

# **LAKESHORE HS CHOIRS** **2016-2017 HANDBOOK**



**Passion   Respect   Dedication   Quality   Family**

**[lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com](http://lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/lakeshorechoirs>**

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428-1402 x 2533

## **LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS 2016-2017 HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the Lakeshore High School Choir Department. To those returning students and families, I am thrilled to work and sing with you again. To the new members of our program, we are excited to have you join us this year in Choir. Lakeshore Choirs is a group of dedicated, excellence seeking young singer musicians who strive to make exceptional music together, learn with and from one another, and build lasting friendships. We live and work by the five values in the Choir Motto: Passion, Respect, Quality, Dedication, and Family. Choir is a place for all students to build not only musicianship skills, but also life and leadership skills. As a member of Lakeshore Choirs, you join a tradition of excellence, built by the many students who have come before you. Their legacy is now yours, one you have the opportunity to not only uphold, but to enrich and strengthen. Be proud, but never be satisfied!

In order to continually improve the quality of our music program, please familiarize yourself with this handbook by carefully reading the policies and expectations of the Choirs. This will help prepare students for the responsibilities they have accepted as a member of this program. When a question arises, consult your handbook and if you need further assistance, consult the director.

Choir students are held to high expectations – we expect only the best from one another. With that in mind, let's get ready for a busy, exciting, fun-filled, educational, and best of all, musical year.

Ms. Katherine Rohwer  
Director of Choirs  
(269) 428-1402 x 2533  
krohwer@lpslancer.net

### **The Lakeshore Choir Motto**

#### **Passion**

For the art of making music  
For doing what it takes to succeed  
Drives each and every one of us to inspire  
not only our audiences, but also ourselves

#### **Respect**

For your fellow choir family members and the director  
For yourself  
For the music

#### **Quality**

Never give less than the best you have to give  
Never expect less than you deserve  
Put your own personal stamp on everything that you do

#### **Dedication**

To a goal of becoming a quality group of people and singers  
To doing whatever it takes to reach that goal  
To becoming a contributing member  
To each other

#### **Family**

To accomplish our goals, we have to work together  
We are much more than a "team" – we are a family  
Families help each other when they need it, support each other's dreams and goals.  
Our Choir Family is made up of caring, intelligent, talented, motivated people who are constantly striving to make sure that their Family is reaching their goals.

## **THE LAKESHORE HS CHOIRS**

**Women's Chorus:** A non-auditioned choir comprised of women with or without past singing experience designed to fit the needs and desires of students who are interested in vocal music and demonstrate an attitude toward singing with choral excellence. Daily rehearsals will include the study of singing technique, sight-singing, music theory, and performance habits. Students will be expected to participate in 4 concerts throughout the year, as well as MSVMA District and State Festivals. Additional training and performing opportunities will be available to students through activities sponsored by the Michigan Vocal Music Association and/or the American Choral Directors Association.

**Men's Chorus:** A non-auditioned choir comprised of men with or without past singing experience designed to fit the needs and desires of students who are interested in vocal music and demonstrate an attitude toward singing with choral excellence. Daily rehearsals will include the study of singing technique, sight-singing, music theory, and performance habits. Students will be expected to participate in 4 concerts throughout the year, as well as MSVMA District and State Festivals. Additional training and performing opportunities will be available to students through activities sponsored by the Michigan Vocal Music Association and/or the American Choral Directors Association.

**Bella Voce:** An auditioned choir comprised of freshman through senior women with past singing experience, a demonstrated ability to sight sing, and an attitude toward singing with choral excellence. In addition to studying and performing a broad range of vocal music styles, this ensemble will explore more in depth techniques for beautiful singing, sight-singing, music theory, and performance practices. Students will be expected to participate in 4 concerts throughout the year, as well as MSVMA District and State Festivals, vocal workshops, and community events. This ensemble maintains a very active co-curricular rehearsal and performance schedule. Additional training and performing opportunities will be available to students through activities sponsored by the Michigan Vocal Music Association and/or the American Choral Directors Association  
*Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval*

