearranged with Peck/Smith to be at the game rather than concert.
- 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
- Social Activities (birthdays, etc)
- Other non-Leon performance/activity

LEON CHORUS 26-27
FULL CALENDAR
(scan the QR)



UNIFORM INFORMATION

The annual cost of running a modern-day choral program is in excess of \$25,000 per year. Because of this number, we charge for admission to our concerts (\$5) and we do expect all students in choir to pay a choir fee. Fees are due September 18th.

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

Prelude (3rd period)/Overture (2nd period): \$65

Your fee covers: a chorus t-shirt, tie OR scarf, a workbook, Treble/Tenor Bass Day Registration, and MPA that we attend in the spring (busses and registration and pizza). Prelude will need to provide floor length black dress pants or skirt (no leggings please), and a black blouse with sleeves for their uniform, Overture needs to provide a white button up long sleeve shirt and black pants.

Opus (5th period): \$75

Your fee covers: An Opus t-shirt, rental of your chorus dress, a workbook for class, Treble Day Registration, and MPA that we attend in the spring (busses and registration and pizza.)

Capital Singers (4th period) \$150 (Madrigals (6th) and Melodears (7th) are an additional \$50)

Your fee covers: Dress or Tuxedo rental for the year, your Capital Singers polo, rental of Mads/Melos separate uniform pieces, Treble/Tenor Bass Day Registration, a workbook for class, MPA, 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 a financial assistance form on p.5. We have a payment plan/partial scholarship application available!

LEON FRIENDS OF MUSIC, INC.

Founded as Leon Choral Parents in 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.

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).

\$65 Benefactor	\$75 Harmony Builder	\$150 Angel	\$250 Archangel	\$500 Crescendo Sponsor	\$1000 Standing Ovation Sponsor
pays a year of fees for a member of Prelude/Overture	pays one year of fees for a member of Opus	pays one year of fees for a Capital Singer	pays voice lessons for a semester for a student	pays voice lessons for a student for one year	<<< helps in all these ways and more!
1 membership card	2 membership cards	4 membership cards	6 membership cards	6 membership cards	6 membership cards
				2 VIP Seats at PAWS	2 VIP Seats at PAWS
					2 Premium Summer Musical Tickets

Donations can be made at www.leonchorus.com

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. 10 lessons=\$200.00. There are partial scholarships available through Leon Friends of Music. Applications are on the bulletin board at the front of the chorus room and online at www.leonchorus.com

ALL OF THE
FOLLOWING PAGES
NEED TO BE FILLED
OUT AND
SIGNED BY THE
PARENT/GUARDIAN
(ALL HIGHLIGHTED
AREAS ARE FOR
SIGNATURES)

Forms due no later than September 18th. After this date, all scholarships will have been awarded.

(this application should be filled out by the parent/guardian, not the student)

It is the philosophy of Leon Chorus that NO student be denied access or participation in our choirs due to lack of funding. We try to be as flexible as possible with our Leon Choral students – they are a valuable part of our program and we want them to have a full choir experience for as many years as they wish to participate!

Please understand that a choral program takes many thousands of dollars to operate (As an example - We spend in excess of \$10K each year on sheet music for our choirs and after school ensembles.) so we ask that you do not apply for scholarships out of convenience, but rather please apply out of absolute need. Additionally, for those who receive scholarship, we would appreciate parents volunteering of their time to make sure our events are able to function at their best!

Chorus Fees 2026-2027:

choir fee	Overture	Prelude	Opus	Caps	Madrigals	Melodears
	65	65	75	150	50	50

Payment Plan Option – please choose one:

Please select one of the following options:

_____ I need no scholarship.

_____ I will make a payment of \$_____ in the fall (By Sept 18th) and \$_____ in the spring (due by Feb 1st)

_____ I can make 7 monthly payments of \$_____ per month (for 7 months, starting Sept 1 and ending March 1)

_____ Other payment plan_____

_____ I am in need of a 1/3 scholarship – I can pay 2/3 of the amount for my student’s choir by Sept 18th

_____ I am in need of a 1/2 scholarship – I can pay 1/2 of the amount for my student’s choir by Sept 18th

_____ I am in need of a 2/3 scholarship – I can pay 1/3 of the amount for my student’s choir by Sept 18th

_____ I am in need of FULL scholarship – I am unable to pay any of the choral fees for the 25-26 school year.

Scholarship math:

You'd pay	Overture/Prelude	Opus	Mads/Melos	Caps
if 1/3 scholarship	43	50	34	100
if 1/2 scholarship	33	38	25	75
if 2/3 scholarship	22	25	17	50

Student Name _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Phone _____ Email _____

Parent Signature _____

I have read the concert attendance policy (p.3)

parent initial _____

I understand there are chorus fees, and if left unpaid

They will be added to the Leon student debt list (p.4&6)

parent initial _____

I have seen the performance calendar online QR (p.6)

parent initial _____

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and read the Leon Choral Handbook, and agree to the policies therein.

Student Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____ Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address: _____ phone # _____

Chorus class period _____

Leon Chorus Student Driver Permission form 2026-2027

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

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.