



2026-2027 Lebanon High School Choral Department Handbook

Welcome to the Lebanon High School Choral Music Program! I am looking forward to an awesome year!

Our goal in the choral program is to continuously improve as musicians and vocalists, both technically and artistically. We will gain understanding of basic music theory, sight reading and vocal technique with the ultimate goal of making the ink on the page” come alive in performance. In choir we also examine and interpret what it means to be human, because art is the ultimate expression of humanity.

In these groups, you will build relationships which will last a lifetime. You will build memories and have experiences which we hope will be high points of your high school career. Working together, we will make the choir room a true center of community, where students feel safe and comfortable enough to explore their own thoughts and feelings through vocal music while cultivating artistic greatness.

In the following pages you will find information which is pertinent to your success in the LHS Choral Program. Even if you have been in the program for several years, please take some time to read through this handbook. Every year, I rethink and update this document in an effort to make your experience in the LHS Choral Program as amazing as possible. Once again, welcome, and let's make this a great year!

In Music,

Joseph W. Beal
Director of Vocal Arts
Lebanon High School

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE

For the choral experience to be successful, students must feel valued, comfortable and safe. Singing is a very personal form of expression and so students need to consistently feel like they can safely explore their voices without fear of ridicule or attack. To this end, any bullying or harassing behavior is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, physical or verbal intimidation, bullying, sexually explicit or racially motivated comments and actions or any other form of non-professional behavior used to make students feel uncomfortable or ostracized. Consequences for such behavior may include suspension or removal from the ensemble.

ABSENCES: Students that are not in attendance must be legally excused via the attendance office. Any student who is present but is unable to participate fully in class activities due to illness must inform the director prior to the beginning of rehearsal. Said student is still expected to participate in rehearsal to the best of their ability. If a student is at school it is expected that they will participate at some level in the rehearsal. If the student is too ill or emotionally strained to do so, they need to report to either the nurse or guidance office.

All unexcused absences will be reported to the attendance office.

TARDIES: Class will begin at the bell and all students are expected to be on time. A student will be considered tardy if they are not in the choir room ready to begin rehearsal when the bell rings.

As per school policy, a student will be assigned a detention after the third tardy.

During class, all students are expected to refrain from behavior that does not benefit the overall choral rehearsal. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Talking out of turn
- Horseplay
- Inappropriate use of time
- Disrespect of others in the ensemble
- Non-participation

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT: All school rules and the Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures apply with any violations.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Social media is a part of all of our everyday lives. Often, students form group chats within choirs and music activities. Students often post on social media in all of its various forms about choir activities and events.

Please be advised, if social media posts or group chats create issues within the choirs or throughout the program, the student or students who are causing the issues affecting our classroom and ensemble relationships will be held responsible. Social media bullying, backbiting, and abuse will be dealt with in conjunction with school administration and may include suspension or removal from the ensemble. (Examples include choir member bashing, insulting soloists or dance captains/section leaders or directors, insulting the choir/group results and rehearsals, and other negative online behavior that will adversely affect group morale)

OFFICE AND CHORAL LIBRARY: Only aides or students who are in the choir room during a study hall are permitted in the office or choral library.

INTERVENTIONS:

First Infraction-	Verbal Warning
Second Infraction-	Brief after class discussion
Third Infraction-	Parent phone call
Fourth Infraction-	Detention

*The director reserves the right to modify or eliminate steps in this plan based on the duration and severity of the infraction. Violation of classroom rules will also be reflected in the student's Participation Grade. Severe or chronic violations will be dealt with in conjunction with school administration and may include suspension or removal from the ensemble.

GRADING

Daily Participation- 50%

Students will receive credit for being on time and actively participating in class. Any violations of the above discipline policy will result in loss of credit (Please see attendance and discipline policies on the previous page).

Concert Attendance-30%

Please see PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Performance Tests- 20%

Students may be asked to take a minimum of one performance test per nine weeks. Subject matter for these tests may include, but is not limited to, a portion of the music currently under study or sight reading (both melodic and rhythmic). Such tests may be done "live" in the classroom or recorded on audiotape. Students will be given at least one week notice prior to any performance exam.

CONCERT DRESS

All students are responsible for their concert dress. This means making sure all pieces of the costuming makes it to the performance venue, returns to the storage area and is hung up neatly when not in use. Failure to do so will result in the loss of ¼ of that student's performance attendance points.

Singers students are allowed to take their costumes at the end of the year. If they don't, it's considered a donation to the choir program. Students in Men's Choir, Treble Choir, and Cantare will be given a dress/tux to use for the year. It must be returned at the end of the year, or they will be assessed a missing dress/tux fee.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Performance is a vital part of the choir experience. Each individual voice is important to the success of the whole group. Because of this ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY. The only excused absences for a performance are:

- 1) Personal Illness or a death in the family
- 2) Conflict with another school activity which cannot be resolved
- 3) Something that was already scheduled before the date of the concert was announced.

All non-emergency conflicts must be sent to the director in writing from a parent at least two weeks prior to the event. All emergency absences must be to the director in writing from a parent as soon as possible.

