

Lincoln High School Choirs

Student & Parent Handbook

2024-2025



Lincoln High School Choral Department
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@SFLincolnChoirs

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome

Goals

Choirs

Calendar for 2024-2025

Concert Choir

Cadet Choir

Girls Chorale

All Choirs

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

GRADING

CONCERT DRESS

CONCERT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES FOR AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

Vocal Ensembles

Honor Choirs & All State Chorus

Lincoln High School Choir Parents Association

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BOOSTER CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

DESSERT SHOW COMMITTEE

ROBES/ENSEMBLE OUTFITS

ENSEMBLE TEA COMMITTEE

TICKET/USHER COMMITTEE

Fundraising

How to access ISA Information via CutTime

WHY TEACH MUSIC

16 Things Your Child Learns from the Arts

Lincoln High School Vocal Music Auditioned Ensemble Information for Parents and Student

Lincoln High School Vocal Music Choir/Ensemble Commitment Contract

MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Welcome

Welcome to the Lincoln High School Vocal Music Department. You are now a member of a Music Department that has a history of excellence. This excellence has been attained by singing quality choral literature in many periods and styles of music, learning how to read music, developing good vocal technique, and performing music as the composer intended to have the music performed. Every year the directors and students together strive to raise the bar of excellence even higher. You will be proud to be a part of this musical experience.

Mrs. Kathy Ferguson, Head Vocal Director
Mr. Jacob Noordermeer, Assistant Vocal Director

Goals

The goal of the Lincoln High School Vocal Music Department is to develop quality performing choirs and ensembles through outstanding music education. The LHS choir program prepares students to not only enjoy, but also appreciate and participate in performing music for the rest of their lives.

Our teaching philosophy in the Lincoln Chorus program is that students deserve to be taught to become well-rounded musicians who experience a broad variety of singing experiences during their time in high school. We believe in the importance of training students in the appropriate technique for performance of all types of singing, including classical and contemporary genres. Students who participate in chorus at Lincoln High School have a chance to perform a wide variety of repertoire no matter what ensemble or choir they're in. By teaching students balance and variety in genre, we create musicians that are equipped to be lifelong singers past graduation.

Choirs

At Lincoln High School there are three major choirs, six vocal ensembles, and an extracurricular vocal jazz group. The choirs rehearse daily for 50 minutes and ensembles rehearse daily for 25 minutes opposite the lunch period. Composition of the choirs is as follows:

Choirs

Concert Choir – Auditioned Mixed Choir of 11th and 12th

Cadet Choir – Non-auditioned Mixed Choir, 9-12th Boys, 10-12th Girls

Girls Chorale – Non-auditioned 9th Girls

Calendar for 2024-2025

Performances listed in **bold** are mandatory for all students enrolled in a curricular choir (Girls Chorale, Cadet Choir, & Concert Choir). Students receive a grade for being present at these performances and absences will only be considered “excused” in accordance with the policy listed in the LHS Choir Handbook. Please put all of the relevant dates into your family calendar ASAP to avoid conflicts.

Curricular CHOIRS include:

Girls Chorale - 9th grade girls

Cadet Choir - 10th-12th grade girls not-auditioned; 9th-12th grade boys not-auditioned

Concert Choir - 11th-12th grade mixed group selected by audition in the previous spring

Co-Curricular ENSEMBLES include:

Chamber Choir Canto Fratelli

Cliff Avenue Singers Cantare

Sotto Voce Bel Canto

These ensembles appear on your schedule opposite your lunch period, if you were selected by audition the previous year.

