# LMS Choir Handbook

2022-2023 School Year



# LIBERTY CHOIR

**Passionate Learners** 

Fearless Leaders

**Exceptional Leaders** 

Alicia Moreno Mulloy (Mrs. M&M) Cell Phone: 256-315-6070 aamulloy@madisoncity.k12.al.us

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WELCOME TO LMS CHOIR

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s) and Student,

Greetings! My name is Alicia Moreno Mulloy (Mrs. M&M) and I am the choir director

here at Liberty Middle School. Although many see choir as a class on learning to sing, it is much

more than that. It is the development of a family of friends that lasts a lifetime. It is also the

establishment of some rather profound environmental influences, which will determine much of

your child's success in all aspects of education, not just music.

One of the most positive impressions you can offer your child is the chance to learn

self-discipline at the highest level via participation in choir. Their social skills, communication

skills, self-concepts, cooperative talents and creative minds will be nurtured through their study

of music. These life-skills will serve as an important foundation as they take on various

responsibilities in their future. Can you afford NOT to have them enjoy this opportunity?

In our handbook you will find policies, procedures, and other important information

regarding the Liberty Middle School Choir. Please take the time to read this material, as the

success of our choir depends upon each individual working toward the same goals. . If you have

questions, please contact Mrs. M&M at (256) 315-6070 or aamulloy@madisoncity.k12.al.us

Alicia Moreno Mulloy

Mr. Shannon Brown

Choir Director

Principal

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# **Performing Ensembles**

## Beginning Chorus- 6th Grade Students

The Beginning Choral Music program is designed to enhance the musical creative and expressive qualities of all students. Beginning Chorus is a yearlong ensemble open to all sixth-grade students. Students in this choir will learn the fundamentals of singing and music theory through daily activities and practice. Students will also gain basic musical and historical knowledge. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in one evening concert per semester as well as various school assemblies and State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs are available

#### Advanced Chorus (Soprano/Alto) 7th and 8th Grade -assigned female at birth

Intermediate Chorus is a course designed for highly motivated 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade soprano and alto choral students to apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience performance through a choral ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of solfege, major and minor scales, sight-singing and multi-part harmonies. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Mandatory graded performances include one evening concert per semester, school assemblies and State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs/All-State auditions are available.

#### Advanced Chorus (Tenor/Bass) 7th and 8th Grade- assigned male at birth

Advanced Chorus is a course designed for highly motivated 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade tenor and bass choral students to apply musical skills as they continue to create and experience performance through a choral ensemble. Students will continue developing mastery of solfege, major and minor scales, sight-singing and multi-part harmonies. Students will convey musical interpretation with the use of dynamics and phrasing, while incorporating facial expression and movement for refined presentation. Mandatory graded performances include one evening concert per semester, school assemblies and State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs/All-State auditions are available.

# **Choir Department Fee**

## FAIR SHARE CONTRIBUTION

How much does choir really cost? Why an activity fee?

There are some costs associated with choir membership. We do not receive much money from the state or local administration to run our program. We must depend on activity fees and fundraising. In order to help defray these costs, the choral program requests that each choir member pay a fair share amount of \$40 to cover his or her basic expenses. You may pay this amount at the beginning of the year or you may contribute the first \$40 earned in fund-raising activities. Additional money earned will be credited to the student's choral account and may be used to pay for uniforms, festivals and trips. Students must have contributed or raised this \$40 before any choral account money can be used for trips.

All checks written for any expense, festival, or trips should be made payable to Liberty Middle School or paid by card on the homepage of the Liberty Middle School website "Fee Payment Link" <a href="https://madisoncityal.csiepay.com/Views/Payment/Pay.aspx?pageid=fb5c653c-d5ee-4ba7-90ee-94fbb7f69161">https://madisoncityal.csiepay.com/Views/Payment/Pay.aspx?pageid=fb5c653c-d5ee-4ba7-90ee-94fbb7f69161</a>

Checks should be made payable to Liberty Middle School with a phone number and license number on it. Please give checks or money in an envelope to the front office or to the choir director.

Basic expenses incurred by each choir member during the school year:

Music/Textbooks/Online Programs	\$25.00
State Festival Entry Fee	\$3.00
Bus Transportation to Required Festivals	\$5.00
Printing and copying	\$2.00
Accompanist, subs, professional dues	\$5.00
Total Basic Expenses	\$40

All funds paid or fundraised are NON-REFUNDABLE and will carry over to the students' choir account as long as the child is enrolled in the LMS choir (funds will not be transferred to sports, clubs, different schools, etc.).

