

**Lexington Middle School**

**Chorus Handbook**

**2022-2023**

**Mr. Samuel Howell, Choral Director**

**Email: [showell@lexcs.org](mailto:showell@lexcs.org)**

**Room: 314 (right above the gym)**

**Phone: 336-242-2567 Ext. 3232**

**August 2022**

Dear Student and Family,

Greetings! I hope you had a very enjoyable and relaxing summer. This letter is both an introduction for new members and a welcome back to returning singers. I am very excited to begin a new school year with you all.

You will find a wealth of information in this handbook including concert dates, and important tips to help ensure musical and personal success. Please take the time to read through the entire Handbook as it has important information about grading policies and class expectations. I will also post the Handbook on Canvas and send it out to all students and families to view online.

**Please complete the following no later than Tuesday, September 6th. You can print a copy and give it to me, submit a Google Form, or complete/sign electronically. These forms are located at the back of the Handbook. The Handbook will be posted on Canvas for you to view.**

- Complete/Sign the Handbook Acknowledgement Form (Student + Parent/Guardian)
- Complete/Sign the Concert Attire Acknowledgement Form (Parent/Guardian)
- Complete/Sign the Image Use/Permission Form (Student + Parent/Guardian)
- Complete/Sign the Medical Information Form (Student and/or Parent/Guardian)
- Complete/Sign the LMS Chorus Event Participation Agreement (Student + Parent/Guardian)
- Complete/Sign the Extra Opportunities for LMS Choral Students Form (Student or Parent/Guardian)
- Have a notebook and/or loose leaf paper.
- Bring in \$20 in cash to cover the rental fee for the concert attire (includes hemming, cleaning, dry-cleaning and maintenance). If you require financial assistance, please be sure to let me know by this date.

I wish you a wonderful and successful school year both musically and academically. Please feel free to contact me via phone or email with any questions. Please be sure to check your Email, the Canvas page **and Shared Drive**, PowerSchool as this is the main source of communication I will have with you. I am very excited for the year ahead!

Musically Yours,

Mr. Howell

## **School Supplies**

- A folder (provided in class and color-coded for your grade)
- Music (provided and handed out in class)
- Loose Leaf Paper (provided in class—you may need your own if we run out)
- Pencils with erasers (student must have)

**Performances: All events with a + are voluntary. All events with a \* are mandatory: Here are the dates of choral performances and opportunities this year. There is a link BELOW each event/performance with information about that event/performance.**

+September 29th (Thurs): ***Honors Chorus Auditions*** @ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 607 North Greene St Greensboro, NC <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wiROv85gcGgTN59imPsyn-rrcZrlARnh5w6kpQHLtj0/edit?usp=sharing>

\*October 5th (Wednesday): ***Fall Concert 7th and 8th Grade*** @ 6:30 PM @ Lexington High School Auditorium

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z0Z89pN9rgH9kw2EUvFzBrv6MTS-iWbf7FE\\_zNs5Y9Y/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z0Z89pN9rgH9kw2EUvFzBrv6MTS-iWbf7FE_zNs5Y9Y/edit?usp=sharing)

+October 23-24th (Sunday-Monday): ***All-County Chorus Festival*** @ Oak Grove HS 3507 Midway School Rd Winston-Salem, NC.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DaV9aUPq8pMN8ME5bTcxypSwI4ddcoVuxzIYZgOuRRM/edit?usp=sharing>

+November 12-13th (Sat-Sun): ***Honors Chorus*** @ Benton Convention Center 425 Cherry St. N, Winston-Salem, NC; Schedule, Music and Itinerary sent upon acceptance

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wiROv85gcGgTN59imPsyn-rrcZrlARnh5w6kpQHLtj0/edit?usp=sharing>

\*Potential Pre-Concert Rehearsal December 12th (Monday evening) with HS

\*December 13th (Tuesday): ***Winter Concert (All Grades)*** @ 6:30 Lexington Senior High School

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mdVpVuknLsIvEtakK9wMyQthUqE1vvl0eCV2yfO3Wdk/edit?usp=sharing>