**Chorale:** An auditioned choir comprised of sophomore through senior men and women with past singing experience, a demonstrated ability to sight-sing, and an attitude toward singing with choral excellence. In addition to performing 4-part choral literature, this ensemble will explore more in-depth techniques for beautiful singing, sight-singing, music theory, and performance practices. Students will be expected to participate in 4 concerts throughout the year, as well as MSVMA District and State Festivals, vocal workshops, and community events. This ensemble maintains a very active co-curricular rehearsal and performance schedule. Additional training and performing opportunities will be available to students through activities sponsored by the Michigan Vocal Music Association and the American Choral Directors Association.  
*Prerequisite: Audition and Director Approval*

## **POLICIES**

**ATTENDANCE** – *Every student is required to be at every scheduled rehearsal and performance.* To be successful individually, and as a group, consistent attendance, punctuality, and participation are necessary. Choir students are required to be at every rehearsal (regular or extra scheduled) and performance; attendance record is a portion of a student’s grade. Choir is a team effort, and we rely on the responsibility of those around us. When a student is absent, unlike many other classes, the entire chorus of students must adjust and make changes. Individual attendance affects not only the individual, but also the entire group.

Any absence must be handled through parental contact to Ms. Rohwer directly. Choir schedules are given early in the year and updates made as soon as possible. Students and families are asked to plan around concerts and after school rehearsals. Students with schedule conflicts in sports and other school organizations need to make the director/coach of both events aware of the conflict as soon as possible so that an agreeable plan can be reached in advance. If you have an emergency on a concert night, please leave a message at 269-428-1402, ext 2533.

The Lakeshore Performing Arts Policy for Middle and High School choirs and bands applies. According to this policy, there are two kinds of absences:  
*excused absences and unexcused absences*

*Excused absences* are *family emergencies, personal illness, and those given at the discretion of the director* when notified in **ADVANCE** by the parent/guardian. A phone call or letter received prior to the start of the event is required. Please be advised that work and vacation conflicts are not considered an excused absence. An unexcused absence results in a complete loss of points for the given performance. If the absence is excused, students are expected to make up the points through “Musical Community Service” before the end of the marking period. Make-up service hours are available only when the absence is properly excused- unexcused absences are automatic zeros. Dress Rehearsals- 3 hours of Music Community Service; Concerts, Festivals, etc – 5 hours of Music Community Service.

**GRADING** – Grades will be determined in the following areas:

**Musicianship Participation (40%)**

Students will receive a daily participation grade of 3 points (15 points/week) based on preparedness, effort, and attitude. Students earn daily points by meeting the daily rehearsal expectations. Daily rehearsal expectations include:

\*Preparedness: Arrives on time, has choir folder, music and pencil, demonstrates knowledge of music. Students are expected to work on music outside of classtime.

\*Effort: Demonstrates proper posture without being reminded, focuses on proper breathing technique and vocal production, makes eye contact with director, stays on task, complies with rehearsal procedure, and engages in classroom activities.

\*Attitude: Exudes a positive personal attitude, exhibits self-motivation, refrains from disruptive behavior, assist teammates, and strives to have fun!

### **Performances and Events (40%)**

Performances are the culmination of our rehearsals, and therefore an important demonstration and assessment of what we learn in class. Attendance at all performances and events on the schedule identified as required are mandatory, and unexcused absences result in a complete loss of points for the given performance (see Attendance Policy). *Excused absences* can be made up with music community service or an assignment if the absence is excused with a note or phone call. It is the student's responsibility to request the music community service assignment from the teacher, and it must be completed by the end of the marking period.

### **Classwork/Quizzes (20%)**

In choir, we not only need to learn to how to sing and appreciate choral music, but also how to read, interpret, and analyze the music we perform. The theory concepts we cover are crucial to the musical growth of the individual and ensemble. Written work (i.e. theory sheets, solfege assignments, writing assignments) will be assigned throughout each marking period and must be turned in on the designated due date at the beginning of class. At various times, students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge through performance and written assessments that include but are not limited to:

- \*Singing/memorization test
- \*Sight reading test
- \*Written theory quiz

An exam will be given at the end of each semester that may include a written theory section and a performance section. Semester grades are calculated by averaging both marking period grades with the semester exam grade – 40%, 40%, 20%

## **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

1. Choir students will be positive, helpful, musical, hardworking, and respectful.
2. Choir students will have a pencil, folder, and music at all times. All other belongings (i.e. backpacks, purses, hats, cell phones) are not to be in the rehearsal space.
3. Choir students will be in their seats with their materials on time – they will also arrive to performances and be checked in on time per the “call time.”
4. Choir students will not chew gum or have food and drink in the classroom – with the exception of water.
5. Choir students will not speak negatively to or about anybody.

