Lincoln-Way West High School
Choir Handbook

Syllabus, Classroom, and Ensemble Rules
2019-2020
Contact information:

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PHILOSOPHY

Through the Lincoln-Way West Music Department, students will be able to:
• Develop a picture of who they are - a whole person, a valuable person
• Develop a sense of belonging, of connecting with society
• Develop reliability, responsibility, patience and the willingness to try something new
• Take pleasure in rehearsal and performance, and pride in their successes
• Have high expectations for themselves and be active participants in their lives – not spectators
• Learn to develop their skills through sustained effort
• Develop an understanding of human nature and the ability to empathize
• Become tolerant and open to others’ ideas and ways of being
• Develop a love for all arts

CHORALE

PURPOSE: This course offers an opportunity for students to perform the highest quality literature in an elite concert ensemble. Students will advance their musical knowledge as well as their singing ability through this course.

CONCERT CHORALE

PURPOSE: This course offers an opportunity for students to perform high-quality literature in an advanced concert ensemble. Students will advance their musical knowledge as well as their singing ability through this course.

Mixed Choir

PURPOSE: This course offers an opportunity for beginning and intermediate students to perform choral literature that best fits their abilities in a concert ensemble. Students will advance their musical knowledge as well as their playing ability through this course.
Rules & Expectations

- All rules and guidelines explained in the Lincoln-Way West High School Parent-Student Handbook apply in this classroom.

- **Concert attendance is mandatory.**

- Students will come to class, proceed to the music cabinets to retrieve their folders, and be IN THEIR ASSIGNED SEAT when class begins. Students must stay on task in their designated areas at all time.

- **Place your cell phone in a numbered pocket as you enter the room.**

- We begin warm-ups at the bell. If you are late, you will be marked tardy—no discussions.

- **No bathroom passes will be given during the FIRST or LAST 10 minutes of class**

- **Respect the podium—no talking when ANYONE is at the podium!**

- **You may not interfere with the director’s teaching**

- **You may not interfere with any student’s learning**

- No food, gum, or candy is permitted in the choir room during rehearsal! Water bottles may be used, but may not be left in class.

- Ask permission before using the water fountain

- Mark all music in pencil.

- No homework is to be done during class! All books and bags will stay in the back of the classroom against the wall

- Lost music and folders will result in a zero for their participation grade EVERY DAY until both are replaced. It will be the responsibility of the student to replace all originals and/or the folder

- Only students who are **current** members of the Lincoln-Way music program will be allowed into music classrooms/practice rooms after school.
Concert Schedule & Attendance

Concert attendance is MANDATORY! Missing a concert for ANY REASON will result in a zero for that part of your grade. ***UPDATED 8/31/19***

Concert Dates: all concerts start at 6:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

**Tuesday, November 5th**
Wednesday, December 11th (Mixed Choir/Concert Chorale ONLY)
Friday, December 13th (Chorale ONLY)
Thursday, March 5th
Friday, March 13th *CHORALE ONLY (10 am @ L-W East)

**Thursday, April 30th**
Tuesday, May 26th — GRADUATION (call time TBA)

Performances may be added to the calendar at any time. Sufficient notice will be given to students in class and through e-mail.

Optional attendance:
ILMEA Auditions: Tuesday, October 1st, Carl Sandburg H.S. (Times TBA)

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Required Materials

The following must be with you every day in class:
Pencil—make any markings LIGHTLY in your music
Music AND choir folder (provided)

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Concert Attire

Dress code for **Mixed Choir** is as follows:

**Boys:** CHOIR ROBE & STOLE, Black dress shoes, black socks, black dress pants, collared shirt (no tie).

**Girls:** CHOIR ROBE & STOLE, Closed toe black dress shoes, knee-length skirt, dress shirt/blouse. Hair is up or back, away from the face.

Dress for **Concert Chorale** and **Chorale** is as follows:

**Boys:** CHOIR FORMAL (tuxedo, bow tie and cummerbund), black dress shoes, black socks. You MUST provide your own tux shirt,

**Girls:** CHOIR FORMAL (choir dress), closed toe black dress shoes, panty hose. Hair is up or back, away from the face

No dangling jewelry of any kind is to be worn for any performances (including rings). Absolutely no perfume/cologne is to be worn for any concert.