\*December 15th (Thursday): ***Post-Concert Community Performance (All Grades)*** @ Elementary Schools, HS, Kiwanis Club

+Feb. 3-4 (Fri - Sat): **Wingate MS Choral Celebration** @ Wingate University, More Information forthcoming.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OSrZWm9DkHaKJpMbboja-EzOt7HGYmrs2\\_KXv1hIA34/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OSrZWm9DkHaKJpMbboja-EzOt7HGYmrs2_KXv1hIA34/edit?usp=sharing)

+Feb. 10-11 (Fri-Sat): **ACDA MiddleFest**, @ More Information Forthcoming

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CbMq9\\_jNpW1Nxf83HVuSucfnoEUazsR78fw7CEicBA8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CbMq9_jNpW1Nxf83HVuSucfnoEUazsR78fw7CEicBA8/edit?usp=sharing)

\*Rising 6th Grade Recruitment Concert\*\* Date TBD, 6:30 PM

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wEtowwkKfmqQA2GeUb\\_URvja9PuM5h0p2uZewJIExe4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wEtowwkKfmqQA2GeUb_URvja9PuM5h0p2uZewJIExe4/edit?usp=sharing)

\*March 16th (Thursday): **MPA Festival Concert**, @ 6:30 Time/Location/Itinerary TBD

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IJ8S1p9Q7258T3bqZMyYa3EW2sW9jsNj-Ot5BJBdZ-Q/edit?usp=sharing>

\*Late March-Early April: **MPA Adjudication**, @ Time TBD, First Presbyterian Church 617 N. Elm St Greensboro, NC

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IJ8S1p9Q7258T3bqZMyYa3EW2sW9jsNj-Ot5BJBdZ-Q/edit?usp=sharing>

+April 14-15 (Fri-Sat): **Middle School All-State Chorus** @ Charlotte Convention Center 501 S. College St Charlotte, NC Schedule, Music and Itinerary sent upon registration

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XEQm6zCMAu0s7ubWiUrxVKIPTLWcY0K-yu4aH7vQsjo/edit?usp=sharing>

\*May 4th (Thursday): **Spring Concert Rehearsal**, @ Civic Center

\*May 5th (Friday): **Spring Concert**, @ 6:30 Civic Center

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pIUmtmlPiIr3d99SdkObNT94bQKIibRUkyccwiU6gR0/edit?usp=sharing>

+June 18-23 (Sun-Fri) or June 25-30 (Sun-Fri) **NCSICA 2023** @ Wingate University

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BI8SYvmf8sIInfyGjp6mjMdsneh7FesKIQ6jL9NO0/edit?usp=sharing>

**Performance Attire:** NO: Sneakers, Sandals/Chacos, flip-flops

- Concert Attire in Classroom: Black pants + White Top or Black Dress, black closed-toe dress shoes, black belt, black socks

**Grading: Based on 4 Categories:**

- Participation/Rehearsal Technique (25%): You will have a Weekly Grade entitled *Participation/Rehearsal Technique*. Each month, you will complete a **Self-Assessment Activity** in which you will evaluate your own Participation and Rehearsal Technique. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19ouLyz1ko7ox6MMDhHdCZFmMCCPdISOB/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110449279103189448085&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Performances/Concert Attendance (25%): It is expected that you attend every scheduled school concert. If you have a conflict, you must inform myself and/or the administration. Whether that conflict is deemed excused or unexcused, you will be required to complete a Missed Concert Assignment in order to receive credit.
- Classwork/Homework (25%): Most work that you do in Chorus will be in class—you will rarely have homework assignments. You must complete all assigned work, whether an assessment, classwork, or homework, in order to receive credit in this area. Each month, you will have a **Classwork Check**. In this activity, I will go around the room and check to make sure you have your music and are making markings and that you are completing class activities when asked. It is important that you have all relevant materials out and are NOT doing work from other classes at any time. If you do not complete work (classwork or homework) by a deadline, there is a 2-day grace period. Following the grace period, you will lose 5 points for each consecutive day it is not completed and submitted. As we get close to performances, you may have a **Part Check**, in which you may be asked to sing in a group or as a soloist for an Assessment Grade. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/12cr\\_Yh49k75MEvLj7WBOLwEEiHpgRGFc6hNXvKJ5Ltg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12cr_Yh49k75MEvLj7WBOLwEEiHpgRGFc6hNXvKJ5Ltg/edit?usp=sharing)
- Growth (25%): You will receive a **Growth Grade** every quarter.