These expectations are put in place for the success of our ensembles. The consequences for disregarding any of the preceding expectations can include deductions from the Participation Grade, parental calls, or disciplinary referrals.

### **EXTRA CREDIT** – Extra credit opportunities for choir include:

- Donating Kleenex or hand-sanitizer.
- Concert Review (of a concert you attend). Turn in the program with comments.
- Attending Choir Parent Organization meetings (with your parent).
- Assignments given at the discretion of the director.

**MUSIC AND FOLDERS** – Lakeshore High School will provide a folder and music for each student. That music and folder are solely the responsibility of the student. Music and folder should be kept in the same condition as when received. Should the music or folder become damaged or lost, students will be required to pay for their replacement (just as a damaged or lost textbook). Each piece of music = \$2.00 Choir Folder = \$15.00

**UNIFORMS** – A uniform’s purpose is not to glorify the look of the individual wearing it, but rather the look of the whole ensemble. Uniforms make us look professional and encourage the listener to hear the sounds we have worked on rather than focus on our style. Singers must have all uniform parts clean and presentable at all times. If you appear with wrinkled, soiled, or an incomplete uniform, you may not be able to perform and your grade will be affected.

**Ladies:** Skirt and blouse or a dress from Lakeshore Schools specific to the student’s ensemble. All ladies must provide their own skin toned hosiery and closed toe, small heeled or flat black dress shoes.

**Men:** Tuxedo jacket, white tuxedo shirt, pants, bow tie, and cummerbund from Lakeshore Schools specific to the student's ensemble. Men must provide black dress socks and shoes.

**All Choir Members:**

Hair: Hair must be UP and out of your face. Use only brown or black hair bands or barrettes. No headbands will be allowed.

Jewelry: No flashy jewelry. Only stud earrings and no necklaces please, unless provide by Lakeshore Choirs.

A \$10.00 dry cleaning fee is requested upon distribution of the uniforms. The fee for a damaged or lost uniform is \$100.

A word about paying for things...

Students and their families who may have difficulty paying for items such as accessories or field trips will never be excluded from participating. Your needs will always remain confidential. Please contact Ms. Rohwer if you have a need.

**AWARDS – All awards are given at the discretion of the director. Upon earning a successful GPA (3.0 or higher) in choir, students are awarded the following:**

*First Year Recognition (certificate):* Shows effort and achievement, is a member for one full year.

*Second Year Letter and Pin:* Maintains a 3.0 in choir, is a member for two years, participates in at least one extra curricular choral activity.\*

*Third and Fourth Year Awards:* After earning the initial letter and pin, an additional pin is awarded each year requirements are fulfilled.

**Outstanding Member Award:** Awarded to the two most outstanding individuals in each ensemble based on musicianship, leadership qualities, attitude, dedication to vocal music, and service to ensemble. Participation in extra curricular choral activities is favorable.\*

**Director's Award:** Awarded to two-three individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities and service to the program. Also based on musicianship and attitude.

**The National School Choral Award:** The highest honor for high school choral performers. Recognizes the dedication and musical achievement of the top male and female senior choral students.

\*Extra-curricular choral activities: MSVMA Honors Choir, MSVMA Solo and Ensemble, The Musical, Variety Show (if part of a vocal act), Cabaret, SWMVF Honors Choir, Attend Booster Meetings

## **SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**HONORS CHOIR** – The Michigan School Vocal Music Association has established an honors choir program that, at the high school level, features SSAA, TTBB, and SATB Choirs every year. In addition, a High School All-State Choir will be presented at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in May. Membership into all honors choirs is open by audition to students from schools holding a current MSVMA membership. Those auditioning must be members in good standing in their school's vocal music program. Students interested in auditioning should talk to Ms. Rohwer by September 19<sup>th</sup>.

