

LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL



CHOIR HANDBOOK

2021-2022

CHOIR BELL SCHEDULE

A-Day

1 st Period	Music History
2 nd Period	A Cappella
3 rd Period	Chamber
4 th Period	<i>Conference</i>

B-Day

7 th Period	<i>Conference</i>
8 th Period	Concert Men
9 th Period	Concert Women
10 th Period	Beginning Choir

Greg Haugen

Choir Director

ghaugen@aisd.net

(682) 867-7079

Cassandra Kirby

Assistant Choir Director

ckirby1@aisd.net

(682) 867-7079

THE LAMAR CHOIRS

A CAPPELLA

A Cappella is the Varsity Mixed Choir consisting of juniors and seniors that meet during 2nd period on A-Days. A Cappella performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts. In addition, A Cappella performs at Cluster Concert and Graduation each year. A Cappella participates in UIL Concert & Sight Reading as a Varsity Mixed Choir, Varsity Treble Choir, and Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir. Students may audition for All-State/Honor Choir (if summer camp is attended) and the Lamar Show Choirs.

Sign up for Remind by texting @lamaracap to 81010.

CHAMBER

Chamber is a select group of singers who rehearse and perform in a chamber setting, as well as working on individual growth as a singer. This ensemble is open to sophomore, junior, and senior Lamar choir members upon **audition**, and meet during 3rd period on A-Days. Members of Chamber will participate in the All-State/Honor Choir Process and Solo & Ensemble Contest. This ensemble will have commitments after school, such as performing and helping with the Madrigal Dinner Theatre.

Sign up for Remind by texting @chambervf to 81010.

CONCERT MEN

Concert Men is a Non-Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir consisting of students with prior choir experience and are progressing through the high school choir experience. This choir meets during 8th period on B-Days. Concert Men performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts. Concert Men participates in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest as a NV Tenor-Bass Choir and combines with the Concert Women as a NV Mixed Choir. Students may audition for All-State/Honor Choir (if summer camp is attended) and the Lamar Show Choirs.

Sign up for Remind by texting @conmen8 to 81010.

CONCERT WOMEN

Concert Women is a Non-Varsity Treble Choir consisting of students with prior choir experience and are progressing through the high school choir experience. This choir meets during 9th period on B-Days. Concert Women performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts. Concert Women participates in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Contest as a NV Treble Choir and combines with the Concert Men as a NV Mixed Choir. Students may audition for All-State/Honor Choir (if summer camp is attended) and the Lamar Show Choirs.

Sign up for Remind by texting @cwomen to 81010.

THE LAMAR SHOW CHOIRS

MADRIGALS

The Lamar Madrigals is a mixed show choir and the premier group of the Lamar Show Choirs. This is an **auditioned** ensemble that consists of mostly juniors and seniors. The Madrigals perform on Elementary Tour, at Madrigal Dinner Theatre*, Show Choir Showcase, and Spring Show. Rehearsals are **Mondays** after school from **6:00-8:00pm**.

Sign up for Remind by texting @lamarmads to 81010.

HARMONY

Harmony is an **auditioned** all-girls show choir consisting of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Harmony performs on Elementary Tour, at Madrigal Dinner Theatre*, Show Choir Showcase, and Spring Show. Rehearsals are **Mondays** after school from **6:00-8:00pm**.

Sign up for Remind by texting @harmony33 to 81010.

MADRIGAL DINNER THEATRE*

Madrigal Dinner Theatre is the highlight of the Holiday Season for the Lamar Show Choirs. Members of the Lamar Show Choirs invite parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers, family friends, and many more! The audience will be treated to performances celebrating the Christmas and Holiday season, while enjoying a catered meal in a festive atmosphere.



COMMUNICATION

Communication between parents, students, and teachers is essential to the success of the program. We want each student to reach their potential, and we believe effective communication is needed in this process. All parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the Lamar Choir Program.

It is important that all parents provide an e-mail address. We will use e-mail to communicate announcements, reminders, and special information to parents. Parents and students should inform directors if their information changes.

REMIND

The best way to receive instant updates and announcements is through Remind. Remind will be our main form of communication. Each choir class will have their own Remind. We encourage both PARENTS and STUDENTS to sign up for Remind. You can download the **Remind App** in the App Store, or you can text your class Remind Code (see below) to **81010**.

