

Lincoln-Way West High School Choir Handbook



Syllabus, Classroom, and Ensemble Rules
2025-2026

Contact information:

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Remind group (for students and parents)

Text @mrvenuto to 81010

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 singing ability through this course.

Rules, Procedures & Expectations

- All rules and guidelines explained in the Lincoln-Way West High School Parent-Student Handbook apply in this classroom.
- Enter class, retrieve your folder from the folder cabinet, and BE IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT when class begins. **NO FLOOR SEATING!**
- **Leave ALL BAGS in the back of the room (under the cast photos)**
- *****CELL PHONES MUST BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT*****
- We begin warm-ups at the bell. If you are late, you will be marked tardy—no discussions.
- **NO BATHROOM PASSES for the first 5 & last 5 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/candy is permitted in the choir room during rehearsal! Water bottles may be used, but must be filled BEFORE class.
- Place your folder back in the folder cabinet at the end of class. MISSING AND/OR DAMAGED FOLDERS WILL BE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
- **Concert attendance is MANDATORY. Unexcused absences from ANY concert will result in a ZERO for that part of your grade.** If there are ANY possible conflicts with any concert dates, contact Mr. V IMMEDIATELY!
- Face masks may be worn by any student at any time during rehearsal and/or concerts. The decision to wear a mask will be up to the individual student.

Concert Schedule & Attendance

Concert attendance is **MANDATORY!** Missing a concert for **ANY REASON** will result in a **ZERO** for that part of your grade.

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

Tuesday, October 28

Friday, Dec 12

Tuesday, February 24

Tuesday, April 28

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

Required Materials

Pencil—make any markings **LIGHTLY** in your music

Music **AND** choir folder (provided)

HIGHLIGHTER (optional)

WATER BOTTLES are **HIGHLY encouraged**, but **MUST have a SEALED, SECURED TOP** (No 'Dunkin' lids) to prevent spills.

Concert Attire

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

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

Girls: CHOIR ROBE & STOLE (provided), 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 PROVIDED), black dress shoes, black socks. You **MUST** provide your own tux shirt,

Girls: CHOIR FORMAL (choir dress PROVIDED), 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, bracelets, etc).

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

Theory assignments—**10 points**

ALL PERFORMANCES—**50 points**

Sight singing—**10 points**

Vocal quizzes—**20 points**

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:

- a written review (min. 1 full page) of a performing music ensemble/concert
 - concert must be high-school level or HIGHER
 - concert must be approved by Mr. V (no rock concert reviews)
 - student CANNOT be part of the concert (must be in audience)
- solo vocal performance (during class or during a voice recital)
- Extra sight-singing assignments (in-class ONLY)
- Additional theory assignments (worksheets and/or online)

See Mr. Venutolo for more suggestions.

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.*****

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.**

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

APPENDIX—Forms and Templates continued

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