# **Choir Uniforms**

#### **Travel Uniform**

- LMS Choir Shirt = \$15.00
- Blue Jean/Khaki Pants
- Tennis Shoes

#### Formal Uniform - Concert Black (winter concert / spring concert / festivals)

Option 1:	Option 2:
<ul> <li>Black long sleeve button down dress shirt (tucked in)</li> <li>Black dress pants</li> <li>Black dress socks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Solid black dress (school appropriate)</li> <li>Solid black non-see through tights (if dress is shorter than floor length)</li> </ul>
Option 3:	Option 4:
<ul> <li>Solid black formal blouse (with sleeves)</li> <li>Black dress pants</li> <li>Black dress socks</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Solid black formal blouse (with sleeves)</li> <li>Black skirt (school appropriate)</li> <li>Solid black non-see through tights (if skirt is shorter than floor length)</li> </ul>

Required Shoes: Formal black dress shoes (closed toes)

Optional: Black vest, Black suit jacket, Black scarf, Black shawl, Black belt, Black tie

#### UNACCEPTABLE DRESS (formal uniform)

- NO jeans of any color Not even black
- NO tennis shoes, NO t-shirts
- All attire must be school appropriate

# Examples of <a href="PROPER">PROPER</a> concert attire



# **Examples of IMPROPER concert attire**



Trendy – nope.



Tennis shoes – nope.



This is a POLO shirt. Not long-sleeved.



These pants are **BLUE**. These shoes are **BROWN** 



White socks with Black Pants/Shoes?!?!? Don't be THAT guy...this sticks out on stage.

# **Examples of IMPROPER concert attire**



Legs are bare,

Open Toed Shoes

These are tennis shoes



Leggings are NOT PANTS. Save athletic clothes for the gym..not the stage....



Short sleeved T-shirt

Short skirt = NOPE!!!

Toes are open.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- 1. To help students develop, through an emphasis on musical fundamentals, into the best musicians they can be. (i.e. vocal auditioning/performing, sight reading, music history, music theory, Choreography, etc.)
- 2. To offer an opportunity for young musicians to perform literature of an appropriate difficulty, as part of a student ensemble.
- 3. To help students learn good character traits such as responsibility, self-discipline, respect, and service.
- 4. To help students learn cooperation with others and to work as "team" players to achieve group goals.
- 5. To provide musical service to the community.
- 6. To promote, build, and educate future audiences and supporters of music.

#### "I CAN..."

Feel comfortable in auditioning for inter as well as intra choral activities

Perform music in unison (6-8), 2 parts (6-8), and 3 parts (7-8)

Perform music as an individual as well as in a group

Perform music with a good sense of expression (phrasing, feeling of ensemble, breath control, diction)

Perform music in English and in other languages

Sight read in unison (6-8), 2 parts (6-8) and 3 parts (7-8)

Identify the lines and spaces of the bass and treble clef

Identify notes and rests

Identify and explain time signatures

Identify and explain key signatures

Recognize basic music terms and have knowledge to respond correctly

Recognize the different composers and the style in which they composed

Dance basic choreography steps

Participate in class service projects

#### A CHOIR REHEARSAL INVOLVES...

Preparing the mind and body for the upcoming task

Students come to class prepared

Students are seated and ready to begin before the bell

rings

Students know and understand the goal of the class

Working on proper choral breathing

Daily work on breath control is essential in choral

Working on proper voice/tone production

Proper formation of vowels for a free, open sound

Singing exercises for clear, crisp consonants

Learning basic musicianship.

Listening to and discussion of choral music

Studying of music history and composers

Singing in foreign languages

Painting a picture in song

Learning rudiments of music and theory

Rhythm activities

Study of notes, rest, symbols, terms, etc.

Sight-reading

Blending voices for proper choral tone

Constant listening and adjusting

Group conformity

Singing in parts

Developing a positive self-image through successful

experiences in music!

Developing a sense of pride through meaningful

responsibility

Developing a GREAT performance!!!

#### CHOIR CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Every time you perform you are representing not only your choral department, but yourself and your family. Many times you will perform outside of Madison and you then will be representing your city and sometimes even your state. Give it your best. Be proud of who you are and what you are doing!