A Cappella	@lamaracap
Concert Men	@conmen8
Concert Women	@cwomen
Chamber	@chambervf
Harmony	@harmony33
Madrigals	@lamarmads



CHARMS/RANK 1

All of our record keeping (including student information and finances) is maintained through Charms Office Assistant; however, AISD will be switching to Rank 1 in the future.

To view your student's information and financial status or to print receipts, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.charmsoffice.com
2. Our school code is:
3. Your student password is:
4. Please keep your records and contact information current.

ACTIVITY FEE

The Activity Fee is necessary to keep our program running and to ensure that your child receives needed supplies, uniforms, and materials. Fees cover uniform rental, upkeep and dry cleaning, library supplies, octavo purchases, a student music binder, student activities/events, and a choir shirt. There will be an opportunity to pay the Activity Fee at **Get Fit Day on Saturday August, 21**, you can pay online, or students can turn in the fees to the directors.

Activity Fee: \$60

A Cappella Polo: \$20*

**All A Cappella Choir Members will need to purchase a polo. They can use the same polo for each year they are in A Cappella.*

PAYMENT INFORMATION

We ask that the following guidelines be followed each time money is sent to school for choir purposes:

- ✓ Please send all money (cash, check, or money orders) to school in an envelope marked with the choir student's name, class period, and "**LHS CHOIR**" written on the front. It is not a good idea to label any envelope sent to school as "money".
- ✓ Checks should be made out to LHS Choir.

SPRING TRIP REFUND GUIDELINES

Due to payment deadlines by the companies we use to go on trips, LHS Choir is unable to provide refunds for ANY reason. Once a payment has been received and documented, refunds will not be available. This includes, but is not limited to, ineligibility and last-minute cancellations. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Please be sure you are eligible, available, and committed to the dates in advance to prevent losing your money.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POLICY

No student will be denied participation in the LHS Choir due to financial hardship. Parents, do not hesitate to speak to the choir directors so that arrangements can be made for those in need of consideration.

VIKING CARDS

The Lamar Viking Cards is a way the Lamar Choir Booster Club helps support the Lamar Choir Program. Viking Cards are sold for \$10, and are accepted at the locations that support the Lamar Choir (listed on the card). Cards can be obtained through the Lamar Choir Booster Club and the choir directors.



UNIFORMS

For any Lamar Choir performance, students must wear a **director approved uniform**. For formal concerts, the Lamar Choir Program provides dresses, dress pants, and tux jackets. These uniforms will be assigned at the beginning of the year, and students are responsible for their assigned uniform during the school year.

RULES & EXPECTATIONS

It is essential that members of the Lamar Choir Program adhere to the following expectations:

- 1. Follow directions the first time given.**
- 2. All communication must be appropriate and positive. Treat others as you wish to be treated.**
- 3. Only water is allowed on the risers during rehearsal. All other food and beverages may be consumed before or after rehearsal.**
- 4. Cell phones and electronic devices are silenced and put away.**
- 5. Be on time to your choir class, rehearsals, and performances.**

Continued failure of following these expectations will result in director/student conversation, parental contact, or administrative intervention as deemed appropriate.

If a student exhibits such intolerable behavior on a consistent basis, the student may be removed from the choral program at the discretion of the directors.

Any serious behavior that compromises the safety of the director or the learning environment of the students will result in an immediate removal from rehearsal and office referral.



GRADING

Students will receive grades by attending rehearsals, completing daily work as assigned, assessment of skills, and performing in concerts. Concerts are considered test grades and will be weighted as such.

Grades will be updated weekly, so the best way to keep track of your student's grade, check Self-Serve.

HONORS MUSIC COURSE

This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to extend their musical education in an enriched, independent curriculum for college readiness. Students must demonstrate a higher level of musical understanding and be able to perform at the highest possible level both as an individual and as a member of an ensemble. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of critical listening, musical understanding, technical ability, knowledge of the theoretical and historical foundations of compositions and present information in a well-written academic manner.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

In order to enroll in any advanced music course a student must:

1. Be enrolled in a fine arts music performing class (band/orchestra/choir) as a yearlong course
2. Be recommended by and audition for the music director
3. Have a proven history of musical performance beyond the classroom (i.e. Solo & Ensemble, All- Region, UIL ensemble contests, etc.)

