

Rhapsody

Lamar High School SHOW CHOIR

POLICY HANDBOOK

2017-2018

Anna Strong, Director

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audition Information	3
Parental Support	4
Financial Obligation.....	5
Performances and Competitions	6
Rehearsals	8
Communication.....	10
Costumes	11
Grading.....	12
Musical Enrichment and Member Conflicts	13
Tentative Schedule of Events.....	14

FORMS

Statement of Commitment	15
Contact and Volunteer Information.....	16
Emergency and Medical Information.....	17

Audition Information

Below you will find audition information and required materials. Please address any additional questions to Mrs. Anna Strong at: astrong@lamar.k12.mo.us

Required Materials

1. The Rhapsody Contract included in this packet must be signed by a parent.
2. Completed Emergency and Medical Information.
3. Completed Contact and Volunteer Information
4. Sign up for Remind.com.

We consider having all completed required materials a display of your level of responsibility during the audition process.

The Audition

Remember you are making an impression in every aspect of the audition, so look and act the part! Your audition will be live, in front of the director, and possibly other teachers. Results of the audition will be posted outside the Choir Room door within a few days after the auditions. Rhapsody will consist of 16-30 members, or whatever produces a good vocal balance.

If you are not selected to be part of the performing group, you are eligible to be a part of the tech crew!

*Important note for parents: the director will be happy to discuss aspects of singing and dancing that your child can improve upon for the next year, but audition scores will not be discussed. Think calmly and rationally before you decide to make any phone calls or emails. Please keep in mind that I always have what is best for the group at the forefront of all the decisions I make.

I. Parental Support

The show choir program functions well with strong parental support. All parents and guardians of students in Rhapsody are automatically enlisted in Choir Boosters to help this group be as successful as possible. The show choir program will be busy year round. Meetings will be held on at least a bi-monthly basis. More may be scheduled as necessary. The primary objectives of the parents are to support the choir program and keep the lines of communication open.

A basic description is listed below for ways to help. Please complete the volunteer section on the contact sheet with what volunteer roles you are willing to fill.

Volunteer Descriptions:

Tech/Prop Construction

We will need help in designing and creating any props or set pieces we may need

Transportation

These helpers will assist in getting props, costumes and other items to and from competitions and concerts

Costuming

Costumers will be responsible for working with Mrs. Strong in designing and obtaining costuming. This may also entail a bit of sewing! If you have a sewing machine, a knack for color and style, or just want to be involved with the way students look on stage, your help will be appreciated

Make-up/Hair

Students will need help on the day of competition in applying stage make up and fixing hair

Fundraising

All parents are expected to help fundraise not only for their child, but also for the group as a whole. Parents on the fundraising committee will help in planning, ordering, collecting and counting monies.

II. Financial Obligations

Being in the show choir program carries a financial obligation. The show choir activity fee for the school year will be \$250 per student. This helps cover the cost of costumes, accessories, entry fees, transportation costs, and other costs that school does not cover for show choir. Once the parent and student agree to the show choir contract, it is the responsibility of each student/family to pay this amount through either fundraising or paying out-of-pocket. The first payment of \$50 will be due on July 15th, 2017

Payment of Costume Account:

- ***The balance of the account can be paid in full at any time.***
- The monthly payment schedule is listed below.
- There will NOT be a late fee for missing a payment in a month. We set up a payment schedule to help you plan your family budget each month. We understand there may be difficult months.
- ***Please let me know of any difficulties.*** It is the responsibility of the student, and their parent/guardian, to communicate with me about financial hardships.
- Fundraisers will be available for students who wish to participate.
- An account that has a \$0 balance for a particular month due to fundraiser participation may make an extra payment to stay on top of payment schedule, such as in preparation for a difficult month.
- If a student leaves or is dismissed from the group, any money that has been paid will remain with the group.
- Around the end of the school year, if money raised with student fundraisers and out of pocket amount paid exceeds \$250, money will be returned to the student up to the amount that was paid out of pocket. If a student is continuing in show choir the following year, the balance will be forwarded to the following year.
- Any funds raised beyond \$250 through fundraisers will be retained by the group.