Stand tall, and have a pleasant expression on your face. The look of 'death' never turns an audience on.

Never talk while on the risers or out in the audience!

Keep your eyes on the director!

Keep your fingertips on the sides of your legs. Any hand movements take away from the entire group.

Smile on stage; especially during the applause.

Sustain the mood of each song until the director drops his hands.

Always concentrate on the stage. Nothing is more important than the moment. If you are on the stage but not performing at the moment you are still on the stage.

Enjoy yourself and think of what joy you can give to the audience

Don't be ashamed of any mistakes that you may make, unless you made the mistake of looking at the person who made one.

Show the audience you are proud of your work.

## CHOIR REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

Each student is expected to do his/her best at all times. A positive student attitude and leadership qualities are very important to all of the Liberty Middle School choir members.

- 1. Listen and follow direction
- 2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to self
- 3. Respect self, others, and school property
- 4. Come to class on time and prepared (materials, music memorized, necessary documents signed)
- 5. Demonstrate PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Do Your Best, Encourage Others)

## **NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES**

- 1st Offense- Verbal Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- Change of Seating/Placement
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense- Written reflection
- 4th Offense- Written reflection, parent contact
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense- Written reflection, parent contact, before or after school detention
  - If student "skips" detention it will be a 6th offense
- 6th Offense- Student led parent conference- in person
- 7<sup>th</sup> Offense- Office discipline referral
- 8<sup>th</sup> Offense- Repeat process from beginning

# When You Make a Mistake (OAMM)

Mistakes are a part of life. No one is perfect. All I ask is that you try your best and learn from your mistakes. So **when** you make a mistake, just OAMM.

Own It

**Apologize** 

Make it right

Move on



## **GRADING POLICY**

#### Grading (Per MCS Policy)

- 60% = Assessments (Tests, Vocal Assessments,, Concerts)
- 40% = Daily Grades (quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)

#### Make Up Work/Test Policy (Per LMS Policy)

Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Students can get with a classmate or ask the teacher for help. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.

## Rehearsal Techniques (Daily Grade)

#### 5 points daily

- Materials (-1 for each missing item)
  - o Pencil
  - o Music/Folder
  - o Permission slips/parent documentation
  - o School issued chromebook
- Rehearsal participation (deducted points differ for each situation)
  - o Follow behavior expectations (gum, off task, talking, etc.)
  - o Follow instructional directions with a positive attitude (diction, posture, etc.)
- Effect on grade for negative consequences:
  - o Verbal Warning/Seat Movement (-0)
  - o Written Reflection (-5 each)

## Written Work (Daily Grade)

Grades vary according to assignment

- Bell Work/Journal Writing
- Music Theory Worksheets, Performance Evaluations, Other
- Essays/Reports

# Individual Vocal Assessment (Assessment)

Grades vary according to assignment

- Music prodigy
- Video vocal assessment

# Concert/Performance (Assessment)

Concerts are a celebration of student learning. Students will be assessed and graded individually on performance standards during the concert. Students must meet our program's eligibility requirements to be permitted to perform.

#### Eligibility Requirements to Participate in Concert:

- Turn in permission slip by deadline
- Attend dress rehearsal (arrive on time and leave on time)
- Meet all behavior expectations during rehearsal (3 strikes your out)
- Have no more than 5 missing assignments as of 2 days prior to performance
- Be on time and in appropriate attire for rehearsal and concert
  - Please speak with the director if your child will be unable to attend the rehearsal or concert due to scheduling conflict (i.e. LMS sports, doctors appt., funeral, etc.). We will do everything in our power to create a win-win situation for each of our students.

#### Students will be assessed and graded individually on the following performance standards:

- Being on time, and in the proper place at the proper time
- Wearing appropriate concert attire
- Conducting yourself in a professional manner at all times
- Avoiding excess fidgeting while on stage
- Singing with proper posture
- Singing with proper vowels
- Singing with appropriate facial expression
- Making appropriate eye contact with the director while singing
- Student demonstrates through singing an understanding of appropriate blend with other singers

<sup>\*</sup>Students who do not attend the concert in its entirety will complete an alternate assignment.

### PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

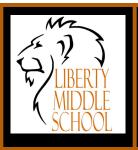
Parents are encouraged to support their child's involvement in the Liberty Middle School Choir program and keep informed about what is happening. Discipline and character building play a central part in this program. Attending all choir meetings help parents stay involved and informed about the activities of the program. Scheduling of events is done as far in advance as possible. It is stressed that parents should treat their child's music schedule of events as part of the total family schedule. Needless to say, a choir cannot be effective to the student or to the audience without complete participation and meticulous attention to detail, including attendance and punctuality.

#### Basic Liberty Middle School Choir Parent Responsibilities

- Read and sign student documentation and send back with choir member. Students who do not turn in documentation by the deadline will NOT be perform with the choir
- Pay fee/expenses on time
- Help with fundraisers /Donate needed items
- Come to all choir parent meetings
- Drop student off on time (rehearsals/performances)
  - o Students who come to performances late and/or out of proper uniform will NOT perform with the Liberty Middle School Choir. Call, text, or email Mrs. M&M to inform her with tardy situations (256) 315-6070.

## **Choir Parent Volunteers Needed**

- **CHARMS specialist** (input and confirm student contract information in charms)
- **Treasurer** (report weekly to receipt money, turn in money to the office, input financial information into CHARMS, communicate with families regarding payments due, etc.)
- Uniform / Spirit Wear Specialist (collect sizes, document money, order clothing, sort, distribute, etc.)
- Fundraiser Organizer- compute fundraising profits to provide to the treasurer, speak with fundraiser companies about requirements, assemble a team to sort and distribute fundraiser items, create flyers about fundraising events.
- **Travel Specialist -** Assist with contacting hotels, arranging meals, arranging transportation when a car pool is needed, etc.
- Accompanist play piano (or guitar in some instances) for performances
- Photographer / Videographer Takes pictures and/or video of performances and activities.
- **Car Pool**: Helps provide transportation to and from performances and required after school rehearsal for students in need.
- Chaperone (must have MCS background check \$15.50)
- https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1407&dataid=4347&FileName=Chaperone%20and%20Background%20Info.pdf
- https://bib.com/secure-volunteer/Madison-City-Schools/Choose-Screen



# Liberty Middle School 281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

# LMS Choir (All Levels) Mrs. Alicia Moreno Mulloy (M&M)

# **SYLLABUS**

Teacher Contact Information	Email: aamulloy@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256- 315 - 6070 (text preferred prior to phone call)		
Classroom Digital Platforms	Webpage Link: <a href="https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/820">https://www.madisoncity.k12.al.us/Page/820</a> Schoology Link: <a href="https://madisoncity.schoology.com/">https://madisoncity.schoology.com/</a> Distribution List Link: <a href="https://forms.gle/a1UUfJ8ooGH6TVfs9">https://forms.gle/a1UUfJ8ooGH6TVfs9</a> Music Prodigy: <a href="https://www.musicprodigy.com/">https://www.musicprodigy.com/</a> Music Theory: <a href="https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note">https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note</a> CHARMS: <a href="https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms2/login.asp">https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms2/login.asp</a>		
Textbook Information	NA		
Course Description	Our choral music program is designed to enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of all students. Chorus is a yearlong ensemble open to all middle school students. Students in choir will learn the fundamentals of singing and music theory through daily activities and practice. Students will also gain basic musical and historical knowledge. Students participate in daily rehearsals and perform in no more than two mandatory evening concerts per semester as well as various school assemblies and State Choral Performance Assessment. Optional Honor Choirs are available.		
Course Objectives	Throughout the four artistic processes of creating, performing, responding and connecting to music, students will develop a characteristic tone employing the following musical concepts: timbre, rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and expression.		
Course Outline	Unit 1: National Anthem Unit 2: Sight Singing Unit 3: Vocal Technique Unit 4: Patriotic Literature Unit 5: All State Audition Literature Unit 6: Winter Concert Literature Unit 7: State Choral Performance Assessment Literature Unit 8: Service Learning Project Unit 9: Spring Concert		
Classroom Expectations	<ol> <li>Listen and follow direction</li> <li>Keep hands, feet, and objects to self</li> <li>Respect self, others, and school property</li> <li>Come to class on time and prepared (materials, homework, necessary documents signed)</li> <li>Demonstrate PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Do Your Best, Encourage Others)</li> </ol>		

