

# **LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL**



## **CHOIR HANDBOOK 2026-2027**

# CHOIR SCHEDULE

## A-Day

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Period | Music History            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period | A Cappella (Mixed Choir) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period | Chamber Choir            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Period | <i>Conference</i>        |

## B-Day

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Period  | <i>Conference</i>                 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Period  | Drakkar (Tenor-Bass Choir)        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Period  | Valkyrie (Treble Choir)           |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Period | Varangian (Beginning Mixed Choir) |

### Greg Haugen

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# THE LAMAR CHOIRS

## **A CAPPELLA**

A Cappella is the Varsity Mixed Choir and meets during 2<sup>nd</sup> period on A-Days. A Cappella performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts. In addition, A Cappella performs at Cluster Concert and various special events each year. A Cappella potentially 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 and the Lamar Show Choirs.

***Sign up for Remind by texting @27lhsac to 81010.***

## **CHAMBER CHOIR**

Chamber is a select group of singers who rehearse and perform in a chamber setting, as well as work on individual growth as singers. This ensemble is open to sophomore, junior, and senior Lamar choir members upon audition and meets during 3<sup>rd</sup> period on A-Days. Members of Chamber participate in the All-State/Honor Choir Process and Solo & Ensemble Contest.

## **DRAKKAR (NON-VARSITY TENOR-BASS CHOIR)**

Drakkar 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 8<sup>th</sup> period on B-Days. Drakkar performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts. This choir participates in the UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a NV Tenor-Bass Choir and potentially combines with the NV Treble as a NV Mixed Choir. Students may audition for All-State/Honor Choir and the Lamar Show Choirs.

***Sign up for Remind by texting @27drak to 81010.***

## **VALKYRIE (NON-VARSITY TREBLE CHOIR)**

Valkyrie is a Non-Varsity Treble Choir (soprano and alto voices) consisting of students with prior choir experience and are progressing through the high school choir experience. This choir meets during 9<sup>th</sup> period on B-Days. Valkyrie performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts. This choir participates in the UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest as a NV Treble Choir and potentially combines with the NV Tenor-Bass as a NV Mixed Choir. Students may audition for All-State/Honor Choir and the Lamar Show Choirs.

***Sign up for Remind by texting @27valk to 81010.***

### **VARANGIAN (NON-VARSITY MIXED CHOIR)**

Valkyrie is a Non-Varsity Mixed Choir (soprano, alto, tenor, bass voices) consisting of students that are new to choir or are needing to strengthen singing, sight-reading, or rehearsal skills. This choir meets 10<sup>th</sup> period on B-Days. The goal is for Varangian to perform at the Fall, Holiday, and Spring concerts. For UIL Concert & Sight-Reading Contest, Varangian will either perform in the UIL contest or be adjudicated in another way as a NV Mixed Choir. Students may audition for All-State/Honor Choir and the Lamar Show Choirs.

*Sign up for Remind by texting @27varan 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 @27mads 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**.

### **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**.

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>A Cappella</b> | <b>@27lhsac</b>  |
| <b>Drakkar</b>    | <b>@27draktb</b> |
| <b>Valkyrie</b>   | <b>@27valksa</b> |
| <b>Varangian</b>  | <b>@27varan</b>  |
| <b>Madrigals</b>  | <b>@27mads</b>   |



## PRESTO

All of our record keeping (including student information and inventory) is maintained through Presto. Reminders and announcements will also be sent out using Presto. Please check your email closely for information coming from this platform.

# 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. Students may pay online or they can turn in the fees to the directors.

**Activity Fee:               \$100\*\*\***

**A Cappella Polo:       \$30**

*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.*

**\*\*\*Students will be issued 5 Viking Cards and the money sold can be kept as reimbursement for half of your activity fee.**

## 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. When a student makes their first payment through our travel company site, they will have the option of purchasing trip insurance which is the only way to recover money if your travel plans change. Without trip insurance, 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, please 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 Card 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. Each choir member is expected to sell 5 Viking Cards and that money can be used to reimburse families for the cost of their singer's activity fee.



## UNIFORMS

For every Lamar Choir performance, students must wear a **director approved uniform**. For formal concerts, the Lamar Choir Program provides dresses, tuxedo pants, and tuxedo jackets, ties, and cummerbunds. These uniforms will be assigned at the beginning of the year, and students are responsible for their assigned uniform during the school year. Elements of the A Cappella uniform (Director approved dress and dress shirts) are purchased and kept.

## 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 should be stored in student's belongings away from the risers. We follow the AISD "Away for the Day" cell phone policy.**
- 5. Be on time to your choir class, rehearsals, and performances.**

Continued inability to follow 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 is to 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.

## PLAGIARISM WARNING

The temptation to turn in an assignment that already exists on the internet or other sources is a real one. Students that turn in plagiarized assignments are immediately terminated from the program and no credit for the semester will be given. We adhere to a "No Tolerance" policy. This is the only warning.

## 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 Mrs. Kershen.

# CONCERTS

Concerts are a very important display 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) are: 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.