If you are interested in enrolling in the Honors Music Course and would like more information, please contact Mr. Haugen or Ms. Kirby.

CONCERTS

Concerts are a very important display of all of our hard work in the Lamar Choir Program. Please see the calendar at the end of the handbook and note the dates of our concerts on your family calendar. Concerts are a required part of the Lamar Choir Program and are graded events. ***SOME CONCERTS ARE NOT AT LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL!!*** Students are responsible for their own transportation to concerts. Conflicts with other LHS activities will be worked out between the directors and other LHS sponsors. **Conflicts with non-LHS activities are NOT excused absences.** Absences that are considered **unexcused** will result in a test grade of zero. Non-LHS activities can include, but are not limited to:

- **Transportation problems**
- **Babysitting siblings**
- **Doctors/Dentists appointments**
- **Family vacations**
- **Non-LHS athletic or dance events**
- **Birthday Parties/Other Celebrations**

Examples of excused absences are LHS related events (communicate approval with the directors), legitimate illness, or family emergency. In order for an absence to be excused, the parent must contact the director **BEFORE** the concert. Absences from concerts can be made up through an alternative assignment of the directors' choosing.

Excused Absences can be made up to a 100. **Unexcused Absences** will result in a ZERO.

If there is a conflict or issue regarding a concert, please let the directors know as soon as possible.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

Choir students will exhibit proper concert behavior during all performances, in both performance and as an audience member. Students will be graded on their behavior. Concert etiquette is an integral part of choral music education. Appropriate conduct in formal and informal concert settings is included in the TEKS for choral music.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

ARLINGTON MUSIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (AMEP)

Arlington ISD offers private voice instruction through the Arlington Music Enrichment Program. We are extremely fortunate to have on the LHS campus highly qualified voice instructors. These instructors work one-on-one with our students to provide proper vocal technique, theory, and repertoire study. Students sing in voice recitals and master classes throughout the year and compete at Solo & Ensemble contests. Our voice instructors also help prepare TMEA All-State repertoire, musical and show choir audition material, and college audition repertoire. Lessons may be taught during the student's choir class, lunch, or after school. The cost is \$18.00 per lesson. A limited number of voice scholarships are available and granted on individual need at the director's discretion.

Payment Guidelines:

- Payment for a particular month's lessons is to be paid on the first lesson of the month.
- Cost is \$18.00 for one 25 minute lesson per week.
- If fees have not been paid by the second lesson of the month, the remaining lessons for that month will not be given but payment for the entire month is still due.
- If by the third lesson of the month the student still has not paid, the student becomes ineligible for lessons and will be replaced with someone on the waiting list.
- If the student will require financial aid, additional guidelines apply. These will be discussed with the individuals when the financial aid is awarded.
- Returned check fees will be added to a student's current bill.
- If a student wishes to discontinue lessons, timely notice must be given to the head director.

Completion of an AMEP application confirms an understanding of and agreement with the aforementioned guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your student's private voice teacher.

VOICE LESSON GUIDELINES

Each student taking private voice lessons at Lamar High School must:

- Be prepared for lessons by bringing all required materials
- Practice all assigned vocal exercises and music
- Be teachable (open minded and willing to learn)
- Notify the private teacher in advance of any absence. When at all possible, a 24-hour advance notice must be given. This includes all school-related activities. If notice is not given in advance, the student is charged for that lesson. The earlier the notification, the

easier it is to reschedule a lesson. Please try not to schedule doctor or orthodontist appointments during lesson times

- Obtain a contact number for his/her private teacher.
- Participate in required recitals, auditions, and solo competitions, as deemed appropriate by the private teacher. The minimum participation required for voice lessons is two recitals and the solo and ensemble contest.

ALL-STATE/HONOR CHOIR

All Lamar Choir members are encouraged to audition for the All State/Honor Choirs. The **All-State** process is open to students of ALL grade levels. There are 4 rounds of the All-State process, and those participating have the opportunity to make the All-Region Choir and one of the Texas All-State Choirs. The Texas All-State Choirs perform at the statewide music convention in San Antonio in February. The **9/10 Honor Choir** is open ONLY to freshmen and sophomores. We encourage freshmen and sophomores to audition for the 9/10 Honor Choir. The process is the same, but it requires less auditions, and the music is less difficult. All students selected for an Honor Choir, must perform in all scheduled performances.

