

Lovejoy High School
Choir Handbook
2022-2023



LOVEJOY
CHORAL DEPARTMENT
SLOAN CREEK INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL · WILLOW SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL · LOVEJOY HIGH SCHOOL

www.lovejoychoir.com

2022-2023 Choir Handbook

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Hello and welcome to Lovejoy High School Choir!

This performance based class is a two semester course for students who are serious about singing as a part of a group, as a soloist, growing as a musician, learning to read music, sight reading, and performing.

We will sing **EVERY DAY!**

We will sight read **EVERY DAY!**

We will work hard and prepare amazing music **EVERY DAY!**

We will have fun as we learn to work as a family and team **EVERY DAY!**

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS - During the year we will work on the following:

1. Sing accurately and with proper breathing technique and appropriate diction EVERY day. Singing is like every other physical activity/discipline. You must practice it daily to acquire and develop the proper skills.
2. Develop music reading skills through the use of solfege and hand signs while sight reading EVERY day. Music is a language with a vocabulary. Being able to sing without being able to read the music on the page is like being able to speak another language without being able to read the words in a book. We call that being illiterate, which is not a good thing!
3. Perform a variety of music with appropriate dynamics, phrasing, and musical interpretation. There are many different styles of music that this choir will sing, some will be liked and some not so much. However, good choirs work equally well on all music. And you never know, in the end you might end up liking the music after all!
4. Work as a FAMILY and a TEAM. Being part of this choir is the same as being in a crazy and diverse family and being on a sports or academic team. We must work together; support each other; and make all our efforts work towards the common goal of success and achievement. Students who make fun of, mock, and disrespect other students bring the entire group down. Every single student is expected to be a respectful, hard working member of the family and team. Be prepared to help those in need.

GENERAL CLASSROOM POLICIES - Being in this class is a *privilege*. You will be expected to make the following choices while you are in this classroom.

1. RESPECT your teammates. We are only as strong as our weakest link. Support your classmates, and always have good sportsmanship. Good teams play together - great ones win together.
2. RESPECT the space. Pick up trash and throw it in the trash can. **DO NOT CHEW GUM**. Put the chairs back where they belong. Do not touch things that do not belong to you.
3. CHOOSE JOY! Be a positive, responsible part of this family. Take responsibility for your own good attitude and work ethic. Attitude is everything! Like "The Little Engine That Could", if you think you can, you can. **"Whether you think you can or can't, you're right."** - Henry Ford

4. Give your **BEST EFFORT**: Try your very best regardless of if you like the song or not. You might actually find out that you are a great singer; and you might actually end up enjoying it all!

GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES - These are the things you can do to ensure that your experience in this class is a success.

1. Arrive to class on time and in orderly fashion: Please enter the room, put away your belongings, get your folder (with pencils, music, etc.), and be in your spot **BEFORE** the tardy bell rings.
2. Use the restroom **BEFORE** class.
3. Spit out **GUM**, candy, food, etc. **IMMEDIATELY** upon entering the classroom. Food and gum in your mouth while you sing is an extreme choking hazard (it also makes a mess of the carpet). Choosing to ignore this rule will cause points to be deducted from your daily grade.
4. Begin working on the daily warm-up activity.
5. Come prepared to class every day. Daily grades are given for having all your necessary materials (music, pencil, folder, etc.).
6. Focus on the lesson at hand. Focus on learning your music. **REHEARSE!** Pay attention to the director, or the person leading the rehearsal. Your willingness to engage and focus on what's at hand are a **MAJOR** part of your daily participation grade.

MUSIC/MUSIC FOLDER

Every student will be provided with a black 3-ring binder and original copies of the literature being practiced and performed. This material will be treated as the textbook for this class and will be expected to be returned in good working condition at the end of the year. Music is expensive! Students who fail to return their music, or return it in unusable condition, may incur a replacement fee.

REHEARSALS

Every choir student is expected to give 100% effort during daily, in-class rehearsals. Singing, sight-reading, and other written assignments are the major sources for daily grades in choir. There will be some occasions when after school rehearsals are required. Students are expected to make arrangements to be in attendance. At least a two weeks notice will be given for these extra rehearsals. These rehearsals will be deemed "mandatory" and will be a major graded expectation. The attendance policies for performances will apply to these rehearsals.

PERFORMANCES

Performances are the primary focus of the majority of the daily activity in the choral department. Choir is an academic class as well as a performing ensemble and is considered a co-curricular class. Co-Curricular events (dress rehearsals and concerts) are **required** events that are part of the LISD choir curriculum. All TEKS learning objectives for choir can be expressed and displayed through the performance process. Students earn one major grade for all co-curricular rehearsals and all co-curricular performances.