Payment Schedule

APPROXIMATE COST FOR THE YEAR

\$100.00

DATE	AMOUNT
July 15, 2017	\$50.00
August 15, 2017	\$50.00
September 15, 2017	\$50.00
October 15, 2017	\$50.00
November 15, 2017	\$50.00
December 15, 2017	Any Remaining

Payment Schedule (w/o fundraising)

III. Performances and Competitions

Several performances are held throughout the year (a minimum of one per quarter) including, but not limited to National Anthem at home sporting event, Veteran's Day Assembly, a Christmas Concert, 3 Show Choir Festivals, a show choir clinic, and a Spring Concert. We may also be invited to perform for various other organizations, parties and invitations. All performances will be mandatory and part of the grade for the class.

Each school has admission fees for their show choir competitions, which varies for each competition. Parents, grandparents and any other supporters should be prepared to pay \$5-\$10 per person to watch the show.

If a student becomes ill, he, she, or a parent is responsible for contacting the director, whose contact info is listed on the front of this handbook. If you don't get an answer, leave a message. You may also message Mrs. Strong through Remind. No notice will be considered an unexcused absence.

In accordance with school policy, Rhapsody students travel in school-provided vehicles. Students are expected to stay at the event until the group leaves, even if a parent is present to take responsibility for returning the student unless prior arrangements have been made. Students with other events happening on the same day, may be signed out once we are finished performing. Prior written consent must be obtained from the LHS Administration in order for students to be picked up by *anyone other than the parent*.

Conflicts are inevitable with students who are involved with multiple activities. ***It is the student's responsibility to check for conflicts and alert the director as soon as possible.*** It is the director's responsibility to work with students and the other teacher(s) to reach an acceptable compromise.

Excused absence - Granted with **adequate advance notice** of an absence for a reasonable reason, or because of an emergency situation. Students with an excused absence will have an option of make-up assignments.

Unexcused absence - **Students that are ineligible due to academic or citizenship reasons will not perform in outside school events and will be considered unexcused!** Non-emergency medical or dental appointments, driver's license examinations and other arranged events are considered **unexcused** absences. Students with an unexcused absence will have a make-up assignment. *Performance and Lettering points will be lost for unexcused absences, and possibly dismissal from the group.*

III. Performances and Competitions

Make-up Assignments-

- Excused
 - Option 1: 2-3 pg paper over musical topic assigned by teacher. Double spaced, 12 pt, font, Times New Roman font or similar. Graded according to writing scoring guide.
 - Option 2: Private Performance of material performed. The student will be responsible for find an audience of at least 3 people and arrange a time with the director to watch a private solo performance of the music that would have been performed. The student will then write a ¾-1 pg. reflection of their performance.
- Unexcused- 4-6 pg pager over music topic assigned by teacher. Double spaces, 12 pt. font, Times new Roman font or similar. Graded according to writing scoring guide.

All make up work is due within 1 week from the date of the scheduled performance.

Competition Guidelines

1. Be respectful of other groups when they are performing and throughout the school.
2. You will watch a fill out a critique form of 3 other groups.
2. Do not talk negatively about other groups at the competition.
3. You may not leave the contest without permission.
4. Silence cell phones during performances.
5. Try to sit in the same area as other Rhapsody members – show *unity* and *pride* in US!
6. When not in performance attire, we will wear our group shirts and jeans.
7. Never walk anywhere alone, stay in a group.
8. **No PDA at anytime.**

IV. Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place during class periods daily. Soon after school starts, Rhapsody will begin weekly two hour rehearsals on Thursday nights from 7-9 in the High School Choir Room. Students need to plan their schedules accordingly (sports, appointments, etc). Consideration will be made for school events with PRIOR NOTICE AND APPROVAL.

- **NOT HAVING A RIDE NOT A VALID EXCUSE** for missing a rehearsal. Ask a friend.
- If you get sick and will miss a rehearsal or performance your parents **MUST** call the director or the school's voice mail and leave a message or send a message on Remind **ON THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE**. Any absence not reported will be counted as unexcused.
- Unexcused absences will result in a "o" for that rehearsal.
- Multiple unexcused absences may result in removal from Rhapsody.