| DATE | EVENT | Who does it involve? |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| July 28-Aug. 2, 2024 | SD Senior Honor Choir Camp - University of Sioux Falls Final concert - Friday, August 2nd | Students selected by audition in spring 2024 |
| August 20, 2024 - 6:00-7:30pm | *Concert Choir BOWLING!!! (Empire Bowl) - cost TBD | Concert Choir |
| September 3, 2024 | Vocal Jazz Auditions (RWB) - LHS Choir Room 3:30-5:30pm | Any interested student - must be in a lunch ensemble |
| September 17, 20234 | All-State Chorus Auditions - LHS Choir Room 3:30-4:30pm | Concert Choir |
| October 7, 2024 | UNL Men’s Choral Festival - Lincoln, NE | Tenors + Basses in ensembles |
| October 10, 2024 | All-State Chorus Prep Day @ Augustana - school day | Concert choir students selected |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | from after September audition |
| October 22, 2024 | Fall Concert - ALL CHOIRS with 8th graders 7pm in LHS Auditorium | ALL CHOIRS |
| November 1-2, 2024 | All State Chorus/Orchestra - Sioux Falls Convention Center | Concert Choir students selected after Sept. audition |
| December 12, 2024 | Winter Choir Concert - LHS Auditorium - 7:00pm | ALL CHOIRS |
| December 18, 2023 | Ensemble Tea - 11:30-1:30 LHS Choir Room | All ensembles |
| December 19, 2024 | MS Tour (times TBD - during school day) | |
| TBD | Christmas at the Capitol - Pierre, SD | Ensembles: Cantare, Bel Canto, Sotto Voce |
| January 11, 2025 | Cavalier Classic Vocal Jazz Festival- Jefferson HS | Vocal Jazz |
| January 13-15, 2025 | LHS Musical Auditions - after school | Any interested LHS student |
| January 17-18, 2025 | SD Junior Honor Choir - Rapid City | Open to freshmen to audition in the fall |
| January 29, 2025 | 2025-26 Ensemble Auditions - LHS Choir Room 3:30-5:30pm | Any interested LHS student |
| February 13, 2025 | Festival of Song - SDSU - All day | Selected sophomores |
| February 15, 2025 | Best of Show Vocal Jazz Festival - SF Washington HS | Vocal Jazz |
| February 27-March 1 Will be only one of these 3 dates - TBD | Vocal Jazz Competition @Creston, IA | Vocal Jazz |
| March 11, 2025 | Region II Solo/Small Ensemble Contest - Augustana University - daytime | All Ensembles |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| March 18, 2025 | Vocal Jazz Night @Icon Event Hall | Vocal Jazz |
| March 19-22, 2025 | ACDA National Convention/Honor Choirs - Dallas, TX | Interested students audition in the fall |
| March 26, 2025 | Region II Large Group Contest - Brandon Lutheran Church | ALL CHOIRS |
| April 3, 2025 | *Morningside Festival - Concert Choir - Sioux City, IA - all day | Concert Choir |
| April 10-12, 2025 | Musical Performances - LHS Auditorium | |
| April 12, 2025 | SD Honor Choir Auditions - Jefferson HS (9am - noon) | Open to 10th-11th graders |
| April 24, 2025 | Vocal Ensemble concert - 7 pm - venue TBD | All Ensembles |
| May 12, 2025 | Spring Masterworks Concert - First Lutheran Church 6:30pm | ALL CHOIRS |
| May 13, 2025 | *LHS Orchestra Concert @Washington Pavilion - Concert Choir sings w/Orchestra 6:30pm | Concert Choir |
| May 18, 2025 | LHS Graduation (1:45 pm) *Mandatory for <u>all</u> 24-25 Concert Choir members | Concert Choir |

Concert Choir

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Concert Choir is a two-semester course which focuses on the rehearsal and performance of serious choral literature from Renaissance through the 21st Century. Fundamentals of music theory are incorporated in the study of music. Students prepare repertoire for various performances throughout the year: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Dessert Theater, Convention performances, Masterworks and/or Spring Concert. Students in Concert Choir travel on a major trip on an every-other-year rotation. Concert Choir members must also be members of 1 of the 6 select vocal ensembles.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will:

1. Develop an appreciation and love for music that will provide enriching experiences throughout their life.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of, and attention to the individual songs and their unique challenges by marking the printed score.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of, and sensitivity to the music rehearsed by singing a part in a quartet of voices after several weeks of regular, directed practice.
4. Identify musical terms and symbols found in the scores rehearsed.
5. Examine and perform choral literature of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century traditions.
6. Understand and demonstrate basic sight-singing skills through class drill.
7. Demonstrate the ability to function well in a cooperative group endeavor.
8. Demonstrate an awareness of various cultural concerts and musical careers by learning to be a discriminate, active, knowledgeable listener, audience member and consumer.

AUDITIONS

Concert Choir auditions are held in Spring for the following school year. These auditions consist of several of the following components.

1. Sight-reading on solfege (syllables) on three or four exercises.
2. Clapping and counting three or four rhythmic exercises of various time signatures.
3. Sing chromatic scale a cappella using solfege syllables.
4. Tonal memory – tonal passages will be played twice and the student will sing back the passage once. The whole tone scale will be included as one of the tonal memory exercises.
5. Sing a portion of a song that has been worked on in class. The song will be of the director's choice.