Most of our performance dates are posted on the calendar. Additionally, other performances may be announced. Students are expected to make arrangements to be in attendance. Each student's contribution is crucial to daily rehearsals and concerts. One student's absence can upset the balance of the ensemble and

ultimately affect the success of the choir. Never lose sight of the importance of your individual contribution to this group.

ATTENDANCE

As stated, after school rehearsals and performances are mandatory, co-curricular activities. Excused absences require prior notification except in the case of illness or emergency (a written note, email, or phone call from a parent is required in all cases). Excused absences include illness, family emergency, religious events, or conflict with another LISD activity. Make-up work will be assigned and is due 7 days after the missed event. A written note or email of explanation from parents is required for any excused absence within 48 hours PRIOR to the event date or 24 hours after the event date. If the director does not receive a written note or email from the parent, the absence will be considered unexcused. Students with unexcused absences will also be given a make-up assignment to be turned in 7 days after the missed event. In compliance with district policies on unexcused absences, the highest grade that can be earned for the make-up assignment is an 80. Please note: non-school sports activities and transportation issues are not considered excused absences.

Plan ahead and communicate all conflicts EARLY and OFTEN with Mrs. Martin.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

1. Casual - Lovejoy Choir T-Shirt and jeans (no holes) and closed toe shoes (no flip flops or sandals).
2. Formal - We will be using the Black Dresses/Black Suits owned by the LHS Choir. A uniform will be checked out for individual use. More detailed information will be provided when that occurs.
3. All students will need a nice pair of all black dress shoes. Treble singers - flat shoes are highly recommended.
4. Only small earrings are allowed. At this time, no necklaces will be worn. The goal is for uniformity of appearance as well as sound. All students will be well-groomed and any make-up worn will be appropriate.

CHOIR FEE

Some costs of participating in the LHS Choir are covered by the LHS Choral Department's budget; however, participation in Choir does require some financial commitment. To help offset these costs, a \$150 choir fee is due by **Friday, August 26th**. This fee pays for t-shirts (choir/pop show), supplies (including a binder, pencil pouch, pencils, and highlighters), music, and also helps to subsidize costs for clinicians, accompanists, and social events.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSICAL GROWTH

Private Voice Lessons

Students have the opportunity to take private voice lessons during school hours as an enrichment of classroom instruction. These lessons are designed to utilize the characteristic literature of the voice rather than to rehearse the music a student will be performing in choir. Please consider this incredible, important, and fun opportunity to develop your individual talent! This should be a year-long commitment by both parent (finances) and student (practice time). In private lessons, students receive individualized coaching on vocal techniques taught during the choral rehearsal. Most students will miss approximately half a choir period once a week to meet with their private instructor in one of the practice rooms. Some students may arrange to

have lessons before/after school or during lunch. Cost will be \$20 per 22-minute lesson. Return a completed Private Voice Form to be contacted by a teacher.

TMEA All-Region/All-State Choir

Students prepare choral pieces and compete for a chance to perform with the “best of the best” high school singers in the area. The music is challenging and will develop musicality in our singers. There is nothing like the amazing experience of singing with the All-Region Choir! All-Region auditions are September 27th and October 1nd. Each phase of the competition is a step toward the final contest in January to participate in the Texas All-State Choir in San Antonio, the experience of a lifetime! Students in Varsity and A Cappella are required to audition. Students in Tenor-Bass Choir, and Treble Choir are strongly encouraged to audition. The cost of the All-Region audition is \$25.00 and is due by Friday, August 26th, 2022.

Solo & Ensemble Contest

On February 4th, students from all choirs have the opportunity to perform a prepared solo and/or ensemble before a judge. This is a wonderful opportunity for experienced and inexperienced singers; it is designed to encourage students as performers while helping them to improve in their individual musicianship. All students will learn a solo and/or participate in an ensemble. Students in Acapella are required to take their solo/ensemble to contest. Students in Varsity/Tenor-Bass/Treble are strongly encouraged to compete with their solo/ensemble. The cost of the solo is \$15.00 plus \$35.00 for an accompanist (to be paid at a later date). The deadline for the contest entrance fee is December 15, 2022.

GRADING POLICY

On average, students will receive 2 daily grades each week and a major grade every 2 weeks.