**Points will be deducted from your concert grade if concert attire is not met.**
*(see appendix for concert checklist).*
Grading

Music theory assignments—10 points
Vocal quizzes—20 points

ALL PERFORMANCES—50 points
INSIDE/OUTSIDE concert reviews—25 points each

Your grade is determined by calculating the number of points earned divided by the number of total number of points possible for the semester.

Students must come to Mr. Venutolo to receive/schedule any make-up work. Any assignment not completed will be counted as a zero.

Extra Credit

Students may complete ONE extra credit assignment once per semester for a maximum of 10 points. Extra credit can be any of the following: an additional concert review, paper, solo performance, etc. See Mr. Venutolo for more suggestions.

Honors Credit (Chorale students only)

All students enrolled in Chorale are required to do the following per semester in addition to the above (40 points per semester)

Write one 5-7 page scholarly paper on a musical topic of your choice (topics must be approved by Mr. Venutolo). You must do proper, reputable research with citations, etc. as well as write a well thought out paper. Cover page and works cited page DO NOT count towards page total!

-OR-

Perform a 1 1/2—3 minute vocal solo or vocal ensemble of appropriate difficulty in front of the choir. Sign up for dates/times with Mr. Venutolo.

All Chorale students are strongly encouraged to audition for ILMEA. I will allow this audition to count towards 1st semester honors credit.

Private Lessons

It is strongly recommended that ALL choir students take private lessons. What you learn from an individual lesson will only enhance your performance abilities and make you a better player. Scheduling and payment of lessons is the responsibility of the student and voice teacher, NOT the music department.
INSIDE Concert Review Rubric – 25 points TOTAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score per paragraph (5 paragraphs TOTAL)</th>
<th>Minimum Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Correct sentence/grammar structure. Correct punctuation. Correct spelling. One complete sentence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Same as above, <strong>PLUS</strong> two total sentences per paragraph. Use of choral terminology (tone, pitch, phrasing, etc.) when discussing your individual or group performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Same as above, <strong>PLUS</strong> three total sentences per paragraph. Use of song titles when discussing a song example.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
<td>Same as above, <strong>PLUS</strong> four total sentences per paragraph. Inclusion of composers, along with specific PAGE NUMBERS when discussing a song example.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td>Same as above, <strong>PLUS</strong> five or more total sentences per paragraph. Inclusion of specific MEASURE NUMBERS when discussing a song example.</td>
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</tbody>
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OUTSIDE Concert Review guidelines (ALL students)

- You must attend concerts outside of our own. Some possibilities include: band, choir, orchestra, musicals, jazz bands. **Attend ONLY concerts performed by high school ensembles or a higher level.** Some **unacceptable concerts:** anything marching band related, rock concerts, junior high bands/choirs. If you have a question of whether or not it is acceptable, ask Mr. Venutolo.

- Write a **one and a half to two page (TYPED)** review of what you heard. Critique the playing of the ensembles and the pieces selected. The following questions **must** be answered: How was the ensemble's blend/balance/pitch, etc? Did the ensemble play with correct style? Were the pieces played well? Was there anything unique about the concert? Comment on individual solos. How was the selection of music: good variety, fun to listen to, etc. Refer to the back of this sheet to see what you will be graded on.

- **YOU MUST DO 1 PER SEMESTER.** REVIEWS CAN BE E-MAILED, BUT THEY MUST BE A MS WORD DOCUMENT OR PDF ATTACHMENT.
Consider the following when writing your review:

- Indicate WHY you thought what you did. i.e. The choir’s second piece, *Ave Maria*, was boring. What made it boring? Was it a slow tempo, soft dynamic, not an interesting melodic line, no interesting harmonies? Give detail.
- Instead of saying something was always “good,” please elaborate more. The choir’s ensemble sound was very balanced and demonstrated that they listened to those around them to be sure that their tones matched.
- When reviewing *any* ensemble consider the following ideas: balance across the sections/parts, tone of a particular instrument/voice, blending, dynamic contrast, conveying the composers intention of the piece (review program notes, if provided, to aid you in this), stylistic considerations (again, review program notes), intonation, rhythm, attacks and releases, professionalism on stage, response to the conductor.
- When reviewing a choral ensemble, consider the following: diction, articulation, range considerations.
- When reviewing an instrumental ensemble, consider the following: articulations, technical skills.
- When reviewing a musical, consider the following: balance of cast to orchestra, choreography as it relates to the music, acting roles, facial expressions.

