Lincoln-Way West High School Choir Handbook

Syllabus, Classroom, and Ensemble Rules

2026-2027

Contact information:

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Remind group **(for students and parents)**

*****NEW GROUP! NEW CODE!*****

Text @hdbe9cf **to 81010**

Group name: LWW Choir

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 use your ASSIGNED SEAT** (*no floor seating*) **when class begins**.
- **Leave ALL BAGS in the back of the room (under the cast photos).**
- Warm-ups start at the bell. *If you are consistently late, you will be marked tardy.*
- **BATHROOM PASSES are given at the SOLE DISCRETION of the director**
- **Respect the podium—FOCUS on whomever is directing!**
- ***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**. Your folder is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
- *Concert attendance is MANDATORY. Unexcused absences from ANY concert will result in a ZERO for your concert 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.

CELL PHONE/SMART DEVICES POLICY

- **Cell phones will be placed in any phone holder located on the DOORS of the choir room as you enter class**; please put your phone on SILENT mode (no alarms, etc.) OTHER DEVICES (Apple watches, Meta glasses, AirPods, headphones, etc.) MUST be put away during rehearsal.
- ***NO PHONE USAGE of ANY KIND is allowed during class***, ***unless EXPRESSLY allowed by the director.***
- ***CELL PHONES and/or laptops ARE ALLOWED for VOCAL QUIZZES***
- ***UNAUTHORIZED device usage will result in a green sheet disciplinary referral.***

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 20 ******6pm START******
Friday, Dec 11
Tuesday, February 23
Tuesday, April 27

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:**

- CHOIR ROBE & STOLE (provided)
- Black dress shoes with black or clear socks
- Black dress pants or knee-length skirt (any color)
- Collared shirt (no tie) or dress shirt/blouse (any color)
- Hair is up or back, away from the face.

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

- CHOIR FORMAL (choir dress OR tuxedo [student's choice])
  - Bow tie & cummerbund PROVIDED with tuxedo
- Black dress shoes with black or clear socks.
- Hair is up or back, away from the face.

No dangling jewelry of any kind is to be worn for any performances (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 if details are met**

1 point off every week assignment is late

Sight singing assignments—***10 points (2 points per measure)**

1 point off every week assignment is late

SELF REVIEW—10 points

Vocal quizzes—**20 points** ***(see appendix for rubric)***

- MUST BE TURNED IN BY END OF CLASS!

CONCERT PERFORMANCES—***50 points (see appendix for rubric)***

Your grade is determined by calculating the number of points earned divided by the number of total number of points possible for the semester. Missed vocal quizzes must be made up within ONE WEEK.

Any assignment not completed will be counted as a zero.

*See theory assignment page for more detail

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 CREDIT will only be given if ALL OTHER ASSIGNMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED**

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, music department or the equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, 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 MUST be returned to storage after a performance has finished UNLESS Mr. Venutolo has made other arrangements.

- All FORMALS should go home with the student in their garment bag. **Formals and garment bags MUST be returned to the uniform room within 7 days of our last concert.**

- ROBES—includes the robe and the stole
FORMALS —includes the dress or tuxedo (jacket, pants, cummerbund, tie). **Tuxedo shirt** (if applicable) **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

Student Name_____ Date_____

Group_____

VOCAL QUIZ

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

RHYTHMIC ACCURACY **Score____/5**
- **Correct rhythm & rests**
- **Tempo**

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

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

TOTAL_____/20