Summer camp will be held to learn the 1) music and 2) work with the choreographer(s). The dates for camp will depend on the availability of our choreographer. This is when the choirs learn their competitive show. **PARTICIPATION IN CAMP IS REQUIRED!!!** Dates and times of camp will be set as soon as possible so students can plan accordingly. Any conflicts with the camp dates must be brought to the Director's attention *immediately*.

Dress code for all extra-curricular rehearsals and camp consists of a short-sleeved shirt, shorts, sweats or pants, and tennis shoes. **NO JEANS. Students not in appropriate attire will be sent home for that rehearsal session, and will lose their grade points.**

Choreography Rehearsal Rules:

1. Be on time for rehearsal.
2. Cell phones are not permitted at rehearsals.
3. Proper dress is required for every rehearsal.
4. No talking during the rehearsals unless you have raised your hand and been acknowledged by the director or one of your captains.
5. Respect is to be shown at every rehearsal towards all.
6. No food or gum permitted.
7. **Water is allowed and encouraged.**
8. You are required to have your music folder at every rehearsal.
9. You may not leave the rehearsal area without the permission of the director.

Failure to follow the above rehearsal rules will result in loss of grade points and possible removal from rehearsal.

IV. Rehearsals

Rehearsal Absences

In many ways, the dedication needed for the show choir is more than their sport counterparts. Whereas a sport will practice every day after school during their season, we only practice outside of class once per week, but for most of the year. We get a lot accomplished in the two hour Thursday night rehearsal each week, which makes them very important. Missing a rehearsal means that class time must be given up to “catch up” the student to what was missed. This hurts the group and slows down the whole process, which can ultimately put our show behind schedule. Students involved with Rhapsody are chosen for their hard work and dedication *almost as much as their musical ability*.

Show Choir does not have a starting lineup. There is no quarterback. There is no starting pitcher. Everyone is important! Everyone is needed to make the sound and the visuals of the group reach its potential. Don't let yourself be the member that lets the group down!

Attendance and dedication is vital! Missing more than 3 (excused) or more than 5 (excused or unexcused) will result in dismissal from the ensemble. The only exceptions are previously approved SCHOOL events.

V. Communication

Communication is vital in a successful show choir. Members and parents must be aware of rehearsals, call times, events, fundraisers and general information. I will use several methods to aide in communication.

School Phone: You may call me at 417-682-5571 ext 422 and leave a message. However, I will not get it until the next school day. If it is last minute or of immediate importance, use one of the other methods.

Remind- I will send text messages through remind. All Rhapsody members and at least one parent are required to sign up. I can send messages both to the entire group and individually.

There are 2 ways to join Remind.

App- Download the Remind app and then tap “Join a Class”. Enter the code “rhapsody20”
Text-

- 1) Send this text message: “@rhapsody20”
- 2) To this phone number: 81010
- 3) Follow any instructions sent.

Google Voice- I use a google voice number for parents and students to leave messages for me. Simply call (417) 448-0688 and leave a message. If I need to call you back I will do that as soon as convenient.

Facebook- Please find “Lamar HS Choirs” on Facebook and ask to join. I will post updates on there as well.

Director can also be contacted via school phone number or email.

VI. Costumes

Costumes consist of multiple articles of clothing, shoes and accessories. All clothing and shoes will be marked for each student. Costumes should be worn only for performances and competitions.

The director in cooperation with choir boosters will select and order costumes. All parts of the costumes will be acquired by the director/boosters unless otherwise specified and paid for with the show choir fee paid by the student.

After performances, each student is responsible for gathering all items of their costume together. Any items that have to be picked up by the director or adult chaperones at the completion of a festival or rehearsal will be gathered up and locked in the Director's storage area. **There is a \$1 fine PER ITEM to get them back.** This is strictly enforced and there are no exceptions! Part of being in the group is learning responsibility for your actions and your belongings. Students are responsible for lost or broken items at their own expense. This includes earrings, shoes, ties, shirts, etc.