Lincoln High School's Concert Choir is considered the most elite of the Lincoln High School choral ensembles. Concert Choir membership is reserved for students who demonstrate an elite ability to remain positive and focused in rehearsal and independently sing a wide variety of choral literature. Concert Choir primarily meets only during the school day. However, members of Concert Choir will be expected to participate in numerous performances that take place outside of normal school hours. In addition to performances on the Fall, Winter, and Spring Chorus Concerts, it is an expectation that all Concert Choir members participate in the 1st Semester Concert Choir Kick-Off Retreat, Region II Solo and Small Ensemble Contest, Region II Large Group Contest, as well as all Outreach events. The members of Concert Choir are expected to serve as Ambassadors of Lincoln High School as well as positive role models for all Lincoln High School Vocal Music Students. Membership in Concert Choir is a full year commitment.

CONCERT CHOIR LEADERSHIP

As a part of the Concert Choir, students are expected to take a leadership role in various areas, which are explained below. By being a member of a committee and performing your tasks, you will not only be a tremendous help to the choir directors but will learn skills in working with other students and parents. When appropriate, a parent will be assigned to work with a committee.

Communication is crucial for all committees. Committee members will exchange e-mail addresses and phone numbers with the parent leader and each other, enabling them to keep in contact with the parent leader throughout the entire process.

LEADERSHIP DUTIES

Leadership team members are responsible for every person in their section:

- a. Being on task in choir.
- b. Having good posture at all times.
- c. Knowing their music - this will be done during sectionals.
- d. Displaying good rehearsal technique.
- e. Helping students stay accountable checking in cell phones each rehearsal.
- f. Various committees and duties will be assigned.

Cadet Choir

Course Description

Cadet Choir is a two-semester chorus in which the students will learn basic musical skills and proper tone production. The development of good choral habits will be stressed. Particular attention will be paid to strong four-part singing and to encourage independent singers. Many different styles of music will be explored. The students will prepare repertoire for various performances throughout the season: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Masterworks and/or Spring Concert and other individual performances at the discretion of the director.

Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Develop an appreciation and love for music that will provide enriching experiences throughout their life.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of, and attention to the individual songs and their unique challenges by marking the printed score.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of, and sensitivity to the music rehearsed by singing a part in a quartet of voices after several weeks of regular, directed practice.
4. Identify musical terms and symbols found in the scores rehearsed.
5. Examine and perform choral literature of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th-21st Century traditions.
6. Understand and demonstrate basic sight-singing skills through class drill.
7. Demonstrate the ability to function well in a cooperative group endeavor.

Girls Chorale

Course Description

Girls Chorale provides an opportunity for girls to study and perform two, three, and sometimes 4-part music. The development of good choral habits, basic musical knowledge and singing skills are stressed. The students will also prepare repertoire for various performances throughout the season: Fall Concert, Winter Concert, Masterworks and/or Spring Concert.

Course Objectives

The student will:

1. Develop an appreciation and love for music that will provide enriching experiences throughout their life.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of, and attention to the individual songs and their unique challenges by marking the printed score.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of, and sensitivity to the music rehearsed by singing a part in a quartet of voices after several weeks of regular, directed practice.
4. Identify musical terms and symbols found in the scores rehearsed.
5. Examine and perform choral literature of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century traditions.
6. Understand and demonstrate basic sight-singing skills through class drill.
7. Demonstrate the ability to function well in a cooperative group endeavor.

All Choirs

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Good rehearsal techniques are crucial in developing an outstanding choir. Every day in class you will be expected to meet the following criteria:

I. SINGING

- A. YOU are important. You are a member of a large organization and it is crucial that as an individual you demand excellence of yourself.
- B. You are expected to work on improving your vocal skills (breathing, phrasing, diction) every day.
- C. If your section is singing, you need to be singing to the best of your ability.
- D. There is always room for improvement in individual performance. Hard work is expected. It is not optional.
- E. Singers are expected to remain actively engaged in the rehearsal at all times. If your section is not singing out loud, you will be expected to sing your part inaudibly (audiation) to hear how your part fits in with that being rehearsed.
- F. You are expected to listen at all times, even if the director is talking to another section. This is where you can “transfer” the information being given and apply the same techniques when you are asked to sing.
- G. Excellent singing begins with excellent posture. Whenever singing, you must:
 - 1. Stand tall – both feet on the floor shoulder width apart, one foot slightly ahead of the other.
 - 2. Sternum high
 - 3. Head balanced over spine
 - 4. Arms hanging relaxed at sides.

II. WARM UPS

Every period begins with vocal and physical warm-ups. Everyone stands, everyone participates. If you are in the room, you rehearse. No one studies or sits out for illness. If you are having throat problems, PLEASE:

- 1. Tell your director RIGHT AWAY. Please don't assume your director already knows or can “read your mind”.
- 2. Take your music out and follow what is being rehearsed, silent singing (audiation) should take place in your head.

