

Lutheran High School Westland

Music Department Handbook 2019-2020

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”

Psalm 40:1-3

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Department Courses

Concert Choir

Grades: 9-12 (mixed)

Prerequisite: None

Requirements: #2 Pencil with Eraser, 1" black 3-ring binder

Description: The LHWL Concert Choir is the department's entry-level vocal ensemble geared towards furthering student appreciation for the use of the human voice, understanding of the elements of music, and student involvement in interacting with each other in service to our Savior. Concert Choir is primarily responsible for providing music for school chapel and concerts.

Honors Choir

Grades: 10-12 (mixed)

Prerequisite: Audition required or director approval

Requirements: #2 Pencil with Eraser, 1" black 3-ring binder

Description: The LHWL Honors' Choir is the department's advanced-level vocal ensemble geared towards increasing student skill with the use of the human voice, furthering student understanding of the of music through more advanced listening, composition, and theory exercises, and promoting student fellowship and faith through worship participation and tour. Honors' Choir is the school's main touring group and is responsible for providing music for school chapel, neighboring churches, festivals, and concerts.

Concert Band

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: 1 year experience on chosen instrument or instructor approval

Requirements: #2 Pencil with Eraser, Instrument w/ case

Description: The LHWL Concert Band is the department's only instrumental course geared towards furthering student appreciation for musical expression through the means of wind and percussive instruments. Students are urged to further improve their God-given talents by performing music to His glory.

Co-curricular Ensembles

Chamber Singers

Grades: 10-12 (mixed)

Prerequisite: Audition required, Enrollment in Honors Choir or director approval

Description: A group of selected 16-20 singers, the Chamber Singers represent LHWL's finest vocal performance group. Students are encouraged to incorporate advanced technique into their performance including precise tuning, polished interpretation, clear balance, and other elements.

Pep Band

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: Member of Concert Band or director approval

Description: A subset of Concert Band, LHWL Pep Band is responsible for providing additional music for football and basketball home games.

Drumline

Grades: 9-12

Prerequisite: Member of Concert Band or director approval

Description: A subset of Concert Band percussion, the drumline will provide additional music for football and basketball home games.

Department Mission Statement

The Lutheran High Westland music department is committed to equipping students with the knowledge, skill, understanding, and attitude to use the God-given gift of music to serve and give Him glory.

Department Philosophy

- Man has a basic need for self-expression in his relationship with himself, other people, and his total environment. Music represents one means of fulfilling this need. Furthermore, man's ability to compose and make music represents a cherished gift of God, which in turn should be used to praise and glorify Him.
- The ability to perform, to sing or to play a musical instrument, is an invaluable experience for high school students. It enhances feelings of self-worth and develops a sense of belonging and contributing toward corporate goals.
- The appreciation of music, both classical and contemporary, definitely contributes to a more meaningful and enjoyable life.

Department Objectives

Knowledge/ Strand I – Create

Exhibit a knowledge and understanding of the foundations of music relative to its elements, its media, its forms and styles, its history and evolving nature, its cultural role, and its sociological and theological implications.

Be able to exhibit theoretical and technical knowledge of music.

Skills/Strand II – Perform

Be able to interpret musical notation and possess the skill to participate in vocal and instrumental music making, both in school and as a vocational activity in their adult lives.

Attitude/Strand III – Respond

To develop artistic sensitivity, given aesthetic musical experiences, thus deriving meaning and pleasure from music as a whole.

Display an attitude of open-mindedness, respect, resourcefulness, and critical listening in the areas of music.

Express a recognition of worth for the aesthetic aspects of life as a valuable gift of God to man.

General Policies

1. **Your time spent is what you make it to be. An attitude of hard work and respect is demanded at all times.**
2. **Students will be prepared for rehearsal at the beginning of each class period. This includes instrument, music, homework, etc.**
3. The music facility is not a general meeting place unless designated by the instructor. **Permission will be given to LHWL students for LHWL sponsored activities only.**
4. A tardy will be issued to choir students who are not seated in their assigned seats at the ringing of the tardy bell as stated in the LHWL student handbook.
5. A tardy will be issued to band students who are not in the rehearsal space at the ringing of the tardy bell. Band rehearsal will begin 5 minutes following the ringing of the tardy bell. Any student who is not fully prepared for rehearsal at that time will be issued a tardy.
6. **Each student will be responsible for purchasing and bringing to rehearsal a 1", black three-ring binder. Please make sure that the binder has pockets.**
7. Instrumental lockers are to remain locked at all times. Locks are school-issued and should remain locked and on the lockers at all times.
8. **Only percussionists or those deemed by the instructor are allowed to handle percussion equipment.**
9. Permission must be acquired to use the piano at any time.
10. Do not write on music stands.
11. **No gum, food, or beverages are permitted during rehearsal. A clear water bottle is permissible.**
12. The sound system is off limits to anyone without permission.
13. Place chairs, stands, etc. into neat rows following rehearsal. **Following Friday's last rehearsal, chairs, stands, and other equipment will be put aside to allow for proper cleaning.** DO NOT leave paper, wrappers, or other garbage under your chair. Leave the classroom better than when you found it!
14. Percussion equipment will be organized and covered following EVERY rehearsal. **Do not leave music out.**
15. **Non-music homework is not permitted in rehearsal unless designated by the instructor.**
16. Do not write on the boards without permission.
17. Band members are responsible for their own instrumental supplies.
18. **The bell does not dismiss you from class.**
19. Should class finish early, DO NOT wait in the hallway.
20. Always have a lead pencil and eraser handy in your folder.
21. During sectional work, you may sit quietly, study your own part, or participate along with the section. Talking of any sort is prohibited.
22. Cell phone usage is a violation of the Student Conduct code. A student is found in possession of a cell phone will forfeit the phone to the school office and be subject to discipline as warranted by the administration. A cell-phone storage pocket will be provided for each student. Phones should either be stored in this pocket or kept in your locker.