When you audition, you sing a memorized piece a cappella and sight-sing a short exercise in front of one adjudicator. Students are assigned a point score in the categories of tone, memorization, intonation, phrasing, diction and vocal technique. The top scoring students are selected for honors choir. There are three honor choirs that happen throughout the year and you have to audition for all of them sequentially, Regional Honors Choir, State Honors Choir, and All-State Honors Choir. Students are required to pay the entrance fee. The Regional auditions will take place at the end of September via an online audition submission process and does not include sight-reading.

**MSVMA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE** – Students are strongly encouraged to participate in MSVMA Solo and Ensemble. As soloists, students prepare 2 contrasting numbers and perform for an adjudicator. A sight-reading component is added at the State level. Soloists may elect for a rating or for comments only. Students are required to pay the entrance fee and make arrangements to practice outside of class. Ensembles can be formed, but students must be willing to put in extra time to practice outside of class.

**LEADERSHIP** – Students and parents will have an opportunity to become involved in the leadership of their choir.

**Section Leaders:** With the consent of the director, each section will appoint a section leader to be in charge of basic attendance, some sectionals, section motivation, and musical and supportive leadership. Section leaders should embody the Lakeshore Choir values and demonstrate advanced musical knowledge.



**Choir Managers:** The choir managers, along with the section leaders, form a council/board for the program that meets regularly with the director to discuss artistic improvement, social activities, concert PR, and recruitment. The Choir Manager is also responsible for assisting with music distribution and collection for their ensemble. Students may apply to be a choir manager at the beginning of the school year.

**VOICE LESSONS** – Students are encouraged to continue their music development outside of class. Private voice lessons are the best way to improve a student’s vocal skill and confidence. Please see Ms. Rohwer for more information on voice teachers and private lessons.

## **CHOIR PARENT ORGANIZATION**

*Choir Parent Organization Executive Board*

Kelly DePumpo, President

Heather Bier, Vice President

Jana Dunsbergen, Secretary

Kim Struzynski, Treasurer

Alisa Koch, Publicity Chairperson

The Lakeshore Choir program needs YOUR help! The success of Lakeshore Choirs is highly augmented by the support of the Lakeshore Choir members’ parents and guardians. Parent involvement is an essential part of the success of the Lakeshore Choirs, and every helping hand allows your student to have a better choir experience. Plus, it’s FUN for YOU! The Choir Parent Organization helps with fundraisers, trips and tours, special performances, and other events. Having a student enrolled in the Lakeshore Choirs automatically makes you a part of the Lakeshore Choir Parent Organization. Please join us this year for our meetings to find out more!

**CHOIR PARENT ORGANIZATION MEETINGS** - Meetings will take place in the High School Choir Room at 7 pm. Please see the choir website for dates. You are welcome to attend at any time throughout the year!

**FUNDRAISING AND STUDENT ACCOUNTS** – Every choir will participate in fundraisers throughout the year. Some of the money will go to the Choir’s General Fund or Booster Account for supplies, travel/party expenses, guest artists, scholarships, etc. Some money will go directly into individual student accounts. These accounts allow students to let their fundraising money work directly for them. Students can choose to use the money for registration fees, accompanist fees, t-shirts, trips, medals, etc.

Calendar of Events 2016-2017: Font key: **Required for All Students**, *Required for specific ensembles, not required but encouraged*

(Dates and times subject to change. Additional events to be announced during the year.)

9/12	Lakeshore	Back to School Night	6:30 pm
9/16	Lakeshore	Regional Honors Choir Sign-up	In class
9/23	WMU	SWMVF Workshop (Octet)	All day
9/30	Lakeshore	Century Resources Fundraiser	Begins
9/30	Lakeshore	Homecoming Parade	5 pm
<b>10/1</b>	<b>Stevens. United Methodist Church</b>	<b>CHOIR FALL RETREAT</b>	<b>10 am – 3 pm</b>
10/3	MSU	MSU Choir Leader Workshop (Octet)	All day
10/3	N/A	Regional Honors Choir Submissions Due	
<b>10/24</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Fall Concert Rehearsal</b>	<b>3-5 pm</b>
<b>10/25</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Fall Concert</b>	<b>6 pm call, 7 perform</b>
11/8	West Ottawa	Chamber Choir Festival (Chorale, Bella)	TBA
11/15	Howard PAC	Men's Invitational (Men's Chorus)	Noon- 9 pm
11/17, 18	Notre Dame	St. Mary's Women's Fest (Women's Chorus)	All Day
12/3	WMU	Regional Honors Choir/State Auditions	All day
<b>12/9</b>	<b>LMC</b>	<b>SMSO Holiday Concert Rehearsal</b>	<b>7-10 pm</b>
<b>12/10</b>	<b>LMC</b>	<b>SMSO Holiday Concert</b>	<b>All day</b>
<b>12/19</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Congreg. Church of St. Joseph</b>	<b>Holiday Concert Rehearsal</b>	<b>During school</b>
<b>12/19</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Congreg. Church of St. Joseph</b>	<b>Holiday Concert</b>	<b>6 pm call, 7 perform</b>
1/19-21	Grand Rapids	MSVMA State Honors Choir	All Day
2/6	WMU	SWMVF Honor Choir Auditions	4 – 7 pm
<b>2/15</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Pre-Festival Rehearsal</b>	<b>3 – 6 pm</b>
<b>2/16</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Pre-Festival Concert</b>	<b>6 pm call</b>

