

Welcome to Lakeside High School Choir
“One finger can’t lift a pebble...” -Hopi saying

Contact Information

Mr. Tom FitzStephens

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Mission Statement

Through quality music education and the pursuit of artistic excellence in choral performance, Lakeside Chorus inspires in its members a life-long appreciation of music, a demonstrable sense of respect for themselves and others, and the self-discipline necessary to become successful adults.

Vision Statement

Lakeside Chorus envisions a future where excellence in choral singing is valued and supported – bridging all diverse backgrounds in the common pursuit of, peace, achievement, creative artistry, and musical excellence.

Class Goals

We will discuss what we wish to achieve together. Georgia Performance Standards for Choral Music will be taught during this course. (www.georgiastandards.org)

Class Rules – enable us to reach our goals

We will create rules in class as our Constitution.

Rewards

1. Excellence- Great concerts are the result of great rehearsals. *In every rehearsal we must strive to create the atmosphere of the concert*
2. Praise – Smiles, high fives, handshakes, notes, calls home. We give them to encourage each other. Use the Ave board to write somebody and praise them!
3. Student of the Month (SOM) - This is an individual award given to an outstanding choir member in each choir on the first of each month for *dedication in rehearsal time*. It is not talent recognition, but rather work ethic recognition
4. Satisfaction of a job well-done in an enjoyable, interesting, and challenging class
5. Friday Free Time – If we work really well all week, we’ll have some Fri fun!

If You Choose to Break a Rule - Consequences

1 st TIME	Gentle verbal warning
2 nd TIME	One on one discussion, perhaps detention
3 rd TIME	Detention, and I will contact your parents (Detentions are Tuesdays 3:20-4pm)
4 th TIME	Discipline referral for administrators
5 th TIME	Discipline referral and parent/teacher/student conference
Any dangerous actions – Immediate referral	

“We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit”
-Aristotle

“This thing we are trying to do together is somehow greater - more important and rewarding - than most things we attempt alone.”
-Robert Shaw

Supplies

You will need to provide: A pencil and lined paper in your folder every day. Dress or tux.

Grading

How the portions of your grade are weighted:

Guided Practice Assessment: Daily Rehearsal Work	45% of grade
Summative Assessment: Live Performance Work	30% of grade
Assessments During Learning: Singing Tests & Written Assignments	25% of grade

Guided Practice Assessment (45%)

Participation: Daily Rehearsal Work

Each day in class you will be assessed for your growth as a vocalist based on your demonstrations of competency. You will sing daily and demonstrate excellent body positioning. The main variable here is effort. Part of your grade is your ability to put forth the effort to learn vocal performance skills. Not everyone begins with the same experience level, but effort can take people further than they ever thought possible. You will be graded on progress gained through active participation in rehearsal

Summative Assessment (30%)

Live Performance Work

Students can choose to either perform in each concert or write Performance Papers. **Each Performance Paper is due 2 weeks after each performance.** In the concerts, students will be graded on the quality of your performance in vocal skill and professionalism. This is a performance-based class, so attendance at performances is vitally important. We will attend GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) Performance Evaluation as a **REQUIRED** activity.

Performance Paper

Attend and critique a live musical performance (or a movie/recording if necessary) with singing. It can be a musical, a concert, dinner theater, a musical revue, an opera, or whatever. Make sure to keep the program or make a copy to turn in with your paper, signed by a parent or guardian. **Your critique must touch on these 4 points:**

- **10 pts Presentation** observations – who, where, what, why (for money, worship, fun, etc.?), attire, staging, amplification, audience seating, attendance, accompaniment, etc.
- **10 pts Repertoire** observations – style of music (pop, classical, contemporary, religious, choral, solo), composer(s), dynamic and articulation decisions, balance, comments on director/conductor or performer decisions. Are the performers also the composers? Is the music composed or improvised, or both?
- **10 pts Vocal technique** observations – posture, style, dynamics, vowels, breath control, tone, pitch control, head voice, chest voice, diction
- **10 pts** The paper **must** include no less than **ten** musical terms like: major, minor, flat, sharp, staccato, legato, tone, intonation, crescendo, dynamics, piano, forte, key, tempo, meter, time signature, etc.