Choir Robes

Members of Honors Choir will be assigned a robe at the beginning of the school year for use throughout the year. The student will be responsible for taking the robe home, where it will be stored until needed. Singers will be required to bring their own robes to performances. Damaged robes will result in a fine. Robes must be returned at the end of the year for cleaning.

Concert Dress

Concert Band and Concert Choir

Men: Black pants, black shoes, black socks, white shirt, and tie (optional)

Women: Black pants or black skirt, nylons, black shoes, white "blouse"

Honors Choir and Chamber Singers will wear choir robes on top of the clothing mentioned above. Colored holiday accents may be permitted depending on the season and performance.

Grading

- ✓ Rehearsal
- ✓ Performance
- ✓ Class Work

Grading Categories

Rehearsal

Each student will begin the rehearsal period with an "A" for participation.

These grades will be reflected by weekly average in full on PowerSchool.

Rehearsal time is extremely valuable! Grades can be lowered for some of the following reasons, including others.

- Cell Phone Possession
- Lack of music/instrument/homework
- Disruptive Behavior
- Distracted during rehearsal
- Gum/Food/Beverage

Performance

Each performance event will be worth a letter grade, with the Performance category worth 40% of the final grade. Every student is expected to attend EVERY performance venue. In the instance that a student cannot attend, a parental note must be given to the teacher at least 2 school days prior to the event (excepting sudden illness). **Students who must miss a performance will be expected to complete a make-up assignment commensurate with the event missed.** As a performance is much like a math test in terms of assessment, the student will need to complete the assignment regardless of cause of absence—illness, out-of-town, etc. While at a performance venue, it is expected that members of the ensemble will behave in a manner that will reflect well on the school, the ensemble, themselves, and, most importantly, their Savior. Members who fail to comply may receive a lower grade, at the director's discretion.

Class Work

In addition to rehearsing for performances, students may be assigned other tasks **for a letter grade**. Students may be provided with class time to complete these assignments. Class work may be written, spoken, sung, performed, etc. depending on the assignment.

Topics may include:

- Music Theory
- Music History
- Culture
- Diction
- Sight Reading
- Scales
- Diction
- Composition

Chamber Singers

The schedule for the group will be as follows:

- 7:15-7:45 (Tuesdays)
- 7:15-7:45 (Thursdays)

Commitment to the group will be assessed by attendance. Missing any part of 3 rehearsals may result in removal from the group.

LHWL Music Program Communication

The music program will use the e-mails returned on the accompanying form to maintain important communication with the parents and students. These e-mails will often include reminders about upcoming performances, but are not to be used as a replacement for the calendar included with this handbook.

Cancellations

In the case of inclement weather, director illness, or other adversity, music events will be canceled via the master e-mail list, posted on the LHWL website, and posted on LHWL's official Facebook page. **However, these methods will never be used to announce a sudden performance.** Students and parents should be in the habit of checking their e-mail the night before a performance to verify the status of the event. (No e-mail means the event is on as scheduled.)

Digital Resources

LHWL Music Webpage: www.lhwlmusic.weebly.com

Rehearsal videos, sheet music, and other resources will be made available to students via this webpage.

Sight Reading Factory: www.sightreadingfactory.com

Unlimited sight-reading exercises. Students will be given the school account login for this website. A free mobile app is also available.

Smart Music: www.smartmusic.com

Practice your concert music along with a real ensemble! Students will be given the school account login for this website. A free mobile app is also available.

Music Letter Points

Music letter points are awarded to promote the music program and reward students for faithful service to LHWL, their peers, and especially their Savior. Throughout the course of the year, students will tally points that will work toward a music letter for their varsity jacket. All points are cumulative from year to year. **500 points are required to receive a letter.** The worksheet below is available electronically and will also be distributed in class towards the end of the school year.