2/18	SMC	District Solo and Ensemble Festival (Chorale, Bella Voce, opt Men's)	TBA
2/21, 22, 23	Lakeshore	Choir Placement Auditions	After school
<b>2/28, 3/1</b>	<b>The Chapel</b>	<b>MSVMA District Choral Festival</b>	<b>TBA</b>
3/14, 17	Lakeshore	Cabaret Act Auditions	After school
<b>3/16</b>	<b>WMU</b>	<b>Southwest MI Vocal Fest</b>	<b>All Day</b>
3/24, 25	Paw Paw	MSVMA State Solo/ Ensemble (Chorale, Bella Voce, opt Men's)	TBA
3/27, 28, 29	Lakeshore	Choir Placement Auditions	After school
<b>5/1-4</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Cabaret Tech Week</b>	<b>After school</b>
<b>5/5, 6</b>	<b>Lakeshore</b>	<b>Cabaret Performances</b>	<b>Desserts 7 pm Performance 7:30 pm</b>
5/11-13	WMU	Michigan Youth Arts Festival	TBA
5/19	Stevens. United Methodist Church	End of Year Choir Banquet/Bonfire	6 -10 pm
6/4	Lakeshore	Graduation	TBA

Still to be added: extra holiday or special performances, potential recording session.

All dates are subject to change/cancellations (this also includes additions).

\*\*All parents are invited to attend our Choir Parent meetings and Back to School Night. Information about the calendar, uniforms, and the Choir Parent Organization will be discussed.

# **Lakeshore HS Choirs**

## **What do I Need to Do and/or Turn In?**

***Due Friday, September 9, 2016***

### REQUIRED

- Choir Handbook Form – Parent AND Student Signatures
- ONLINE – Personal Information Form (2 minutes) at [lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com](http://lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com) \*\*\*This is a graded assignment\*\*\*
- Join Schoology class.
- Choir Uniform \$10 Dry Cleaning Deposit

### OPTIONAL

- Contact your voice teacher and schedule private lessons!
- Explore our website at [lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com](http://lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com). We actively use the website and other social media to communicate calendar information, rehearsal reminders, audition postings, and choir updates.
- “Like” our page on facebook as another avenue for updates and announcements.  
<https://www.facebook.com/lakeshorechoirs>
- JOIN US! Please mark your calendar for our first Choir Booster Meeting.

**HANDBOOK FORM**  
**2016-2017 LAKESHORE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR**  
**To be returned by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please complete the required online “Personal Information Form 2016-2017” found at [lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com](http://lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com).**

**Handbook available on Forms/Documents page of [lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com](http://lakeshorehschoirs.weebly.com).**

By signing this form I am confirming that I have: completed the online student information google form, read this Handbook, understand the expectations, and am ready to commit to following it as a member of the Lakeshore Choirs. I am also agreeing to the rehearsals and performances listed in this Handbook. Parents are giving permission for the events in the schedule. In addition, I am agreeing that I have read Lakeshore’s Code of Conduct (in the student agenda). I understand that the use/or possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol is illegal and against Lakeshore Public School Policy and the consequences will follow the guidelines. I also understand that it is the student’s responsibility to represent the Lakeshore Choirs and the Lakeshore Schools in the best positive way, including attitude, language, and interaction with others.

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Name Printed Name of student’s choir

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature Date