Hair and makeup are an essential part of the costume. Hair will be cut and groomed neatly, and makeup worn in a professional manner while representing Rhapsody. **Hair color must be a naturally occurring color.** This does not mean that students may not dye their hair but it must be a color that grows in nature (no pink, blue, purple, etc.) Realize that makeup is for **both** ladies and men and exaggerated for performances, which means possibly more of it than everyday use. The director has the final say on how hair will be worn during the competitions and outings.

Guidelines for ladies: 1) One-piece, well-fitted, beige or nude leotard (body suit). These undergarments are not included in the cost of the costume, but are an essential element of how the costume looks and fits. They can be used more than one year if it still fits and if care is taken. 2) Costumes will include one pair of dance hose. It will be the student's responsibility to purchase a new pair if the hose tears or runs. To maintain conformity, the director will keep a supply of appropriate dance hose on hand. Undergarments should be beige or nude in color

Guidelines for guys: 1) Men should wear a white undershirt (unless otherwise stated by the director), black boxer-briefs and socks.

Guidelines for both: No visible body jewelry may be worn during a performance unless it is specifically part of the costume.

VI. Costumes

In order to perform, students must follow these guidelines and have their entire costume which includes clothing, shoes, accessories and make-up. Not performing because of an incomplete costume is considered an unexcused absence and will result in loss of points or a make-up assignment (*refer back to Section IV*).

* * *

If a student is removed from choir for disciplinary or attendance reasons, or if they remove themselves, they are still responsible for the payment of their costume. The costume will also be confiscated until the end of the school year or all fees are paid.

Costumes must be paid for and no refunds will be made.

Grading

Grades in show choir will be based on the following:

- Daily Rehearsal (25%)- being in class, working hard with a good attitude, being prepared, etc.
 - Points lost due to an absence may be made up by turning in an attendance form
- Evening Rehearsal (25%)- attending rehearsal, working hard with a good attitude
 - Points lost due to an EXCUSED absence may be made up by turning in an attendance form
 - Points lost due to an UNEXCUSED absence may be made up with a one page paper over a musical topic assigned by the teacher
- Performances (40%)- being at performances with all necessary costumes/props/etc, proper behavior at performances.
 - Please see pgs. 6&7 for make-up information for a missed performance
- Written work/Singing Tests (10%)- performance critiques, worksheets, forms

VII. Musical Enrichment Opportunities

All-District Honor Choir: All students have the opportunity to audition for this all-district choir (usually in early September). Students who are chosen for this choir join other students on a Saturday in October for a full day of rehearsal that culminates in a performance that evening.

Music Festivals: (Districts in March/April) All students have the opportunity to prepare two pieces of music individually and/or as part of an ensemble. Students receiving a I rating at Districts will move on to State Contest.

Music Camps: This is voluntary during the summer for students who are interested in furthering their vocal music skills. Not ours! Many camps are available, please see Mrs. Strong.

Member Conflicts

We will be spending a lot of time together, and it is not surprising that there may be some feelings hurt or some form of drama that occurs. Member conflicts should be resolved by the show choir members involved. If the conflict cannot be resolved by working it out on your own, the director should be notified of the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved, both members will be suspended from competition until a resolution can be met. If a student continually becomes the center of “drama” in the show choir, they will be asked to leave.

Many students are active on the internet, which is great! It is an easy way to promote and show your love and support for what you do! You may not post any video or audio referring to Rhapsody on the internet without first obtaining permission from the director. Only post positive remarks towards other students or groups, especially when identifying yourself as a Rhapsody member. If you can't say something positive, don't say anything at all. If you're not sure if your post is positive, it probably isn't.

“When in doubt, leave it out!”