## AISD CLEAR BAG POLICY

# NEW BAG POLICY FOR ALL ARLINGTON ISD EVENTS

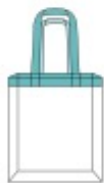
Limit one (1) bag per person



To provide a safer environment and to expedite entry into events, the Arlington ISD has implemented a new bag policy for all ticketed events that limit the size and type of items that may be brought into the venue.



## PERMITTED ITEMS



### CLEAR TOTE

Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and not exceeding 12"W x 6"D x 12"H



### ZIP TOP BAGS

Bags that are clear plastic, vinyl or PVC and not exceeding 1 GALLON



### SMALL CLUTCH

No larger than a hand or 4.5"W x 6"D x 6.5"H



### DIAPER BAG

if they are accompanied by an infant/small child

### SIMPLE SEAT CUSHION

(with or without a back) without pockets, zippers, compartments or covers



Bottled water, binoculars, phones or cameras can be carried into the venue as long as they are not in an unapproved bag. Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items.



## PROHIBITED ITEMS

### PURSES, TOTES OR BAGS LARGER THAN A CLUTCH BAG

#### COOLERS

#### BACKPACKS

#### BRIEFCASES

#### FANNY PACKS

#### CAMERA BAG

#### CINCH BAGS

#### COMPUTER BAGS

#### DUFFLE BAGS

#### LUGGAGE BAGS

#### BINOCULAR CASE



Non-service animals, outside food or drink, sports balls of any kind, drones, alcohol, laser pointers, glitter, confetti, streamers, baby powder or similar substance, skates, skateboards, bicycles, weapons or projectiles, mace or pepper spray, and any other illegal substances or contraband are also prohibited.



**No in and out privileges. Re-entry requires purchase of a new ticket.**

# PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS

Arlington ISD offers private voice instruction from qualified voice lesson teachers. 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 \$25.00 per lesson. A limited number of voice scholarships are available and granted on individual need at the directors' discretion.

## **Payment Guidelines:**

- Payment for a particular month's lessons is to be paid on the first lesson of the month.
- Cost is \$25.00 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 an 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 their 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 and 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.

## **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 of 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 purchase their letterjacket.

# 2026-2027 YEAR AT A GLANCE

|                           |                                                |                                   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>**Saturday, Aug 29</b> | <b>GET FIT! (Choir Registration)</b>           | <b>Lamar HS</b>                   |
| Saturday, Sept 19         | All-State Round 1 Auditions                    | Martin HS                         |
| TBD                       | Fall Choir Event                               | TBD                               |
| <b>**Monday, Oct 5</b>    | <b>**FALL CONCERT (7PM)</b>                    | <b>Arlington ISD CVPA</b>         |
| Tu-Th, Oct 6-8            | Musical Auditions                              | Lamar HS                          |
| Saturday, Oct 17          | All-State Round 2 Auditions                    | Mansfield HS                      |
| Monday, Oct 26            | 9/10 Honor Choir Auditions                     | Arlington HS                      |
| Thursday, Nov 12          | All-Region Clinic/Concert                      | Mansfield CPA                     |
| <b>**Tuesday, Nov 17</b>  | <b>**Cluster Concert (A Cappella Only)</b>     | <b>Lamar HS</b>                   |
| Thursday, Nov 19          | All-State Round 3 Auditions                    | Mansfield Legacy HS               |
| Thurs/Fri, Dec 10-11      | Holiday Tour (Show Choirs)                     | TBD                               |
| Saturday, Dec 12          | Madrigal Dinner Theatre (6PM)                  | First United Methodist, Arlington |
| <b>**Monday, Dec 14</b>   | <b>**HOLIDAY CONCERT (7PM)</b>                 | <b>Lamar Baptist Church</b>       |
| Saturday, Jan 9           | All-State Area Auditions                       | UTA                               |
| Jan 28,29,30              | Musical Performances                           | Lamar HS                          |
| Saturday, Feb 13          | All-State Choir Concert                        | San Antonio, TX                   |
| Thursday, Feb 25          | Show Choir Showcase                            | Martin HS                         |
| Saturday, Feb 27          | RagnaROCK (Show Choir Spring Show)             | Lamar HS                          |
| Thursday, Mar 4           | Solo & Ensemble Contest                        | Lamar HS                          |
| <b>**Thursday, Apr 1</b>  | <b>**Choir Pre-UIL</b>                         | <b>Lamar HS</b>                   |
| <b>**Thursday, Apr 8</b>  | <b>**AMC Performance (A Cappella Only)</b>     | <b>Trinity UMC</b>                |
| <b>**April 13,14,15</b>   | <b>**UIL CHOIR CONCERT &amp; SIGHT-READING</b> | <b>Arlington ISD CVPA</b>         |
| TBD                       | Choir Spring Trip                              | New York City, NY                 |
| <b>**Monday, May 10</b>   | <b>**SPRING CHOIR CONCERT (7PM)</b>            | <b>Lamar HS</b>                   |
| Monday, May 17            | Choir Banquet                                  | TBD                               |

## **\*\* = REQUIRED, GRADED EVENTS**

*Only students with excused absences will be allowed to complete an alternate assignment*

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