**Expectations: It is important that you come to class prepared, ready to learn, participate, listen and follow directions, and are respectful toward others.**

- Treat People With Kindness (Thanks, @Harry Styles)
- Treat others the way you want to be treated. Hateful language, bullying, jeering or laughing at other students will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.
- Please be seated at the bell with your folder and music out and iPad away.
- Please remain seated during class time unless otherwise directed.
- Have your folder and pencil with you at all times.
- DO NOT have any food, gum or drink (other than water).
- Raise your hand before you speak.
- Please do not take out your iPad until I tell you to do so.
- Listen and follow directions the first time they are given.
- Participate to the best of your ability in all classroom activities.
- Come with an open mind, eager to learn, and have fun!

### **Consequences**

- Warning, Followed by Individual Conference with Student(s)
- Lowering of Grade: If you are not participating, your grade may be lowered.
- Parent Contact
- Separation from group and given an alternate assignment
- Office Referral
- Loss of Field Trip Privileges/Participation in Outside-of-School Events

### **Bathroom: Fill out Bathroom Sign-In Sheet**

- If you need to use the bathroom, please raise your hand and ask first.
- When you go to the bathroom, please fill out the Bathroom Sign-In Sheet with your name and the time you are leaving.
- When you return from the bathroom, please fill out the Bathroom Sign-In Sheet with your name and the time you have returned.

### **Water: Fill out Water Fountain Sign-In Sheet**

- If you need to use the water fountain, please raise your hand and ask first.
- When you go to the water fountain, please fill out the Water Fountain Sign-In Sheet with your name and the time you are leaving.
- When you return from the water fountain, please fill out the Water Fountain Sign-In Sheet with your name and the time you have returned.

## Illness

- If you feel ill during class, please raise your hand and go to the nurse.
- If you come to class and your voice is sore, simply let me know and I will give you an alternate assignment/task to complete during class for that day.

## Seating

You will receive a number. This number is very important, and, along with your name, it will be essential that you write it down on every piece of music or worksheet that I give you.

Your Seat # = Your Folder = Your Cubby #

Whenever you receive music, you will keep it at school in the bin/box with your class. In order to know to whom the music belongs, you must ALWAYS write your name and number on the music. I would ask that you write your number on the top left hand corner of any document/music I give to you. Often times, your music can be found on Canvas or the Classwork app!

**EVERY DAY → Please be sure that when you enter the classroom, you MUST**

1. Come in, place your backpack under your chair.
2. Go to your cubby with your number and class, and get your folder and music for the day.
3. Go to your seat and begin the Do Now. If there is no Do Now, you may sit quietly on your iPad until class begins. You must have your folder, paper, and music out at this time.
4. Once class begins, iPads must be put away until I say that you can take them out for class activities. Do not throw, trade, or plug in the iPads at any time.

## **How are the classes and colors and numbers organized?**

Your cubby and seat will be color-coded by grade. Your class will be titled by your grade followed by a letter. This information will ALWAYS be kept on the board and on your cubbies, and it will become routine and simple!

- Once you are vocalized, you will be given a number and an assigned seat. This seat will be permanent unless changed due to behavior, voicing, or balance.
- You must put your **number**, your **class**, and your **name** on
  - Your folder (Handed out on the first day of school)
  - Your music
  - All Handouts or worksheets you receive from me
  - You may wish to put a sticky note on your iPad case to show that it is yours.

### **6th Grade**

6A=Grade 6, Class A (Pink P)

6B=Grade 6, Class B (Pink P)

- All 6th Grade: Pink

### **7th Grade**

7A=Grade 7, Class A (Yellow Y)

7B=Grade 7, Class B (Yellow Y)

- All 7th Grade: Yellow

### **8th Grade**

8A=Grade 8, Class A (Blue B)

8B=Grade 8, Class B (Blue B)

- All 8th Grade: Blue

Example: I am in 8th grade, Class A, #4. 8A, 4.