III. CELL PHONES

All cell phones should be stored in the student's backpack. If they do not have a backpack, they may place their cell phone on the piano up by the teacher.

Students are not allowed to have cell phones on their person during rehearsal. If a cell phone has not been properly put away by the student during rehearsal, the phone will be taken and brought to the principal. The student will be sent to the principal as well as their quarter grade being lowered one letter grade/cell phone incident.

- IV. PENCILS/FOLDERS
Pick up your assigned folder and be in your assigned seat, with a PENCIL in hand, when the bell rings. Every student must have their folder with the music in it every day. Students will be expected to mark their scores with pencil.
- V. MUSIC
Music and any other instructional materials will be supplied by the school district. These items will be checked out to each student, and the student will be responsible for them. If a student loses a folder or any music, he/she will be expected to replace the lost items or pay for them at the current market price.
- VI. GUM
No gum is allowed in the choir room.
- VII. WATER BOTTLES
For proper vocal health, each student is encouraged to bring a FULL water bottle to class every day. DO NOT SHARE WATER BOTTLES!
- VIII. CLASSROOM
Furniture, including rehearsal chairs, should be left in their designated areas. Do not walk on the furniture. All four legs of the chair must remain on the floor. Singers are responsible for the care of the choir room. When rehearsal is completed, put all supplies away, throw away trash, and take all personal items with you as you leave. Do not leave coats, lunchboxes, or backpacks in the choir room.
- IX. RESTROOM
Students should avoid using the restroom during rehearsal unless it's an emergency. A pass system will be established to excuse students.
- X. INSTRUCTION
 - A. Follow directions the first time they are given. Positive and cooperative attitudes result in a fun and productive atmosphere. Don't ask why, just do it!
 - B. Due to the large group, you will be expected to raise your hand to speak. A mutual respect among students and the directors is expected. Respect others and they will respect you.
 - C. Talking without permission or during instruction will not be tolerated.

Defining "RESPECT"

- R – RESPECT.** Listen to each other, respect differing opinions.
- E – EFFORT.** Attend class, do your job, participate in rehearsals/performances
- S – SUCCESS.** Promote goals and objectives established by your teacher/director
- P – POSITIVE ATTITUDE.** Establish an open-minded environment.
- E – EXCELLENCE.** Strive for high performance.
- C – COORDINATION.** Have unified goals and objectives to maximize achievement.
- T – TEAMWORK.** Collaborate to affect learning.
- STAY INFORMED** by updating your personal calendar! Listen; read all communications for updates; check the board; check the calendar; check the website; ask, if you are unsure of something. The more involved you are, the more fun choir can be.

GRADING

Grading for choir is based on a point system. Points are earned in three categories: PARTICIPATION, PERFORMANCE, and EVALUATION. All students are expected to practice and maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Stealing, cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty will not be tolerated!

I. PARTICIPATION

- A. Daily points will be earned through a student's class participation and rehearsal technique. Your grade depends on your daily attendance and participation. Your inability to abstain from TALKING will not be a positive influence on your grade. Choir students are traditionally from the upper 25% of their class.
- B. If a student is absent from class, they are expected to recover the daily points missed. Various recovery assignments are offered and can be found on the class website or Google Classroom.
- C. NO STUDENT has the right to distract the class or any member of this class during the choir rehearsal. It is an infringement on other students, on the director, on the process of learning and the enjoyment of music. NO ONE will be permitted to interrupt the education of others. (See previous section on rehearsal expectations).
- D. Participation in a choir/ensemble is a privilege and students should view it as such and know that expectations are very high.
- E. Students should always display exemplary attitude and attendance.
- F. Private voice lessons are strongly encouraged! A student will grow immeasurably when working with a private voice teacher. A listing of voice teachers is available upon request.

GRADING, CONTINUED

II. PERFORMANCE

- A. Attendance at, and participation in scheduled outside of regular school hours rehearsals and performances is REQUIRED. Students and parents need to plan accordingly, (this includes college visits, vacations and transportation issues). This is a performance based class and it is nearly impossible to pass if a student does not participate in the required rehearsals/performances.
- B. If a student knows they are going to miss either an extra rehearsal or performance, notification or communication of the absence must be made TO THE DIRECTOR. If no communication is forthcoming, the absence will be considered unexcused. **Students will only be excused for the following absences: extreme illness, funeral, family emergency, and other irresolvable school activity conflicts.** If the absence has been excused, the student will be allowed to make up the points missed by completing approved recovery options.
- C. Students are not allowed to have cell phones on their person or on stage during a performance. Any student who chooses to keep/use their phone during a concert will lose all points tied to that performance. It would be a complete failure of implementing appropriate rehearsal and performance technique and etiquette.