**Remember the following when writing your review:**

- Complete sentences, well-organized, thought out, professional review.
- Use of musical terms: dynamics, tempo, articulations, balance, blend, etc.
- Grammar: anything sung/with lyrics in “quotes,” all instrumental pieces are *italicized* or underlined.
- Format: 1” margins, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font.
- How to professionally and properly write negative comments, would YOU want to hear some of these things said about you?
- *Do NOT submit just a program as your review!* In the first paragraph indicate the date, location, and ensembles that performed. I would prefer you include a program, but only your written review counts towards your grade.
Care & Respect for equipment and facilities

The facilities and equipment for West should ALWAYS be treated with care; how you treat them is a reflection of your character, and your respect for the school.

- Always wipe your feet before coming into the building.
- At no time will you deface any part of the school or music department or the equipment. This includes, but not limited to, the lockers, music stands, folders, chairs, walls, doors, storage rooms, buses, truck, etc.
- Trash will be placed in proper receptacles. If you see trash on the ground, pick it up whether it’s yours or not.
- Any damage that does occur should be reported immediately to any music department faculty member.

Robes (Mixed Choir) and Formals (Concert Chorale & Chorale)
- Each student will be assigned their own robe/formal. They are responsible for the care and treatment of that robe/formal for the entire year. At no time may any student change robes/formals or select a new robe/formal without Mr. Venutolo’s consent. If the choir performs in robes/formals outside of the school, garment bags MUST be used. Students are responsible for the condition of their own robe/formal throughout the performance and/or trip. Students will be responsible for storage of robes/formals and garment bags once we return to school or once the performance has finished. All robes/formals MUST be returned to storage after a performance has finished UNLESS Mr. Venutolo has made other arrangements.

- ROBES—including the robe and the stole
- FORMALS (WOMEN)—includes the dress. Shoes and stockings must be provided by the student
- FORMALS (MEN)—includes the tuxedo jacket, tuxedo pants, cummerbund and bow tie. Tuxedo shirt (NOT simply a white dress shirt), shoes and socks must be provided by the student
SELF-REVIEW FORM
(INSIDE Concert Review)

(5 paragraph format, 1 ½ to 2 pages MINIMALLY)

CONGRATULATIONS! Having performed in a recent choral event, you will now review yourself for the sake of feedback/constructive criticism. This review WILL BE GRADED. Failure to complete this review will lead to a significantly lowered grade.

1. Intro paragraph (who performed, where they performed, what the choir sang)
2. What did you, as an individual, do well?
3. What could you, as an individual, do BETTER? (Do NOT just say what was wrong)
4. What did the CHOIR, as a whole, do well?
5. What could the CHOIR, as a whole, do better?

Review must be TYPED; standard 12 point Times New Roman Font, 1 inch margins.

DUE BY [specific date]

This review is worth 25 points
LINCOLN-WAY WEST CONCERT CHECKLIST

NAME_________________  CHOIR_________________

NO PARTIAL CREDIT IS GIVEN FOR ANY CATEGORY.

HAIR (7 points)
Hair was UP and/or AWAY from the face

SKIRT/PANTS (7 points)
Student wore appropriate length and color skirt/pants

SHOES/ SOCKS/ (7 points)
Student wore correct color and style shoes WITH correct color socks

JEWELRY (7 points)
Student had no dangling earrings, necklaces, bracelets, or other jewelry on while performing

REHEARSAL (11 points)
Student arrived ON TIME for warm ups and rehearsal

CONCERT ETIQUETTE (11 points)
Student was in attendance for the ENTIRE concert

TOTAL _______/50 POINTS
Student Name__________________________ Date____________

Group_________________________________________

VOCAL QUIZ

INTONATION  
Finding/staying on pitch  
Vocal tone  
Brightness/darkness of voice  
Score____/5

RHYTHMIC ACCURACY  
Correct rhythm & rests  
Tempo  
Score____/5

DICTION  
Beginning/ending consonants  
Correct vowels  
Clarity of lyrics  
Score____/5

PERFORMANCE  
Volume/solid vocal sound  
Dynamics  
Complete performance  
Score____/5

TOTAL_______/20
Please email tvenutolo@lw210.org with the following message:

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE POLICIES AND RULES FOR CHOIR AND FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM ME FOR THIS COURSE.

Emails are due by Friday, August 23, 2019