Progressive	Step 1: Verbal warning		
Discipline	Step 2: Change of seating/Placement		
	Step 3: Written reflection / Student-Teacher conference		
	Step 4: Written reflection / Parent contact		
	Step 5: Written reflection / Parent contact / Detention		
	Step 6: Student led parent conference- in person		
	Step 7- Office discipline referral		
Grading Policy (MCS Policy)	60% = Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects) 40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Participation)		
Late Work Policy	Work turned in after the due date will be added to the gradebook upon <u>student written request</u> only.		
Make-up Work/Test Policy	Students with excused absences will be allowed to make-up all work within three days of returning to school. It is the student's responsibility to ask for make-up work. Work that is not made up will become a zero (including quizzes/tests). Many times, missed quizzes and tests can be made up during school.		
Materials & Supplies	<ul> <li>Pocket Folder (Labeled "Choir" with Student Name)</li> <li>Pencil</li> <li>Schoology/Kami/Prodigy Compatible Device (i.e. school issued laptop)</li> <li>\$40.00 Choir Fee</li> <li>\$15.00 Choir Shirt</li> </ul>		
Homework	It is our goal to assign as little homework as possible in choir. We give students the opportunity to complete assignments in class, but if they do not, it will be the responsibility of the student to complet it for homework.  Examples:		
	<ul> <li>Music Prodigy Sight Singing Assessments</li> <li>Music Theory Assignments (Schoology and Musictheory.net)</li> <li>Video Performance Recordings (Schoology)</li> </ul>		
Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form	<ul> <li>Communicate questions, comments and/or concerns via email, text, call and/or written note (before deadlines).</li> <li>Sign and return documents by deadline (students who do not turn in signed documentation will not be permitted to perform)</li> <li>Drop off/pick up on time (Students who come to rehearsals or performances late and/or out of uniform will not be permitted to perform)</li> </ul>		

This syllabus is subject to change.

# Finance, Shirt Orders and Volunteer Form

#### **Finance / Expenses**

Choir Fee	\$40.00
	All class fee payments go directly to LMS office or pay online at LMS fee payment - Madison City Schools
Travel Shirt	\$15.00
	Cash, check choir director or pay online (see directions below)

#### Non Class Fee Expenses (uniform, field trips, etc.):

Please place cash or check payments in an envelope labeled with the student first and last name.

Checks should be made payable to Liberty Middle School with a phone number and license number on it.

If paying online (LMS fee payment - Madison City School- Extracurricular- Choir tab) email receipt to M&M at aamulloy@madisoncity.k12.al.us so she can provide the information to the treasurer to record in CHARMS.

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outh M	Adult S	Adult M	Adult L	Adult XL	Adult XXL
arent Volunt	<del>eer Sign Up:</del> W	e cannot run this choi	r program without	the help of parents. Her	e are the needs that we have
	receipt m the office information	r: report weekly to noney, turn in money r, input financial on into CHARMS, icate students' finan		companies sort and d	eak with fundraiser s, assemble a team to istribute fundraiser ate flyers about
	CHARMS specialist: input and confirm student contract information in charms Uniform / Spirit Wear- collect			Car Pool: Helps provide transportation to and from performances and required after school rehearsal for students in need.	
	sizes, do clothing,	cument money, ord sort, distribute, etc.			lay the piano (or guitar) be willing to accompany
	backgrou https://bit	(must have MCS and check - \$15.50) c.com/secure-volun city-Schools/Choo	<u>teer</u>	_	<b>Videographer</b> : res and/or video of es and activities.
\	Screen				: Assist with arranging ol, hotels, etc.
	•	usiness or place o		•	ponsor the choir or pro
lame:		Name of business:			

# Student and Parent Acknowledgement

I have read the LMS Choir handbook and syllabus and understand the expectations of the LMS Choir. I agree to abide by the rules, expectations and policies as they are stated in the syllabus.

Student First and Last Name (Print):			
Student Cell Phone (Optional	D:		
	<i>y</i> -		
Guardian Name (Print)	Cell Phone Number	Preferred Email Address	
reproduced and released for use website and social media platfor child's photo/video to be repro-	e in the media (i.e. newspapers, brochu orms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instag duced and released for use in the medi	the photograph, video or interview may be ures, videos, television, internet, school gram, etc.). If you choose <i>not</i> to allow your ia, please indicate this in the comments.	
Student Physical Mailing Add	iress:		
<u></u>			
Student Signature:		Date:	
Parent Signature:		Date:	
Comments:			

LMS Choir Mission

Inspire and challenge passionate learners, fearless leaders and children of exceptional character.