III. EVALUATION

A. Written Evaluation

- 1. The student will receive a music vocabulary list each semester and will be expected not only to define the terms, but also to relate the terms to the music being studied.
- 2. Written tests will be given to assess the student's knowledge of musical terms, key signatures, rhythmic patterns and the current literature being studied.
- 3. Listening journals will be kept to reflectively and critically listen to a variety of choral genres.

B. Vocal Evaluation

All students will sing for their director each semester to assess their vocal progress.

C. Semester Tests

Semester tests are required and count for 15% of the semester grade.

The Sioux Falls School District grading scale will be used:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89.9%

C: 70-79.9%

D: 60-69.9%

F: 59.9% and below

We have included an example rubric that is used in the grading process to give you an accurate picture of what is expected in rehearsals/performances/evaluations.

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE RUBRIC

| | Fulfills Grade level Expectation 5pts | Secure 4pts | Demonstrates skill 3pts | Developing 2pts | Beginning 1pt | This skill not shown 0pts |
|----------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Posture | Standing/sitting straight -Shoulders back -Spine, legs straight -Feet flat on floor -Head up -Never needs to be reminded about posture | Standing straight -Shoulders back -Spine and legs straight -Feet flat on floor -Head up -Must be reminded about posture | Standing straight -Standing -Shoulders collapsed -Head not consistently up -Must be reminded about posture | Standing, but either slouching or leaning -Sitting tall without both feet flat on the floor. | Sitting -Slouching -Leaning on furniture -Standing with one knee popped | Will not follow directions for standing or sitting properly |
| Projection | Singing at appropriate volume(not shouted) Independently | Singing at appropriate volume(not shouted) with prompting from teacher. | Singing with confidence, but without consistent proper breath support | Singing, but without confidence and poor breath support | Not singing Mumbling | Will not sing |
| Tone Quality | Singing with appropriate fullness of tone for grade level. -Good breath support -Tension free -Appropriate vibrato -Uses proper head voice | Singing with appropriate fullness of tone for grade level. -Good breath support | Singing with poor breath support | Singing with poor breath support -too little physical effort | -mumbling -speaking -shouting | Will not sing, or sings inappropriately |
| Pitch Accuracy | Sings on pitch in correct pitch register all of the time independently. -sings all notes in center of pitch | Sings notes in center of pitch, correcting notes when incorrect independently | Sings notes in center of pitch, correcting notes when incorrect in a group setting | Sings several notes sharp or flat | Sings most notes sharp or flat | No pitch accuracy |
| Attitude | Student participates to the best of their ability. -always responds positively to constructive criticism -always demonstrates team work | Student participates to the best of their ability -usually responds positively to constructive criticism -usually demonstrates team work | Student participates consistently | Student usually participates and produces at their ability level | Student does not participate at ability level | Refuses to participate |

CONCERT DRESS

All chorus members will wear choir robes for formal concerts. By the middle of October, each student will be assigned a robe and stole for the school year. Underneath the robe, the following will be worn:

Women will wear matching black character shoes. Shoes will be purchased through the school in the fall. Skin-toned nylons should be worn with the shoes. A lightweight t-shirt or blouse and skirt or dress whose length may not be longer than the robe should be worn underneath.

Men will wear black pants, black dress shoes, long black socks, and a lightweight t-shirt.

- Do not wear jewelry or hair items that are big, colorful and/or distracting. The purpose is to all be uniform.
- Your robe is your concert dress. Once your robe is on, the robe should always be zipped up with your stole in place. Once your robe is on, you need to stay in the assigned choir area. The audience should not see you until you walk on stage.
- You must hang up your robe properly, zip it up with stole in place and return it to the correct place on the rack. Make sure you check your robe IN and OUT with the designated robe official(s).
- Students who are not properly dressed for the concert will not be allowed to perform.

CONCERT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. Always perform to the very best of your ability. Take care of yourself. Remember that your body is your instrument. Get enough rest and drink plenty of water.
2. Please shower before the concert and put on plenty of deodorant. No cologne, perfume, or hair spray. You will probably be standing for the entire concert under hot lights; any odor will be magnified.
3. Have your music memorized before the concert. Remember all the musical elements worked on in class. Sing musically with animated faces and with a passion for the music.
4. Line up in concert formation, walk in silence to the performance site. Concentrate on the high level of performance that is expected of you.
5. Walk quickly and silently to your place on the riser. Remember to make sharp corners when walking on or off the risers.
6. When standing on the risers, always keep your focus on the director. Absolutely no talking or looking around. If only one choir is singing, focus your attention on that choir.
7. If you are sitting in the audience waiting for your choir to sing, you are still a part of the program. Focus your attention on the stage and the choir that is singing.