2017-2018 LHS RHAPSODY

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A more detailed schedule will be available at a later date

DATE	EVENT
TBA	Show Choir Camp (Depends on Choreographer Schedule)
Thursday, September 14 th	First Night of Rhapsody Rehearsal (Every Thursday!)
Saturday, September 16 th	Honor Choir Auditions (Carthage)
Thursday, September 21 st	National Anthem for HS VB game
Monday, October 16 th	Honor Choir Rehearsal (Carthage)
Sunday, October 22 nd	Honor Choir Rehearsal (Carthage)
Saturday, October 28 th	Honor Choir Event (Joplin)
Saturday, November 4 th	Neosho Show Choir Clinic
Saturday, November 11 th	Seneca Show Choir Festival
Friday, November 10 th	Veteran's Day Program (In School)
Sunday, December 17- 3pm	Christmas Concert
Saturday, January 20 th	Mt. Vernon Show Choir Competition
Saturday, February 3 rd	Joplin Show Choir Competition
Saturday, March 3 rd	Webb City Show Choir Competition
Friday, March 9 th	District Solo and Ensemble Contest
Saturday, April 14 th	Dinner Cabaret
Thursday, April 27 th	State Solo and Ensemble Contest
Sunday, May ???	Spring Concert

Dates are TENTATIVE and subject to change including additions or deletions

Statement of Commitment

I, _____, desire to be a member of the 2017-2018 Lamar High School Show Choir. I understand that I must attend ALL rehearsals and performances, both in and out of school, and that missing these will negatively impact my grade. **I understand that if I miss 3 or more rehearsals that are unexcused, or more than 5 (including excused), I will no longer be a member of the ensemble.** I understand that I will have to pay for my costumes, as well as any trips the group may take, and that this is a financial commitment I must honor. Finally, I understand that as a member of Rhapsody, I will be expected to always be a good representative of Lamar High School and of the LHS Music Department, as my behavior and attitude reflects not only on me, but on those whom I represent.

The show choir begins rehearsing in July/August before school starts (Show Choir Camp) and then resumes rehearsals during school. Afterschool rehearsals begin in September on Thursdays from 7-9 in the HS Choir Room (unless changed by the director). **All competitions are on Saturdays from November-April and will be a whole day activity.** All competitions are mandatory. I understand there is a financial commitment to be in the show choir for costumes and supplies totaling \$250.

I have read and understand the above commitment statement.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Contact and Volunteer Information

Student Name: _____

Student Cell #: _____

Custodial Parent Name: _____

Parent Home # _____ Parent Cell # _____

Parent Work # _____

2nd Parent Name: _____

Parent Home #: _____ Parent Cell # _____

Parent Work #: _____

Parent is available to volunteer for the following:

(please put a check beside what you are willing to help with and the first name of the parent who is volunteering)

_____ Tech/ Prop Construction _____

_____ Transportation _____

_____ Costuming _____

_____ Make-up/Hair _____

_____ Fundraising _____

LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR

2017-2018 EMERGENCY INFORMATION

(TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Student's Name _____ DOB _____ GRADE _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____

Mother's Name _____ Home phone _____

Mother's Work Phone _____ Mother's Cell Phone _____ Text: Yes No

Father's Name _____ Home Phone _____

Father's Work Phone _____ Father's Cell Phone _____ Text: Yes No

Mother's email address _____

Father's email address _____

Emergency Contacts if Parents are unavailable:

Relationship _____ Name _____ Phone _____

Relationship _____ Name _____ Phone _____

Family Physician _____ Phone _____

Family Dentist _____ Phone _____

Health Insurance Company _____

Insured's Name _____ Group Number _____

Policy Number _____

Allergies? Food _____ Insects _____ Medications _____

Health Conditions _____

Prescriptions _____

School Representatives have my permission to administer the following medications:

Tylenol _____ Ibuprofen _____ Antacids _____ Benadryl _____

Pepto Bismol _____ Sinus Meds _____ Cold Meds _____ Other _____

I hereby give my consent for the above student to participate in Rhapsody activities or field trips. I also give my consent for him/her to travel with the group on trips and will not hold the school responsible in case of accident or injury whether en route to or from the destination. If I cannot be reached, and in the event of an emergency, I also give consent for the school to obtain, through a physician or hospital of its choice, such medical care as is reasonably necessary for the welfare of the student, if he/she becomes ill or is injured during the trip or activity.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