## **Keeping Updated on Chorus Information:**

Website: [www.lexingtonchorus.com](http://www.lexingtonchorus.com) and <https://www.lexcs.org/lms> –Go to my name under “Teachers.”

For the forms below, feel free to type in your signature to acknowledge.



## Handbook Acknowledgement Form

My Child, \_\_\_\_\_ (please indicate name you would like in the Concert Program) and I have read the Lexington MS Chorus Handbook and understand the information included. We understand that the Handbook is subject to change.

- We agree to provide the necessary items needed for class.
- We understand the Expectations and Consequences in Chorus.
- We understand each school concert performance is mandatory. We understand that should a conflict occur with a performance, Mr. Howell and/or a school administrator should be informed as soon as possible.

Google Form Access: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZMRbHU5wart\\_aYuMQS4THHmkrDbRtmf\\_OuLsJTkscPDmCGA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZMRbHU5wart_aYuMQS4THHmkrDbRtmf_OuLsJTkscPDmCGA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

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

Parent/Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: Sign below if you are interested in being a chaperone. Please write “Yes” if you are interested in joining the Remind101 and “No” if not.

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Info for Chaperone (Email/Phone):

\_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact for Communication (Phone for Remind101 or Email for Listserv):

\_\_\_\_\_

**Concert Attire Acknowledgement Form**

Google Form Access: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrBNe8aa44qLE\\_Cdkzcrpv6XE-t8nA29mykWCfxRs\\_Kw4SsA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrBNe8aa44qLE_Cdkzcrpv6XE-t8nA29mykWCfxRs_Kw4SsA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

To be completed by the Parent/Guardian:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Uniform Size: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I have read the dress requirements for Lexington Middle School Chorus and will be able to provide \$20 Rental Fee.

\_\_\_\_ I have read and understood the dress requirements but I will need financial assistance providing the rental fee. (Please be sure our contact information you submitted is up to date so I can contact you regarding assistance)

## **Image Use/Permission Form**

Google Form Access: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuHuJ3cECiRg0ekwc1AhGIS6mCgfAdgtTTKxvaxYS6Hx6Tew/viewform?usp=sf_link)

[1FAIpQLScuHuJ3cECiRg0ekwc1AhGIS6mCgfAdgtTTKxvaxYS6Hx6Tew/viewform?  
usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuHuJ3cECiRg0ekwc1AhGIS6mCgfAdgtTTKxvaxYS6Hx6Tew/viewform?usp=sf_link)

May we have permission to use your child's image/recording online? This will occur most frequently when recording classes or performances and posting for students/families to rewatch as needed. It may also occur in promotional materials, slideshows, virtual choir videos, social media, etc. The only name ever associated with the photo would be there first name (if at all)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Lexington City Schools**

### **Photo Release “Opt Out” Form**

Lexington City Schools (LCS) reserves the right to take photographs of facilities, events, employees, students, and guests in any areas of the schools and district where subjects would not have an expectation of privacy.

LCS uses photographs, photographic images, names, and audio/video recordings of employees, students, or guests for general publications on its websites, on social media, in public relations, promotions, and advertising, etc. Your presence in or around LCS facilities and/or properties, as well as at off-campus LCS-sponsored events, constitutes your consent to capture and/or use your image or likeness without remuneration.

LCS does not collect release forms from its faculty, staff members or guests for the use of images or videos taken on campus. LCS understands that there may be employees who may wish to not be photographed or have their image used for LCS-related purposes and can opt-out by completing a Photo Opt Out Waiver.

Unless a fully completed Photo Opt Out Waiver is on file, your image and/or likeness may at any time be captured by still photography, videography, or other photographic or electronic means and used for LCS related purposes. Those who do NOT want to be photographed and have completed a Photo Opt Out Waiver on file are responsible for notifying the camera operator of their opt-out status, and/or removing themselves from any event where photographs/videography are in use. Failure to do so may result in the employee’s inclusion in a photograph or recording and will be treated as a release, allowing LCS to utilize that photograph or recording accordingly.