CONCERT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS, CONTINUED

8. Absolutely NO CELL PHONES during a concert. A student is not allowed to have their cell phone on their person during a concert/performance. **A student who is caught with or uses their cell phone during a concert will lose all points for that performance and will not be allowed to make them up.**
9. All of the above concert etiquette will make you truly proud to be a part of the Lincoln High School Choirs.

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES FOR AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

The Sioux Falls Schools Performing Arts Department has a goal to educate their audiences as well as their students. In this spirit, we have outlined what is widely considered appropriate behavior for audience members at a fine arts performance. We acknowledge that in today's world that there are many types of activities in which our students participate. What may be appropriate at a sporting event may not be appropriate in the performance setting. Please take these suggestions in the spirit that they are given. It will increase everyone's enjoyment of the performance.

A good audience member:

1. Arrives on time for the performance.
2. Enters and exits through the non-performers' doors.
3. **Remembers to turn off all electronic devices (cell phones, watches, pagers, etc.) for the duration of the performance.**
4. Is responsible for the appropriate behavior of ALL children.
5. Leaves their seat only in an emergency and returns at intermission or an appropriate break in the performance
6. Remains quiet and attentive during the performance, and avoids creating any unnecessary noises (paper wrappers from candy/gum, cough drops, breath mints, etc.)
7. Does not try to distract the performer by waving, calling out, fanning oneself, or any other inappropriate gesturing. Whistling and yelling are not appropriate at a performance.
8. Requests permission before using flash photography.
9. Does not consume food or drink in theatres and concert halls. Most facilities for performances prohibit food or beverages inside the performance hall, and participants will respect this rule, whether it is posted or not.
10. Uses appropriate receptacles for disposal of trash.
11. Shows their appreciation by applauding at the end of the performance. If you feel that you have observed a particularly exceptional performance, a standing ovation is an appropriate acknowledgment.

Thank you for contributing to a productive performance setting.

Vocal Ensembles

Further opportunity for vocal enrichment is offered through participation in a vocal ensemble. Vocal ensembles rehearse 25 minutes daily opposite lunch periods. Members of an ensemble are required to be a member of a large choir and members of Concert Choir are required to be in an ensemble.

Acceptance into a vocal ensemble is by audition only. Auditions will be held in January (check the calendar in this book for next year's audition date). Students will audition in quartets (SATB). Numbers will be drawn to determine the order in which they sing. These are closed auditions, and students may leave once they have finished singing. A minimum of two judges from outside of LHS will help in the selection process.

There are two major concerts during the year for the vocal ensembles. In December, an Ensemble Tea is held in the choir room during the students' lunch periods 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Ensembles will perform for guests during their regular rehearsal time. In May, a Spring Vocal Ensemble Concert/Dessert Theatre Show will be held at a location to be determined. LHS Ensembles are frequently asked to sing for community functions. If you are interested in having an ensemble perform, please call the music office to schedule a time.

Participation in an ENSEMBLE is a privilege and students should view it as such and know that expectations are very high. Students should display exemplary attitude and attendance. Students who are participating in an ensemble will sign a contract agreement and agree to follow guidelines and expectations.

There is a place in the Lincoln High School Vocal Music program for any student who wishes to sing. However, elite, auditioned ensembles may not be the best fit for every student. Members of auditioned ensembles are held to an even higher standard of excellence and will move at an elite pace. Judges will score and recommend placement and directors will place students in the ensembles that they feel the student will be most successful. Any student who wishes to be in a Lincoln High School auditioned ensemble must be able to demonstrate only the highest levels of proficiencies in the areas of vocal performance, music knowledge and classroom participation in order to be considered for any auditioned ensemble. Prior membership in a Lincoln High School Auditioned ensemble is not taken into consideration by judges and is therefore not a good forecaster of audition results. While membership in an auditioned ensemble gives a student invaluable experience heading into an audition, groups will be created based on, not only individual proficiency levels, but also the ability of an individual to function as a member of an elite ensemble.

Canto Fratelli (Singing Brothers) 9th-12th Boys

In Canto Fratelli, we work on the foundations of singing and good tone production. Students will gain expertise in the use of their head voice which will help students through their voice change. Students become strong, independent singers and delight in singing TTBB literature.

Cantare (To Sing) 9th Girls

This ensemble focuses on the foundations of beautiful singing. Unison, two and three-part literature will be explored.

