

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

**Contact Information**

Mr. Tom FitzStephens

Google Voice: 678-829-2115 - Leave a message or text

Email: [lakesidechorus@gmail.com](mailto:lakesidechorus@gmail.com) or [Thomas\\_R\\_FitzStephens@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:Thomas_R_FitzStephens@dekalbschoolsga.org)

Website: [www.Lakesidechorus.org](http://www.Lakesidechorus.org) - Go there!

**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](http://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**

This is a weekly system; detentions are after school

1 <sup>st</sup> TIME	Name on the board – Warning on the board and minus 1 point
2 <sup>nd</sup> TIME	+ Check – Minus 2 more points
3 <sup>rd</sup> TIME	+2 Checks – Minus 2 more points – 1 hour detention, call home
4 <sup>th</sup> TIME	+3 Checks – Minus 2 more points – 2 hours detention
5 <sup>th</sup> TIME	+4 Checks – Minus 2 more points – Referral to administrators

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.

## **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**

**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 \$85 and the Choral Department will work with everyone to ensure that all 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 \$140 and students will be measured in class. The Choral Department has many tuxes to rent out. More information will come.

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 visits LHS after school two days per week. Contact her at [erinshepherdvoice@gmail.com](mailto:erinshepherdvoice@gmail.com). Payments are made through the Lakeside Chorus Boosters.

#### **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.

#### **All State Reading Chorus (January 26-28)**

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 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **All State Honors Chorus (February 16-18)**

All-State Honors Chorus is difficult, but is an **AMAZING** experience.

First round of auditions: November 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will sing a selected solo song, scales, and sight-read.

Final Auditions: January 20,– students will sing the all-state music for judges. If accepted, you will attend the performance on the UGA campus. Deadline for check: September 8

## **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.

### **Dues**

To decrease the number of payments spread out during the school year, and hopefully decrease the amount of fundraising activities, the Lakeside Chorus Boosters will collect dues for Lakeside Chorus.

Dues are **\$20** per student.

Dues pay for a chorus T-shirt, sheet music, and accompanist services for concerts.

Please send cash, or make your check out to Lakeside High School Chorus Boosters.

Lakeside High School Chorus Boosters is a non-profit organization. You are always welcome to make tax deductible donations and we will provide a receipt if asked.

Some of the annual costs Lakeside Chorus Boosters help cover include:

- Sectionals and visits from professional musicians
- Buses for trips and competitions
- Monetary assistance to pay for chorus activities for any student who in need
- Awards and certificates to honor student achievement
- Pianists for concerts
- Sheet Music
- Technology and other supply needs for the classroom
- Programs for concerts
- Uniform cleanings
- Concert recordings

***“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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

## **STUDENTS AND PARENTS....**

With this sheet, please do the following:

- 1) Sign it
- 2) Get your parents to sign it.
- 3) Remove it from the packet. Keep the packet in your folder all year.
- 4) Turn the single signed page into Mr. FitzStephens as soon as possible. This will count as your first homework grade!

I have read and understand the syllabus/handbook on [www.lakesidechorus.org](http://www.lakesidechorus.org).

Printed name of student \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

On \_\_\_\_\_, I must bring my pencil to class.

On \_\_\_\_\_, this document is due to Mr. FitzStephens.

## **Attention Parents and Students!!!!**

### **EMAIL ADDRESS NEEDED!**

I send updates to parents quite frequently to keep you informed.

Please **print below as clearly as possible** the email addresses that you want me to use

Parent Email address #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email address #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email address \_\_\_\_\_

If you are donating to the chorus program, please put the donation into an envelope with your check. I will give you a receipt for that donation within 2 weeks. Thank you! Checks can be made out to Lakeside Chorus Boosters.

**What is Mr. FitzStephens's email address?** [lakesidechorus@gmail.com](mailto:lakesidechorus@gmail.com). I prefer email to the phone whenever possible.

# Lakeside Choral Department 2022-2023 Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
August TBA	6:30pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Choir Booster Meeting (in choir room)
August TBA	In Class	LHS Tux/Dress fitting
August 20? due	In Class	GSU & All State Reading Chorus checks/apps
<b>October 27</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Fall Concert in Auditorium</b>
October 30 HS	4-7pm	All State Reading Chorus Auditions, Decatur
November 5	All Day	All State Honors Chorus Auditions
November 17?	3-7pm	Songbook Rehearsal
November 18?	7:00pm	Songbook Fundraiser Concert
Nov - Dec		Poinsettia Fundraiser
December 4?	TBA	Possible poinsettia delivery date?
<b>December 8</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Holiday Pops Concert in Gym</b>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Holiday Gala Concert in Auditorium</b>
January 20	PM	All State Honors Chorus Final Auditions
January 14	All Day	District Honors Chorus
January 26-28	All Day	GMEA Conference - Athens, GA
January 26-28	All Day	All State Reading Chorus - Athens, GA
February 11?	7:00pm	Open Mic Night – InTown Coffeehouse
February 16-18	All Day	All State Honors Chorus – Athens, GA
March TBA	9:00am	Cluster Concert – Viking Chorale Only
<b>March 16</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Spring Concert – tentative date</b>
<b>March 22-24</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>LGPE – First Baptist, Avondale Estates</b>
April TBA	All Day	PACA Voice Competition
<b>April 25</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>Pops Concert</b>

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.**



School Year 2022-2023 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Course Name</b>	Int Mixed Chorus <small>www.dekalb.k12.ga.us</small>	<b>Course Code</b>	54.0221001
<b>School Name</b>	Lakeside High School	<b>Teacher Name</b>	Thomas FitzStephens
<b>School Phone Number</b>	Google Voice – 678-829-2115	<b>Teacher Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Thomas_r_fitzstephens@dekalbschoolsga.org">Thomas_r_fitzstephens@dekalbschoolsga.org</a> <a href="mailto:Lakesidechorus@gmail.com">Lakesidechorus@gmail.com</a>
<b>School Website</b>	Lakesidehs.dekalb.k12.ga.us	<b>Teacher Website</b>	Lakesidechorus.org

**Course Description**

The Lakeside High School Chorus is dedicated to the development of our creative and technical singing abilities through determination, practice, and leadership. We foster a long-lasting bond between the choral program, the school, and the community by providing a quality product for our supportive base to enjoy. We plan to enable each student with skills necessary to achieve lifelong success in music and beyond.