Music Points Worksheet

NAME: _____

Line #	Category	Item	Input
1	Section I: Involvement Choose one	1st Year in Music Department (50)	
2		2nd Year in Music Department (100)	
3		3rd Year in Music Department (150)	
4		4th Year in Music Department (200)	
5	Section II: Ensembles Choose all that apply	Concert Choir (50)	
6		Honors Choir (50)	
7		Chamber Singers (100)	
8		Concert Band (50)	
9	Section III: Solo & Ensemble Choose all that apply	Participation (25/event)	
10		1 District Rating (25/event)	
11		2 District Rating (15/event)	
12		State Participation (50/event)	
13		All State/Honors Ensemble (75/ensemble)	
14	Section IV: Leadership	Officer, Committee Member, Section Leader (50/role)	
15	Section V: Musical Choose all that apply	Solo Role (100)	
16		Chorus (75)	
17		Crew (50)	
18		Pit (75)	
19	Section VI: Extras Choose all that apply	Outside Concerts (10/event)	List Below
		1	
		2	
		3	
		4	
		5	
		6	
20		Chapel Accompaniment (25/chapel, max 75)	
21		Church Accompaniment (25/service, max 75)	
22		Church Ensemble (25/performance, max 100)	
23		Community Ensemble (25/performance, max 100)	
24		Private Lessons (100/year, min. 10 lessons)	
Total			

Music Officers and their Duties (For Concert Band and Honors Choir Only)

President

- ❑ Official student representative of the ensemble and chief PR officer
- ❑ Responsible for promoting positive morale throughout the group
- ❑ May appoint committees to assist in concert set-up and clean-up
- ❑ May organize fellowship opportunities outside of class
- ❑ In extreme circumstances, may be asked to lead part of a rehearsal
- ❑ Should be a strong, student role model and demonstrate a desire to promote a spirit of unity, hard work, humbleness, and all things Christian

Secretary

- ❑ Assists the director in taking attendance
- ❑ Assists the director in program creation
- ❑ May assist in the cataloging and organization of music
- ❑ Assists in record keeping (robes, folders, etc.)
- ❑ Assists the director in the distribution and reception of information

Librarian

- ❑ Files music
- ❑ Passes out music
- ❑ Responsible for the overall tidiness and organization of the music library

Equipment Manager

- ❑ Supervisor of the moving of equipment for performances
- ❑ Supervisor of the rehearsal space
- ❑ Assists the director with inventories

Section Leader

- ❑ Chief member of a musical section
- ❑ Responsible for promoting positive morale amongst section members
- ❑ Must be able to help other members with music
- ❑ Should be a strong, student role model and demonstrate a desire to promote a spirit of unity, hard work, humbleness, and all things Christian
- ❑ Reports to the President and the Director
- ❑ Assists the Secretary with attendance
- ❑ Responsible for participating and recruiting in concert set-up/clean-up activities
- ❑ May be asked to help lead a sectional if necessary

Date	Event	Ensemble
9/27	Homecoming Football vs Clarenceville	CS, PB
9/30	St. Michael's Conference @ Zion Lutheran Detroit 9:00 AM	CS
10/1	MSBOA/MSVMA Participation forms DUE(optional)	All
10/1	Deadline: <i>MSBOA All-State Applications</i>	
10/5	Deadline: <i>MSVMA Honors Choir</i> – see below for details http://www.msvma.org/HSonorChoir	
10/20	Westland Sunday @ Redford Lutheran 9:30 AM	HC
10/24	Home Football Game vs Northwest (Senior Night)	PB
11/17	Westland Sunday @ St. Matthew Westland 10:00 AM	HC
12/6	Craft Show	ALL
12/8	Advent Service @ St. Michael Wayne	CS
12/13	Christmas Concert @ Christ our Savior, Livonia	ALL
1/26	Westland Sunday @ TBA	HC
2/2	<i>MSBOA Solo & Ensemble, Livonia Franklin H.S.</i>	
2/8	<i>MSVMA Solo & Ensemble, Eastern Michigan Univ.</i>	
2/14	Home Basketball Game vs HVL	PB
2/21	Home Basketball Game vs Parkway (Senior Night)	PB
3/1	<i>Deadline for MSVMA State S&E Registration</i>	
3/13-14	MUSICAL	ALL
4/26	Westland Sunday @ TBA	HC
4/26-27	<i>MSVMA State Solo & Ensemble, Brighton H.S.</i>	
5/20	Spring Concert	ALL
6/5	Graduation, 7:00 PM	ALL

Abbreviations:

Pep Band (PB)

Concert Band (CB)

Concert Choir (CC)

Honors Choir (HC)

Chamber Singers (CS)

This schedule is a living document; the schedule may change due to changes in the LHWL master calendar, changes from our state organizations, weather, etc. I will always communicate changes as I learn of them and with as much advance notice as possible via e-mail. If you are concerned that I may not have your e-mail address, please complete and return the communication form below.

Music Handbook Received/ Communication E-mail Form

Please return to class by *Tuesday, September 3* along with a sharpened pencil with eraser and your black binder for the year.

I have received the Lutheran High Westland Music Handbook and have read and understood the contents, dates, and expectations contained.

Student Name (please print)

Student Signature

Guardian's Name (please print)

Guardian Signature

Date

I would like to be contacted by the music department at the following e-mail addresses throughout the year: (May be parents and students, but at least one address must be a guardian.) PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____