Bel Canto (Beautiful Voice) 10th – 12th Girls

Continuing on with beautiful tone production, girls will be exposed to more difficult literature.

Sotto Voce (Subdued Voice) 10th – 12th Girls

Singing challenging women's literature at its peak, students will be expected to be independent singers with strong sight-reading skills.

Cliff Avenue Singers – Mixed 10th – 12th

Students sing a variety of repertoire from madrigals to contemporary music in four-part mixed voice singing. Students will be expected to have good music reading skills and to be a strong independent singer.

Chamber Choir – Mixed 11th-12th (must be members of Concert Choir)

Chamber Choir is composed of a highly select group of mixed voices singing very challenging literature ranging from madrigals to jazz. Students must possess excellent sight-reading skills, a keen ear, rhythmic skills and an excellent work ethic.

LHS Men of Note – Combination of all the men from the select ensembles.

LHS Women of Note – Combination of all women from the select ensembles.

***LHS Vocal Jazz – (Mixed 9-12th grade, also member of a select ensemble)
(An extra-curricular ensemble meeting one night/weekly)***

The **Red, White, & Blues Vocal Jazz** is composed of a highly select group of mixed voices singing extremely challenging literature from various jazz genres: swing, ballad, Latin, contemporary. Students must be strong independent singers who possess excellent ear training and sight-reading skills, and will work to develop improvisational skills.

Honor Choirs & All State Chorus

Several opportunities are available for students to audition for state, regional, and national honor choirs. Lincoln has a history of having strong representation in these high-level groups. Students interested in auditioning should talk to their teacher early. Directors will help students prepare and submit audition materials.

South Dakota All-State Chorus

The South Dakota All-State Chorus is organized by the SD High School Activities Association. Lincoln High School is allowed to send 5 quartets (SATB) to the event that brings together over 1,000 high school musicians in the state. Juniors and seniors in Concert Choir are eligible to audition for South Dakota All-State Chorus. All-State happens in the fall - see calendar for audition and performance dates.

South Dakota Senior Honor Choir

The South Dakota Senior Honor Choir is one of the most elite choral performing opportunities offered in our state. Auditions occur in April and consist of a prepared solo, sight-reading, tonal-memory, and a musical terms test. Students that are current sophomores and juniors (as of April) are allowed to audition. Selected students attend a week-long camp the last week in July to craft an exquisite concert of challenging repertoire to present in a final concert at the end of the week while also creating lasting friendships with other singers in the state.

Regional/National ACDA Honor Choir

The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) hosts regional and national conventions and Honor Choirs each year. There are opportunities for students in all grades to submit recorded auditions for these Honor Choirs. Recent locations have included Chicago, Milwaukee, Kansas City, and Minneapolis. Talk to your director if you're interested in this opportunity.

South Dakota Junior Honor Choir

The SD Junior Honor Choir is made up of 7th-9th graders. Auditions are recorded in the early fall. Students interested in auditioning should communicate with their director right away at the beginning of the school year. The honor choir takes place over two days in January, alternating between Sioux Falls and Rapid City as its venue.

Lincoln High School Choir Parents Association

The Lincoln High School Choir Parents Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the LHS choir program. Its purposes are:

1. To encourage and maintain an enthusiastic interest in all phases of the choir program at Lincoln High School.
2. To encourage and make possible educational trips, exchange programs, and concerts that are sanctioned and approved by appropriate school officials.
3. To actively support fundraising efforts.
4. To provide an exemplary model of loyalty, respect, integrity, cooperation and dedication through parental participation in all activities of the Association.
5. To promote the Lincoln High School choirs and all school music groups in the local communities through the media and special projects throughout the year.
6. To provide opportunities for parents to become involved in the choir program through various committees. Parents who become involved in their child's activities enjoy the camaraderie that develops when meeting and working with other parents whose children have the same goals and interests.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As with any other organization, the activities of the choir Parents Association are run by volunteers. We need lots of volunteers to help with the many different jobs available within the committees of the Association. These committees are described below. Please look at these descriptions and find an opportunity to get involved! We have been fortunate at LHS to have such wonderful parent involvement—you are greatly appreciated!

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be distributed to the parents in August. You may also email the Coordinator of the LHS Choir Parents Association to find out more information. Our coordinator is the LHS Fine Arts Secretary, Rogene Brown. Rogene.Brown@k12.sd.us

BOOSTER CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

Representatives from each grade level who will attend the monthly meetings are needed for the Booster Club. The Booster Club meets at 5:30 pm on the second Monday of every month in the Library. Important financial decisions are made at these meetings, and it is imperative that the representatives be at each meeting. Parents will meet with the head director when needed to discuss the needs of the Choir Department.