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Work schedule conflicts
- Being unable to get a ride
- Having to babysit
- Oversleeping or forgetting the concert

Students who miss a performance and are excused will be given the opportunity to make up the grade by doing a performance assessment of the music which was on the missed concert or some other assignment as assigned by the director. Students with unexcused absences will not be given the opportunity to make up the grade.

Often, we are asked to do extra performances (particularly around the holidays). The director will make every effort to give at least two weeks notice for such performances, which allows time for schedules to be adjusted. If two weeks' notice is given, all students are expected to attend. If less than two weeks notice is given, students are expected to make every effort to attend, but attendance policies will be relaxed. In these situations, absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

COMPETITION PROTOCOLS:

The Lebanon Singers are participating in six competitions this year and the Traditional Choirs will participate in one to two. Students are expected to ride the bus to and from competitions. Once at the competition, students are not permitted to leave the competition site. Parents who feel they have a situation which will require them to transport their child to or from a competition must have their reason approved by the director prior to the event. All transportation modifications must be given to the director in writing from the parent/guardian. Any parents picking their child up at an event must make visual contact with the director before the student will be released.

Any directions given by any adult chaperones are to be followed without argument or protest. Any issues of this nature will be dealt with by the director.

Please note that ANY use of alcohol or drugs (including vaping) while on a trip with the LHS Choral Program will be dealt with in conjunction with school administration and may include suspension or removal from the ensemble.

LEADERSHIP

Each choir will have a student leadership council. This group's responsibilities will include:

- 1) Running sectional rehearsals
- 2) Running large group rehearsals in the event of director absence
- 3) Serving as a liaison between the choir and the director
- 4) Other duties as assigned by the director

Having the ability to play piano is an asset, but not required.

INFORMATION OUTLETS

There are several available avenues for students and families to find out what is going on with the LHS choirs:

1. Google Classroom- Every choir has their own Google Classroom. Information is posted here regularly. Here are the codes:
 - a. Pop A Cappella: 747err7
 - b. Cantare: gdibyxx
 - c. Singers: puktn6y
 - d. Symphonic: 3pcz3wa
 - e. Men's: sbnymn5
 - f. Treble: xqferpb
 - g. Disney Trip: yodnq5d
2. Facebook- Check the Lebanon Choral Parents Organization-LCPO page for announcements, choir dates, syllabus, and calendar.
3. Instagram: lebanonchoralparentsorg
4. Twitter: @ChoirClassic
5. Website: <https://lebanonclassic.wixsite.com/lebanonshowchoir>
6. Email listserves- Please turn in a clear, legible email to be added to the choir email lists. These lists are only used for announcements and reminders.
7. Mr. Beal's email- beal.joseph@lebanonschools.org

SECTION II: LEBANON SINGERS SPECIFIC INFORMATION

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

This year, Lebanon Singers is moving to an entirely after school activity. This aligns us with how many of the top competitive groups are being run in our area. It is VITAL that all students be at practice consistently. All after school practices are listed in the accompanying schedule. All attendance policies which are in place for concerts apply to these rehearsals. Please note that any absences from after school rehearsals must be confirmed by a parent, either by note, email or phone call. Unexcused absence from after school rehearsal will result in the student losing their participation points for that rehearsal. More than one unexcused absence from an after school rehearsal may result in the student being blocked out of part of the show. Excessive unexcused absences (3 or more) could result in the student being blocked out of the entire show.

If a student is involved in an extracurricular activity which could impact their ability to consistently be at rehearsal, the director will work with the student and coach to come up with a mutually acceptable way for that student to split their time.

We work hard at our after school rehearsals. It is vital that students be at their physical best and ready to go. Any student who comes to practice or at any point during practice is physically impaired due to the ingestion of legal or illegal drugs will be escorted home by their parents as soon as a parent can be contacted. The director will work in conjunction with school administration to decide on appropriate punishment up to and including being blocked out of the show.

TRAILER LOADING AND UNLOADING

Singers members are required to assist with loading set into the trailer and unloading the trailer when we return to Lebanon. Loading is typically done the Friday night before a competition- usually around 6pm. If we do not make finals, we usually unload on Saturday night upon our return to Lebanon. If we make finals, we unload on Sunday afternoon- usually around 1pm.

Each member of Singers is required to sign up for 2 loading and/or unloading sessions. Failure to do so will result in the equivalent of a 0% on a Performance Test. As we get closer to the competitive season a Sign Up "Genius" will be made available so you can sign up for your loading/unloading choices. If, after you sign up, you have a situation which arises which requires you to miss your session, it is your responsibility to find a replacement to swap dates with and update it on the Sign Up "Genius".

COMMITMENT PAGE

I have read and understand the policies put forth in the Lebanon High School Choral Handbook. I have also received a copy of the performance schedule and have placed those dates on my personal calendar.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Please fill out the information below:

Parent Name_____

Student Name_____

Parent E-Mail Address (This will be kept solely for the purpose of disseminating
information)_____