(10 pts) The paper must be:

1. At least two full typed pages
2. Double-spaced with 12 pt. Times New Roman font, aligned left

Tests & Written Assignments (25%)

Singing Tests and Written Assignments

You will usually have time to complete them during class. There will be theory tests, including one during each exam week. Music literacy is a vitally important part of becoming an excellent musician! Late work will generally be penalized 10% for each day it is late.

Periodically, you will be tested on how well you are learning music. Sometimes these will take place in the classroom; sometimes you will make recordings and send them in. Grading criteria:

- Breath management, posture
- Tone
- Accuracy of part & diction (pronunciation of language)
- Intonation (singing in tune)
- Rhythm

Performance Attire

Each student will be asked to make a \$20 deposit to rent a dress or tuxedo. At the end of the year, if the student returns garment(s) clean, with reasonable wear and tear, the \$20 will be returned. If a student changes sizes, a simple swap will do. Students can also buy their own garment (dresses must be a perfect match to what the boosters provide) at this website:

Dress <https://www.concertattire.com/products/denise-sweetheart-neckline?variant=42365828432041>

Tuxedo: <https://www.concertattire.com/>

Option 1: Floor length black formal dress from Cousins Concert Attire. Singers will be fitted during school, and we will order the dresses at the same time. Dresses cost approximately \$70, and the Choral Department will work with everyone to ensure that all singers are dressed appropriately. The choral department has many dresses to rent out. Minimal jewelry will be allowed. Black dress shoes, preferably flats, or 1–2-inch heels. No open-toed shoes or sandals, please. More information will come.

Option 2: Black Tuxedo, black or white collared tux shirt, black bowtie and cummerbund, black dress shoes, black socks, white undershirt. Tuxedos cost about \$100, and students will be measured in class. The Choral Department has many tuxes to rent out. More information coming.

Any student needing another option should speak to Mr. FitzStephens to find a workable solution.

Descriptions of Extra Performances Opportunities

Voice Lessons at Lakeside thanks to the Lakeside Chorus Boosters

Erin Shepherd Murray visits LHS after school two days per week. Contact her at erinshepherdmurray@gmail.com. Payments are made through the Lakeside Chorus Boosters.

Songbook

A musical revue in the auditorium in which students perform music they choose. This performance is optional and all styles of music are welcome, especially musical theater!

UGA or GSU SingFest! (September)

A great opportunity to spend a day at GSU/UGA singing, listening to great singers, and enjoying camaraderie with other schools in the area, all while being directed by the wonderful GSU or UGA conductors.

Open Mic Night (February)

We will have an Open Mic coffeehouse for one night only! Students will have the opportunity to perform their own music or poetry for an audience of their peers and families. It is a fun, supportive, easy-going night everyone is sure to enjoy.

District Honors Chorus (January)

District 4 Honors Chorus will be held at Heritage HS. It is a great opportunity to sing with the best singers in the area in a large choir with a famous conductor. Because each school can only send a limited number of students, there will be a selection process in September. Deadline for check – September 14th.

All State Reading Chorus (February)

All State Reading Chorus is for those who love sight-reading and would like to get to experience a wide variety of choral music in a short amount of time. Auditions involve sight-reading individually. Auditions are October 27th

All State Honors Chorus (February)

All-State Honors Chorus is difficult, but is an **AMAZING** experience. First round of auditions: students will sing a selected solo song, scales, and sight-read. Final Auditions: students will sing the all-state music for judges.

PROFESSIONALISM/PROCEDURES IN REHEARSAL

1. You must have a pencil and paper in your folder each day. This is part of your participation grade.
2. Keep cell phones in backpacks and backpacks in the designated area in the back of the room at ALL times. Devices should be OFF during all rehearsals and performances. If a student is caught with a device more than twice, disciplinary action will ensue.
3. Keep several sharpened pencils in your folder so you will always be prepared; Pay close attention to what the conductor says, and lightly mark the music in erasable pencil, not in pen!
4. Rehearsal posture: sit comfortably and properly without slouching. Slouching is counterproductive to producing a quality sound and can result in back pain.
5. Students should raise their hand and address all major questions to the conductor instead of discussing things among themselves. If there is a small musical question or bowing concert, quietly check with your section leader. When the conductor works with one section of the choir, one's focus of attention should remain on the concept being taught because they probably apply to another section or individual as well.
6. Stay engaged even when the conductor is not working directly with you or your section. Students should know what is being rehearsed even if it does not include your section or part. For example, if a conductor is working on a specific passage with the altos, the director should be able to re-engage the entire group with a simple "OK, with everyone now."
7. Books, homework, and other activities do not have a place in rehearsals. When you have a rest or do not play in a section, you are expected to stay engaged and learn from listening. Students engaged in *other* activities will lose participation points.