**Curriculum Overview**

The following academic concepts will be covered. **THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

Unit 1 – Introduction and Technology Training (2 weeks)
Unit 2 – Fundamentals of Music (4 weeks)
Unit 3 – Fall Concert Prep (Music Project 1 and fConcert Piece prep 1) (4 weeks)
Unit 4 – Winter Concert Prep (Music Project 2 and Concert Piece Prep 2) (4 weeks)
Unit 5 – Final Exam Prep (Final Music Project and prep for final exam) (4 weeks)

**BOARD-APPROVED INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

Title	Choral Connections Intermediate Level 3 School Instruments (UKULELES) will be assigned based on need and can be picked up on campus when available. Notifications will be sent out through EMAIL
ISBN	0-02-655613
Replacement Cost	\$50
Online book and/or resources	FlipGrid, Smartmusic, lakesidechorus.org, musictheory.net, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, remind.com
Online student access code (school specific)	

**GRADING SYSTEM:** The DeKalb County School District believes that the most important assessment of student learning shall be conducted by the teachers as they observe and evaluate students in the context of ongoing classroom instruction. A variety of approaches, methodologies, and resources shall be used to deliver educational services and to maximize each student’s opportunity to succeed. Teachers shall evaluate student progress, report grades that represent the student’s academic achievement, and communicate official academic progress to students and parents in a timely manner through the electronic grading portal. **See Board Policy IHA.**

<b>GRADING CATEGORIES</b>	<b>*GRADE PROTOCOL</b>
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<b>Formative and Diagnostic Assessments – 0%</b> <b>Assessment Tasks (Skills &amp; Homework) – 25%</b> <b>Classwork (Guided, Independent, and Group Practice) – 45%</b> <b>Quizzes, Tests, and Projects – 30%</b>	<b>A</b>	90 – 100	<b>~P (pass)</b>
	<b>B</b>	80 – 89	<b>~F (fail)</b>
	<b>C</b>	71 – 79	
	<b>D</b>	70	
	<b>F</b>	Below 70	

**Notes:**

\*English Learners (ELs) must not receive numerical or letter grades for the core content areas in elementary and middle school during their first year of language development. A grade of CS or CU must be assigned. This rule may be extended beyond the first year with approval from the EL Studies Program. English Learners must receive a grade for ESOL courses.

~Elementary schools will utilize P (pass) and F (fail) in Health/Physical Education, Music, World Languages, Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

<b>DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS</b>	
<b>STUDENT PROGRESS</b>	Semester progress reports shall be issued four and a half, nine and thirteen and a half weeks into each semester. The progress of students shall be evaluated frequently and plans shall be generated to remediate deficiencies as they are discovered. Plans shall include appropriate interventions designed to meet the needs of the students. <b>See Board Policy IH.</b>
<b>ACADEMIC INTEGRITY</b>	Students will not engage in an act of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, providing false information, falsifying school records, forging signatures, or using an unauthorized computer user ID or password. <b>See the Code of Student Conduct - Student Rights and Responsibilities and Character Development Handbook.</b>
<b>HOMEWORK</b>	Homework assignments should be meaningful and should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience. Homework is at all times an extension of the teaching/learning experience. It should be considered the possession of the student and should be collected, evaluated and returned to the students. <b>See Board Policy IHB.</b>
<b>MAKE-UP WORK DUE TO ABSENCES</b>	When a student is absent because of a legal reason as defined by Georgia law or when the absence is apparently beyond the control of the student, the student shall be given an opportunity to earn grade(s) for those days absent. Make-up work must be completed within the designated time allotted. <b>See Board Policy IHEA.</b>
<b>SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS</b>	
<b>CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS</b>	A Good Musician... Is mature in thoughts and actions. Displays Good Intentions Is Respectful of themselves, each other, the teacher/instructor, and our lesson Is Imaginative and Productive Practices regularly <b>NO FOOD OR DRINK IS ALLOWED IN THE CHORUS ROOM TO ENSURE A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT FOR YEARS TO COME.</b>  Rules for classroom behavior 1. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak 2. Respect yourself, your neighbors, and your teacher at all times 3. Follow directions the first time they are given 4. Sit in your assigned seat before the bell rings; remain there unless told otherwise
<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>	A ukulele. These can be obtained for about \$30 online or in a music store. School Instruments (GUITARS AND/OR UKULELES) will be assigned based on need and can be picked up on campus when available. Notifications will be sent out through EMAIL. All students will be provided a Smartmusic membership, courtesy of the Chorus Boosters.
<b>EXTRA HELP</b>	<b>Tutorials by appointment</b>
<b>PARENTS AS PARTNERS</b>	Choir Booster meetings will be held the final Wednesday of each month. Please come and contribute!

PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN.

I have read the syllabus.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Information</b>	<b>Parent/Guardian</b>
<b>Day Time Phone Number</b>	
<b>Cellular Phone Number</b>	
<b>Parent Email Address#1</b>	
<b>Parent Email Address #2</b>	
<b>Student Email Address</b>	