1. 40% of the nine weeks grade is based on daily grades: effort in singing, skill demonstration in sight reading, written work in music theory/history, having required materials are examples of the graded expectations in the Lovejoy Choirs.
2. 60% of the nine weeks grade is based on major grades/tests. Major tests include (but are not limited to) oral and written exams, concert/performance attendance, after-school rehearsals, etc. Each student will be tested individually in their mastery of the performance literature. Those students who are unable to perform the material at an 80% mastery level may be asked to not attend the performance. Students will not be penalized on their choir grade for not going to contest for this reason. However, students not qualifying for contest due to failures (ineligibility) in other classes or scoring below an 80% on the singing test will be expected to do classwork assigned to make up for the days they will not be practicing with the choir for the performance. Grades will be taken on these assignments.

Per UIL Rules and Regulations, any classes failed at school in a nine week grading period: The student will have until the third week grade check to bring up those failing grades, . If a student fails to bring up his/her grades, they will remain ineligible for all UIL extracurricular activities, as well as any choir trips or events taking place during that time period.

SCHOOL TRIPS

UIL Concert and Sight Reading contest is funded through the school budget. Spring choir trips are paid for by the participating/attending students. There may be fundraising opportunities to help students pay for their choir trip. No student will be forced to participate. More details on this to follow.

LHS CHOIR/LISD Rules & Regulations

Statement of Agreement

Unlike other classes in which you are enrolled, the choir is a performing group & some activities will take place outside of the school day. Performances accomplish musical goals for students & satisfy state mandates for the curriculum. Performance dates are announced weeks in advance & attendance is mandatory.

Publications, Video, Internet Consent and Release Agreement

LHS Choir agrees that the student's name, voice, verbal statements, portrait or picture shall only be used for public relations, public information, school or district promotion, publicity, and instruction.

Student and Parent/Guardian understand and agree that:

- No monetary consideration shall be paid;
- Consent and release have been given without coercion or duress;
- This agreement is binding upon heirs and/or future legal representatives;
- The photo, video or student statements may be used in subsequent years.

If the Student and Parent/Guardian wish to rescind this agreement they may do so at any time with written notice.

Volunteer Information

Volunteer applications must be renewed each year. If you were a volunteer last year, you must renew your application to assist during the 2022-2023 school year. Please complete or renew your application by going to the Lovejoy ISD website at www.lovejoyisd.net. Once on the Home page, find and click on "Volunteer Application" from the "Parents" menu. Follow the instructions given on the application page. Completion of this application implies consent for Lovejoy ISD to obtain a criminal history record in accordance with its policies. For the safety of our children, it is important that a criminal history record be obtained yearly for every person intending to volunteer at a Lovejoy ISD campus. Upon completion of the background check, you will be notified when you have been cleared to volunteer. Thank you for your cooperation with this very important matter.

LHS Choir Citizenship Guidelines

Students involved in extracurricular activities are held to a higher standard of conduct. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. As part of the LISD choir department, we expect our choir members to represent themselves in a positive way throughout the school building and community. The choices they make reflect upon themselves, our choir program, our campus and our school district. Particularly important are the ways in which they choose to behave at after-school and off-campus activities. We place as much importance on conduct as we do on numerical grades and have high expectations of each student in class. Students involved in major disciplinary infractions will be removed temporarily or permanently from extracurricular activities. Disciplinary action may affect participation for the next season.

Travel Permission Form (required for riding the bus on field trips and/or contests)

Lovejoy Independent School District requires that a release of Liability be on file for a member of a student group to participate in school sponsored trips. Please fill out the Google form in Google classroom by August 26th, 2022.

From Mrs. Martin – I am so excited to be joining the LHS Choral music program in my 20th year of teaching. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your hard work this year as we strive to achieve our many goals.

This handbook is designed to inform you of the many facets of the Lovejoy HS Choral Music program, answer as many questions as possible, and to inform you of our upcoming event dates so you can plan accordingly. I know that your participation and parent support and involvement in the program are the greatest assets to our choir.

In the Lovejoy High School Choir program, we are a family united by heart through the power of music and a team working toward the same goals. With the goal of team unity, family connection, and friendship in mind, there will be many opportunities for our choir family to interact with each other. Lovejoy choir members will have a social education as they train to be a cooperative part of our family and team. They will learn to contribute their best effort for the good of the ensemble and experience the joy of creating outstanding musical products together. Choirs who train together and have fun together sing better!

Please take the time to read through this handbook and complete the Google Form on Google Classroom by Friday, August 26th. If you have any questions, my door is always open. I can be reached at kelly_martin@lovejoyisd.com or 469-742-8790.

Let's make it an unforgettable and fantastic year!

Mrs. Martin