"The basic premise of music is communication: communication which can leap across centuries and oceans"

-Robert Shaw

Parent Volunteering

If you can do any of these things, PLEASE email me as soon as possible.

Lakesidechorus@gmail.com **I am not very good at using the phone. I prefer email communications.

As a parent, how can I support the choral program? You can do so in many ways. You can contribute time and/or money. Here are some specifics.

- 1) **Uniform Alteration:** We are building an inventory of dresses and tuxes so future chorus students don't have to buy their own. If you are able to help alter clothes please help.
- 2) **Accompanist:** If you are a pianist, PLEASE let me know. I would love to have a parent volunteer to accompany rehearsal and/or concerts. The music is rather simple usually. The time requirements would be minimal.
- 3) **Financial support:** We can always use help writing grants for funds. Anybody with grant writing experience that can help would be so appreciated. We are operating this choral program on a very limited budget. We are given \$1200 to run the entire chorus program for the entire year. I teach 200 students. The cost of going to festival in March is about \$1000. So, if you wish to contribute to our Lakeside Chorus Boosters to help us defer some costs, your donations are tax-deductible.
- 4) **Chaperoning:** We need lots of chaperones for our Large Group Performance Evaluation trip.
- 5) **Copying:** I need a parent to come in once per week to copy items for me.
- 6) **Concessions:** We need help with concessions for concerts, fundraisers, and Open Mic Night.

IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEER NEEDS

7) *** I need a parent during the week of August 9th to do some word processing. It will require about 4 hours of your time. You can do it at any time that works for you. You will be creating my email contact list for 2015-2016, so you will be typing email addresses. If you are willing to help, please email me as soon as possible at: lakesidechorus@gmail.com

PARENTS: PLEASE SIGN BELOW, AND LIST THE "NUMBER" OF THE ITEM YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU CAN HELP WITH ITEM #6, PRINT YOUR NAME AND THE NUMBER OR NUMBERS WITH WHICH YOU CAN HELP.

EXAMPLE:

PRINTED NAME: TRINA SMITH

I CAN HELP WITH: #5 AND #3

PRINTED

NAME: _____

I CAN HELP WITH: _____

******Give this to your child and ask them to give this page to Mr. FitzStephens if you are able to volunteer this year in one of the ways listed above.**

Lakeside Choral Department 2023-2024 Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
August TBA	7:00pm	1 st Choir Booster Meeting (in choir room)
August TBA	In Class	LHS Tux/Dress fitting
August 25	In Class	GSU & All State Reading Chorus checks due
September 20	All Day	GSU SingFest (optional field trip)
October 13	7:00pm	Songbook (fundraiser concert) in Auditorium
October 26	7:00pm	Fall Concert in Auditorium
October 29	4-7pm	All State Reading Chorus Auds Decatur HS
November 4	All Day	All State Honors Chorus Auditions
Nov - Dec		Poinsettia Fundraiser
December 2?	TBA	Possible poinsettia delivery date?
December 7	7:00pm	Holiday Pops Concert in Gym
December 8	7:00pm	Holiday Gala Concert in Auditorium
January 18	PM	All State Honors Chorus Final Audition
January 25-27	All Day	All State Reading Chorus - Athens, GA
February 15-17	All Day	All State Honors Chorus – Athens, GA
February 23?	7:00pm	Open Mic Night? Intown CoffeeHouse
March 15	9:00am	Cluster Concert – Viking Chorale Only
March 19-21	TBA	LGPE – First Baptist, Avondale Estates
March 21	7:00pm	Spring Concert – tentative date
April 11-14	7:00pm	Disney Music Department Trip
April 30	7:00	Pops Concert/Awards Banquet

Events in **Bold** are REQUIRED PERFORMANCES for **all** choir students as part of the class grade. Performance participation is vitally important and crucial to the success of each event. For each performance there is a corresponding Performance Paper. Students can choose to either perform in the concert or write the Performance Paper. If a student misses a concert for any reason, they can write a Performance Paper to make up the grade. **Each Performance Paper is due 2 weeks after the performance.**