Students will receive music and practice tracks to prepare the audition music. Students will compete against singers from Arlington ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Mansfield ISD, and many other school districts. Making one of these choirs is one of the highest honors that high school singer can earn in high school choir.

Rehearsals will be held after school, and a more detailed rehearsal schedule will be put into place the first week of school.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Solo & Ensemble is an opportunity for all choir students who are enrolled in voice lessons either on campus or off campus. All students in voice lessons are expected to participate in Solo & Ensemble.

CHOIR OFFICERS & LEADERSHIP

Choir officers are elected through a rigorous interview and voting process based on leadership, service, and participation in the choir program. These students are expected to exhibit outstanding behavior, excellent leadership, and a positive attitude in all areas of student life. Student leaders should, above all, exhibit a desire to serve the needs of the Lamar Choirs.

CO-PRESIDENTS

The Co-Presidents are held by 2 senior choir members and are the face of the Choir Officer Board. The Co-Presidents work with the choir directors to keep the vision of the Lamar Choir program moving forward. In order to be selected, senior choir members who are interested are interviewed by the directors for the position.

VP JUNIOR HIGH LIAISON

The Vice President Junior High Liaison is held by a senior representative. This VP position works with maintaining relationships with the JH choir members at Shackelford and Nichols JH.

VP SOCIAL EVENTS

The Vice President of Social Events is held by a senior representative. This VP position heads up the planning of social gatherings, activities/events, and promotes the Spirit of the Lamar Choirs

VP HISTORIAN & SOCIAL MEDIA

The Vice President of Historian and Social Media is held by a senior representative. This VP position oversees taking pictures, updating the Lamar Choir Social Media, and maintaining the Bulletin Boards in the choir room.

VP HOUSEKEEPING

The Vice President of Housekeeping is held by a senior representative. This VP position helps and facilitates the organization of the music library, uniforms, or any other housekeeping that needs to be done for the Lamar Choir program.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

The class representatives (sophomore, juniors, and seniors) are elected by their peers to serve on the Lamar Choir Officer Board. These representatives work with the Co-Presidents and form committees to help lead the Lamar Choir Program.

LETTERING IN CHOIR

In order to receive a letter in choir, students must meet one of the following criteria:

- A student can receive their letter after completing a semester in the A Cappella Choir.
- [OR]**
- A freshman or sophomore can letter by being a member of and performing with the 9/10 Honor Choir for 2 consecutive years, or by being a member or and performing with the All-District/All-Region Choir.

Once a choir member meets one the criteria to letter in choir, they will receive a packet with information on how to obtain a letter in choir.



2021-2022 YEAR AT A GLANCE

Saturday August 21	Get Fit (9AM-12PM)	Lamar HS
Saturday September 18	Round 1 Auditions	Martin HS
Friday September 24	Fall Choir Event	TBD
Saturday October 16	Round 2 Auditions	Summit HS
Monday October 18**	**FALL CONCERT (7PM)	CPVA
Monday October 25	9/10 Honor Choir Auditions	Arlington HS
Saturday November 13	All-Region Clinic/Concert	CPVA
Thursday November 18	Round 3 Auditions	Legacy HS
December 9-10	Holiday Tour (Show Choirs)	TBD
Saturday December 11	Madrigal Dinner Theatre (6PM)	TBD
Monday December 13**	**HOLIDAY CONCERT (7PM)	Lamar Baptist
Saturday January 8	Area Auditions	TBD
February 3-5	Musical Performances	Lamar HS
Tuesday February 8	Cluster Concert	Lamar HS
Saturday February 12	All-State Choir Concert	San Antonio, TX
Friday February 25	Show Choir Showcase	Arlington HS
TBD	Solo & Ensemble	TBD
Monday March 28**	**Choir Pre-UIL	Lamar HS
April 12-14**	**UIL CONCERT & SIGHT READING	CPVA
TBD (Spring)	Spring Trip	TBD
Monday May 9	Show Choir Spring Show (7PM)	Lamar HS
TBD	Choir Banquet	TBD
Monday May 16**	**Spring Concert (7PM)	Lamar HS

****All the REQUIRED EVENTS are on this calendar.****

Dates will be updated on the on the Google Calendar on the Lamar Choir website.