

Tabitha Peck,
Director of Choral Activities
Peckt2@leonschools.net

Maggie Smith,
Associate Director
Smithm6@leonschools.net

LEON CHORUS



"tradition in a song"

Leon High School Choral Program

550 E. Tennessee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 617-5700
x. 1060
www.leonchorus.com

WELCOME TO THE 2024-2025 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 23, 2024**.

Please keep the handbook at home or refer to it online at www.leonchorus.com.

You will receive a grade for proof of placing your refrigerator magnet, joining Remind for your class, and for turning in the handbook signature pages of this document(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 two co-curricular choral ensembles. Descriptions at www.leonchorus.com

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 in lunchtime concerts, community events, and Pops

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

Libretto (NEW THIS YEAR!) - Anyone who loves Musical Theatre and Pop Music - Thursdays at lunch!

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Classroom Rules:

1. Be kind and respectful to your classmates and director(s).
2. Do not disrupt rehearsal (verbally, physically, via phone usage, electronics, food, headphone/airpod wearing, makeup application, 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. Eye contact, having only choral materials 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/guardians. If medical restroom accommodations are needed please let your director know promptly.

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. 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

*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 %

SUMMER MUSICAL 2025

Our Summer Musical for this year is Hairspray.

Please use the QR code below for all information about auditions, calendar, show dates, etc.



COMMUNICATION

We try very hard to make sure everyone (including parents) are aware of our expectations and our concert dates. Please join the remind for your student's choir, and make sure your Parent/Guardian contact info is correct in FOCUS. This is how we will send out emails to everyone! 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 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!

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" will be a 0.

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, 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

UNIFORM AND FEE 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 1st.

We are able to keep our fees lowered because some of this funding is provided via a generous program from our Superintendent

Class periods:

1st	Opus	4th	Capital Singers
2nd	Overture	6th	Prelude
3rd	Madrigals	7th	Melodears

FEES can be paid online via eFunds! 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, Treble/Tenor Bass Day Registration, and MPA that we attend in the spring. 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: \$60

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.

Capital Singers \$125

Madrigals and Melodears are an additional \$35

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, festivals we attend (MPA-district and state), 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. Please contact us if you need assistance.

We have a payment plan/partial scholarship application available by request.

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.
- 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

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

2024-2025 CHORAL CALENDAR

This calendar is also on www.leonchorus.com

Date	What	Where	When	Who	cost?
August 8	Caps at Orientation	LPAT	7am	Capital Singers	
August 17	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	
September 7	All-State Musicianship/SR Exam	Lincoln High School	8am	select students	
September 9	Parent Meeting	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	free!
October 7	Fall Choral Concert	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$5
October 15	All-State Vocal Quality Test	Montford Middle School	after school	select students	
October 24-26	ACDA honor Choir Trip	Orlando, FL	itinerary to follow	students by audition	
November 4	Treble Day	Chiles HS	all day, concert@6p	all soprano altos	
November 18	Caps Masterwork Concert rehearsal	LPAT	2-4pm	Capital Singers	
November 19	Caps Masterwork Concert	LPAT	7pm	Capital Singers	free!
December 6	Madrigal Dinner	TBA	6pm	Madrigal Singers	
December 7	Downtown Winter Festival	Downtown	time TBA	Mane Event	free!
December 9	Westminster Oaks Concert	Westminster Oaks	7pm	Mads and Melos	
December 12	PAWS Rehearsal	LPAT	3-6pm	all curricular choirs!	
December 13	Middle School PAWS show	LPAT	during school	all curricular choirs!	
December 13-14	PAWS Performances	LPAT	7pm	all curricular choirs!	\$10/\$25
January 8-11	All-State Honor Choirs	Tampa, FL	itinerary to follow	students selected by audition	
January 22-23	Summer 2025 Show Auditions	Chorus/LPAT	3-6pm	anyone!	
January 26	Summer 2025 Show Callbacks	Chorus	time TBA	those called back	
January 28	Tenor Bass Day	Chiles HS	all day, concert@6p	all leon chorus tenor/basses!	donation
February 6	District Solo and Ensemble	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	by signup	
February 18	Pre-MPA Concert	Faith Presbyterian Church	7pm	all curricular choirs!	
February 24-25	Choral MPA	Faith Presbyterian Church	times TBA	all curricular choirs!	
March 25	Summer Show Parent Meeting	Chorus Room	6pm	parents of anyone who is in Hairspray	
April 21	St. Thomas More Rehearsal	St. Thomas More	2-4pm	Caps, Mads, Melos	
April 22	St. Thomas More Concert	St. Thomas More	7pm	Caps, Mads, Melos	free!
May 2	Spring "pops" concert	LPAT	7pm	all choirs!	\$5
May 4	State Solo and Ensemble	Niceville	all day	those who made superiors @ district	
May 10	Mane Event Concert	LPAT	7pm	Mane Event there from 1pm	\$5
May 12	Chorus Awards	LPAT	6pm	all choral students and parents!	
May 24	Leon Graduation	Civic Center	TBA	All of Caps sings!	

Please note – new this year! We will have monthly parent meetings (open to any parent who wishes to come) with the Booster Board on the following dates:

September 30, 2024

October 28, 2024

November 18, 2024

December 16, 2024

January 27, 2025

February 24, 2025

March 31, 2025

April 28, 2025

May 19, 2025

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)

parent initial _____

I have seen the calendar (p.6) and received a magnet

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 2024-2025

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

24/25

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.