

Course Syllabus
High School Concert Choir
2017-2018
Mrs. Anna Strong

School Phone: (417) 682-5571 ext. 422
Google Text and Voice Message: (417) 448-0688
Email: astrong@lamar.k12.mo.us
Website: www.tinyurl.com/lamarchoirs
Facebook: [lamarhschoirs](https://www.facebook.com/lamarhschoirs)

Communication is vital to Lamar HS Choir. I welcome and expect communication any time there is a question. Please see the different available methods listed.

I also require that parents sign up for REMIND. This is a way for me to send you important text messages regarding your child and/or required performances. This will be 10 points of your child's grade in choir. Instructions are attached to this handbook. If you CANNOT use remind, please read and sign the statement on the acknowledgment form. Students with cell phones are encouraged to use Remind as well.

Course Description:

Choir is a performance based class with two primary goals. The first goal is individual. Choir members will develop the skills necessary for singing including basic musical knowledge and music reading. The second goal is to perform as an ensemble for the good of our school and community through quality public performances.

Daily Rehearsal Expectations:

Daily rehearsal is essential to the fulfillment of both goals for choir. Each choir member must come to each rehearsal with a willingness to strive for excellence. Choir members will be expected to:

1. Be in their seats with all necessary materials (music, pencil, etc.) and **ready to begin** when the tardy bell rings. Rehearsal will end when the director dismisses class, not when the bell rings.
2. Bring music and pencil to all rehearsals. You will be responsible for keeping all music in good condition. Any lost or unusable music will be replaced by the student for the replacement cost. You will need to provide a folder to store your music.

General Class Rules

1. Respect other students, teacher and yourself at all times. NO rude comments toward students or the teacher will be tolerated. This includes arguing as well as the tone with which a comment is made.
2. If it is not yours, don't touch it. Damaged property resulting from a lack of care or consideration will be repaired or replaced at the expense of the student.
3. Participate fully in rehearsal. This includes singing when instructed, as well as following along when another group is singing. You are not to have anything other than choir materials at your seat (no homework, books, etc.) unless otherwise instructed.
4. No, food, drink, or gum, will be allowed in the music room. Students may, however, bring a bottle of water.
5. Be prepared for class.
6. MP3 players, tablets, cell phones or any other devices are not allowed out in class unless specifically given permission. Cell Phones will be placed in the pocket organizer.

In rehearsals, every member of the choir is valued and expected to work toward excellence for the good of the ensemble.

Absences and Tardies:

In a performance based class, attendance is very important. An ensemble is never at its best if a member is missing. Unexcused absences or tardies will affect your grade. Absences will be considered unexcused unless it is for a funeral or a school trip. ISS and OSS are also considered unexcused absences. A tardy is unexcused without a note from the office or another teacher.

Performances:

Performances are required for choir and are a major portion of your grade. Each quarter will have **at least one** required performance. Eligibility for performances is based on the school's policy for involvement in MSHSAA activities.

Absences:

All choir members are expected to attend all performances. If you must miss a performance, the teacher should be notified **as soon as you know you will be absent**. An absence from a performance will be excused for a school activity or family emergency. Other absences will be considered on a per case basis. Unless it is an emergency, at least 3 days notice is required for the absence to be considered excused. If you are not eligible for a performance, it will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Make-up Policy:

Points lost due to an excused absence from a performance may be made up by one of two options.

1. Paper (3-4 pg. typed OR 5-6 pg. hand written) over a musical topic assigned by teacher
2. Individual performance of the music that was performed by the ensemble in front of at least 3 people (arranged by student) and director followed by a reflection paper (1/2-1 pg. typed OR 1-2 pg. hand written).

Points lost due to an unexcused absence from a performance may be made up by a 5-6 pg. typed OR 7-8 pg. hand written paper over a musical topic assigned by the teacher.

All make up work will be due within one week of the missed performance or the end of the current quarter (whichever comes first). If you fail to turn make up work in within one week, you will receive a 30% penalty. Failure to complete the make-up work within two weeks from the date of the performance OR the last day of the current quarter will result in loss of credit.

Dress Code for Concerts:

We will wear choir robes for most performances. However, we need to be mindful of what is worn under the choir robes.

Ladies should wear a black dress, or a white dress shirt with a black skirt or black dress slacks. All clothing must follow the school dress code. Black dress shoes are expected as well.

Gentleman should wear black dress pants and a white dress shirt (black ties are appreciated but not required). This can be a button-up shirt or a polo shirt. Black dress shoes should be worn as well.

Inappropriate dress for performances will result in **at least** a 5% grade reduction for the performance. Severe disregard for dress code may result in the band member not being allowed to perform and losing all points for the performance. **If any parent is unable to provide dress clothes, please notify the director at least one week in advance of the performance.**

If participating in an optional outside performance (contest, etc.), I expect the highest degree of professionalism. This includes in hair color. No unnatural (pink, green, blue, etc....) hair color will be allowed.

Grading Procedures

Final grades in choir will be determined by the following criteria:

Daily Points: 5 pts. per day (50%)

Points are earned for a positive attitude and good work habits.

Points will be deducted for the following:

Tardiness (1-3)

No music (2-4 pts.)

Lack of participation/poor attitude (1-5 pts.)

Disruptive behavior or excessive talking (1-5 pts. per occurrence)

Defiance or disrespect (3-5 pts.)

Unexcused absence (5 pts.)

Discipline problems beyond the loss of points will be dealt with upon teacher discretion. This may include extra assignments, detention or an office referral according to the student handbook.

Performances (40%)

Performances are worth 100 pts. each with the exception of in-school performances which are worth 50 pts. each. An in-school performance is one which occurs during the time school is in session. Grades for performances are based on the following:

Arriving in designated gathering area for concert on time and prepared (20 pts.)

Staying for the ENTRIE Performance (15 pts.)

Dressing appropriately for performance (15 pts.)

Performing to the best of your ability with a positive attitude and excellent behavior (50 pts.)

Tests and Written Work (10%)

Singing exams and written tests and/or worksheets may be given at teacher's discretion.

Late Work Policy

- 1 day (includes later in the day after the assignment was due- Student will receive 80% credit)
- 2 days- Student will receive 70% credit
- 3 days- Student will receive 60% credit
- 4 days or later- 50% credit
- Students may not turn any late work after the final day of the current quarter.

I am really looking forward to this year and the opportunities for growth this group has. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. You will find my contact information at the top of the page.

Acknowledgement Form
High School Choir

Return this signed form to Mrs. Strong no later than Friday,
August 18th for 15 pts.

I have received a copy of the syllabus and agree to abide by the
expectations set forth in it.

Parent Signature

Date

Name of Parent Signing up for Remind

**Only, fill out the section below if you are choosing to opt OUT of Remind.
Please if you have a cell phone and can receive text messages, sign up to use
Remind.**

I am choosing not to use Remind for Mrs. Strong to communicate with me. I
understand that my child and I are still responsible for knowing when all
performances are even if written information may not be sent home.

Parent Signature

Date