DESSERT SHOW COMMITTEE

Every other year the Concert Choir/Ensembles put on a Dessert Theater. A theme is chosen for the event and the theme is carried out in the costumes and decorations as well as the music. One of the most exciting things about the Dessert Theater is the opportunity for all the parents, students and teachers to work together. Parents can volunteer to be a part of the Food, Decorations, Costumes, Set Up, Clean Up, Tickets, or Publicity committees. Students help with the decorations, sell tickets and get their own costume. The parent chairs will work with the student committee.

ROBES/ENSEMBLE OUTFITS

Outfits for our select ensembles are provided for the students. They are checked out to the student and most of the time are kept at school. Each student is responsible for the performing uniform that is assigned to them. There is a usage fee collected from students that is used to dry clean, maintain, repair and replace uniforms as they are needed.

ENSEMBLE TEA COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for organizing workers to set up refreshments for the Ensemble Tea held in December from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Ensemble members provide the treats which, along with coffee and cider, are served before each ensemble performs. The ensemble tea chair will work with the student ensemble tea committee.

TICKET/USHER COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for organizing parents to sell and take tickets at the concerts during the year, as well as organizing parents to usher at concerts and work the robe room. Parents need to email workers at least two weeks in advance of the concert. Workers need to be in place one hour before the concert time. The committee chair will order tickets through the District Print Shop and procure the moneybox and money from the LHS financial secretary, Laurie Sterrett.

Fundraising

Please note that we do NOT encourage students to go door to door to fundraise. All students are encouraged, but not required, to take part in fundraising. Individual accounting will be kept on each student's efforts, and these funds will be carried over from one year to the next. Students may use this money for anything that is related to the choir program – purchase of choir CD's, choir T-shirt, choir shoes, and/or trip expenses. Funds not expended for any individual will remain in the chorus account. Students may not transfer money to another account. The monies in the chorus account belong to individual students only in so far as expenditures for chorus and disbursement of the same are at the discretion of the director and the school administrator.

Please check the fundraising page on the chorus website for current and upcoming fundraisers.

If you would like to know what your student balance is for their ISA, please log into your student's "CutTime" account.

How to access ISA Information via CutTime



As of fall 2024, we have transitioned to using a software called CutTime in place of the old CHARMS. Each student has an account in CutTime and this is where the Individual Student Accounts (ISA) are managed.

CutTime operates primarily via SMS Text messaging and emailing. When the director sends an announcement, a charge is assigned to your student, or a payment is applied, you will receive a notification via text message. This text message will include a link (referred to as a Magic Link) to open your account in a browser (can be done on your mobile device or a desktop/laptop). It is recommended that you bookmark the Magic Link so you can access it on your browser any time.

Communication for Choir-related topics will be sent through this platform throughout the year, so please make sure to keep your contact information up to date on Infinite Campus because that's where we import contacts from.

WHY TEACH MUSIC

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE: It is exact, specific; and it demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a chart, a graph which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony all at once with the most exact control of time.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL: It is rhythmically based on the subdivisions of time into fractions, which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French; and the notation is certainly not English—but a highly developed kind of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. The semantics of music is the most complete and universal language.

MUSIC IS HISTORY: Music usually reflects the environment and times of its creation, often even the country and/or racial feeling.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION: It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

MUSIC IS ALL THESE THINGS, BUT MOST OF ALL, MUSIC IS ART: It allows a human being to take all these dry, technically boring but difficult techniques and use them to create emotion. That is one thing science cannot duplicate; humanism, feeling, emotion, call it what you will.

THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC! Not because we expect you to major in music—Not because we expect you to play or sing all your life—Not so you can relax—Not so you can have fun—But—So you will be human. So you will recognize beauty. So you will be sensitive. So you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world. So you will have something to cling to. So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good—in short, more life.

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live??

THAT IS WHY WE TEACH MUSIC!!!

(Reproduced from the Pennsylvania Music Education Association Journal)

16 Things Your Child Learns from the Arts

1. Develops creative thinking
2. Creates Multiple pathways in the brain
3. Provides means of communication and self expression
4. Serves as an emotional release
5. Strengthens the self-concept and confidence
6. Increases self-understanding
7. Heightens aesthetic awareness and sensitivity
8. Enhances the ability to visualize
9. Provides problem-solving/decision-making opportunities
10. Develops appreciation for the individuality of others
11. Leads to the integration of the individual
12. Serves as a balance to classroom activities
13. Aids physical coordination
14. Develops work habits and a sense of responsibility
15. Aids the adult in understanding and helping the child
16. Generates joy