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If you are electing to OPT OUT, please sign below:

**PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH OR IN ANY WAY USE MY IMAGE/PHOTO AND/OR VIDEO FOR COMMUNICATIONS OR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES.**

Name (Print) : \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information Form (Completed by Student or Parent)**

Google Form Access: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwpzTF6On8wW4W9Mb2ft2v6-WXLMBqBMxJzHAP20UUeodGA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfwpzTF6On8wW4W9Mb2ft2v6-WXLMBqBMxJzHAP20UUeodGA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Are there any medical issues, allergies, conditions of which I should be aware regarding the student? If so, please explain. Anything else I should know about you? How can I best support you this year?

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## Event Participation Agreement

**Google Form Access:** [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe\\_ORy9khHZLkCTqyIxN2IFivs1rCaJTA0hcpxBAdBgfSRhQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_ORy9khHZLkCTqyIxN2IFivs1rCaJTA0hcpxBAdBgfSRhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link) Being a part of LMS Chorus often means having opportunities to participate in events outside of the classroom. The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that all students and parents understand the expectations of additional events, and to help hold students accountable so they can be successful in any concert/trips/events in which they may participate. It is important to recognize that these opportunities are a privilege and only students who meet expectations in class will be allowed the opportunity to participate in events outside of class. The following are expectations of all members of Lexington Chorus. All students and parents are to review, complete, and sign this form, and return the bottom portion to Mr. Howell in order to be eligible to participate in any events for the remainder of the year.

- Maintain a C or above in chorus class
- Participate regularly in class activities and rehearsals
- Show respect for self and others
- Acquire proper concert attire (black pants, black long-sleeve button down, black closed-toe dress shoes, black socks, black dress/blouse covering arm length). If you need assistance acquiring any of these items please let me know ASAP.

Classroom behaviors that will automatically make you ineligible for any concerts or outside events

- Fighting in chorus class
- Vulgar language towards teacher/substitute in chorus classroom
- Repeatedly walking out of chorus classroom without signing sign-in sheet or taking appropriate hall pass

In addition to the above expectations, in order to be eligible to participate in any additional events students must be passing all classes, and have teacher permission for any class they miss during a trip. Students must not have been suspended, or spent any time in Jacket Academy or the Hive. This rule will reset at the start of each quarter. In regards to the December field trips, students must have participated in the concert the previous week in order to be eligible to participate in the trip. If for any reason a student loses their event privileges, they will be given an alternate assignment to replace a concert grade, and will not be penalized for missing any other event. If a student misses a concert for an unexcused reason without informing Mr. Howell and/or administration in advance, the student will complete the Concert Make-Up Assignment to receive appropriate credit. Failure to complete the said assignment may result in a deduction from the student's grade.

We have reviewed the expectations for concert and event participation.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Additional Opportunities for LMS Chorus Students

There are so many opportunities to further your growth as a musician and a member of LMS Chorus. Below, you will find a wealth of opportunities that you can be a part of this year that I can assure you you will love and not regret doing.

Google Form Access: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfShzIIODpBqIdoG13vOIWPzbc1WAHu4f6ih5VsFZuIg0Oog/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfShzIIODpBqIdoG13vOIWPzbc1WAHu4f6ih5VsFZuIg0Oog/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Check the box BELOW the link if you are interested!

- North Carolina Honor's Chorus (In-Person Audition Required) <https://www.ncmea.net/sections-2/middle-school-choral/programs/honors-chorus/>

- Davidson County All-County Chorus (Students work with a guest conductor and perform repertoire with students from across Davidson County.) Link to come

- North Carolina All-State Chorus <https://www.ncmea.net/sections-2/middle-school-choral/programs/all-state-chorus/>

- NC ACDA MiddleFest: (Students work with a nationally recognized choral director.)

<https://agmiddleschoolchoir.weebly.com/nc-acda-middlefest.html> [Sample from previous year]

- Wingate University Middle School Choral Celebration (Info to come—similar to MiddleFest)

- NCSICA: North Carolina Summer Institute of Choral Art

<https://ncsica.com/> [Many LMS kids participate every year]