

# LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## CHORAL HANDBOOK 2021 – 2022

Welcome to Chorus! Lincoln Middle School's choral music program welcomes all interested students in grades six, seven, and eight. The following policies and procedures are to be practiced and will be enforced within Lincoln's choral music department.

Chorus is designed to help students understand music and singing as art, science, discipline, modes of expression, and sources of enjoyment. **Please review the expectations in the choral handbook with your student, and then sign and return the form on the last page of this document.** Also attached is a tentative calendar of events. Stay tuned for updates at our music website, available through Lincoln Middle School's webpage, under "Performing Arts."

I look forward to a memorable and musically rewarding school year. Thank you for your cooperation!

**BAND AND ORCHESTRA STUDENTS:** 6th grade students also enrolled in an instrumental class will report to either orchestra, band, or chorus on assigned days during activity period. 6th grade band/orchestra students in chorus are required to attend rehearsals every Monday, Thursday, and every other Friday. 7th and 8th grade students will attend chorus and band/orchestra rehearsals daily.

### STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Please be in your assigned seat with a choir folder (provided) and pencil when the bell rings.
2. Be respectful to yourself, to your peers, and to your teachers.
3. Be responsible for sheet music. Music lost or returned in unusable condition must be paid for.
4. Attend and participate in all class rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
5. Please wear appropriate attire in performances.
6. Come to class with a positive attitude and consistent effort. Please ask questions when clarification or additional help is needed.
7. Notify Mr. O'Malley when you are feeling ill and/or unable to sing.
8. Please listen carefully and follow directions for proper singing technique, including proper posture, breath support, and matching pitch.
9. **NO gum**, candy, food, or drink in class rehearsals or performances!
10. NO electronics are allowed in class (including phones, iPads, or video games).

### GRADES

Chorus is a graded class. The majority of each student's grade is based on daily attendance in class, weekly sectionals, and mandatory performances. Grades are also influenced by the amount and

quality of participation, self-discipline, and performance improvement within rehearsals and sectionals. Attendance at all concert rehearsals and concerts is mandatory. The attached calendar lists tentative dates for upcoming concerts and rehearsals.

## **CONCERTS/REHEARSALS**

Unexpected absences interfere with the choir's sound, leave spaces in planned formations, and negatively affect performances in many ways. Music ensembles depend on every individual to adequately prepare and attend all rehearsals and performances on time.

When a student is absent from performance or from a mandatory after-school rehearsal, they are required to bring a written explanation from their parent or guardian. This does not guarantee the absence will be excused. If there is an unavoidable conflict, please submit a written statement directly to Mr. O'Malley in advance.

Chorus is an elective course. When a student chooses to join Chorus, they accept the responsibility to contribute actively to the success of the group. An unexcused absence from a performance or mandatory rehearsal will result in a failing grade for that performance.

## **SECTIONALS**

All students in the chorus program will participate in sectional rehearsals, which are separate lessons comprised of small groups specific each vocal section (e.g. soprano, alto, or baritone). Sectional rehearsals afford students more personalized instruction in a small group setting, which enables them to strengthen their singing and musical skills. This benefits not only each individual musician, but also the entire chorus. Sectional rehearsals are an integral component of all performing arts programs in the Edwardsville School District.

The sectional rehearsal schedule will be posted for chorus students each quarter and will specify the specific dates and class periods when each section will rehearse. Students are expected to attend their assigned sectional rehearsals, including one rehearsal every six to seven school days as scheduled. If a student is unable to attend their assigned sectional time, they should inform Mr. O'Malley and make arrangements to attend a make-up sectional rehearsal.

Please note sectional rehearsals will take place during regularly scheduled classes, and chorus students are responsible for informing their teachers when they will miss class. In addition, students are expected to stay organized and make up any missed work. As needed, Mr. O'Malley will assist students who need to attend their regularly scheduled class for special occasions such as presentations or tests.

## **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Every student will be allowed **three** passes a quarter to make up work, take tests, or otherwise be excused from chorus. A teacher must sign a pass for the student to be excused from class. After three absences, students will receive a zero for each absence. Absence from school is an excused absence, but is exempt from the three-absence rule.

## CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
10/8	ILMEA All-District Festival Auditions Videos Due	LMS	TBA
11/04*	Fall Chorus Concert	LMS Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
11/20	ILMEA All-District Festival	Belleville West High School	TBA
12/07*	Lincoln Holiday Concert	LMS Gym	7:00 p.m.
02/26	IGSMA Solo & Ensemble Contest	TBA	TBA
05/04*	Lincoln Spring Choral Concert	Lincoln Auditorium	7:00 p.m.

\* **Mandatory events for students**

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### **CONTACT MR. O'MALLEY**

Phone: 618-656-0485 ext. 21202

Email: [tomalley@ecusd7.org](mailto:tomalley@ecusd7.org)

### **Want to stay up to date with LMS Chorus?**

Check out our website located on the LMS homepage @ <http://ecusd7.org/lincoln/> under School Info - Performing Arts - Chorus

**LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
Edwardsville Community Unit District 7 Schools

Home Calendar **School Info** Contact Office District 7 Site Daily Announcements Q

- Academics
  - Activities
  - Faculty and Staff
  - FFA
  - Math Team
  - Scholastic Bowl
  - School Report Card
  - Tumble Book Cloud
- Performing Arts
  - Act One
  - Band
  - Chorus**
  - Orchestra
- Athletics
  - Athletics
  - Athletic Registration Fees
  - Registration
  - Sports by Season
  - Voluntary Student Insurance
- Important Links
  - Bus Routes
  - Documents & Forms
  - Supply List
  - Yearbook Information
  - Virtual Backpack

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please read through the 2021-2022 Lincoln Middle School Choir Handbook so you are aware of the requirements and policies. By signing this form, you are stating that you have read the entire handbook and have no questions or concerns at this time. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mr. O'Malley: [tomalley@ecusd7.org](mailto:tomalley@ecusd7.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ GRADES

\_\_\_\_\_ CONCERTS/REHEARSALS

\_\_\_\_\_ EXCUSED ABSENCES

\_\_\_\_\_ CALENDAR

**Please return this page only by Friday, August 20, 2021**

**We have read the entire Choir Handbook and have no questions or concerns.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_