

**Lincoln-Way North High School
Music Department**

LWN
Choir Handbook
2011-2012



Christina Shoemaker, Director
Selina Prasad, Accompanist
Bert Johnson, Music Dept. Chairperson

*Note: The last page of this handbook is an **Acknowledgment Form** that must be completed and returned for credit in class by **Friday, August 26th**.*

A Letter from the Director:

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to another year of music-making in the Choral Department at Lincoln-Way North High School! Music in District 210 is a valued component of the school curriculum. The LWN choral program will provide students with an excellent music education and will aspire to also help meet the emotional, social, and cultural needs of its students. As we continue to shape the LWN choral program, we recalled this quote:

“Singing and music must be taught in the school in such a way to instill lifelong thirst for nobler music. ... Often a single experience will open the young soul to music for a whole lifetime. This experience cannot be left to chance; it is the task of the school to provide it.”

Zoltán Kodály,
Hungarian composer and father of modern music education

Together, we will continue create a vibrant and noble choral program at Lincoln-Way North High School. The program will unify our school and community and will inspire us to make music in our daily lives. We will find a unique identity, one that is 100% focused on choral singing. As such, the LWN choral program will carry on for generations. We are excited to continue this choral journey with you!

Following this letter is a Handbook of information. The purpose of this Handbook is to provide you with an awareness and understanding of the policies, organizational structure, and general functioning of the Lincoln-Way North Choral Department. Please read the Handbook in its entirety, discuss it with your family, and keep it for future reference.

Want more information? Visit www.lwnmusic.org. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions you may have.

I'm looking forward to a great year of music-making!

Christina Shoemaker

Choral Director

Lincoln-Way North High School

cshoemaker@lw210.org

www.lwnmusic.org

Lincoln-Way North High School Choir Handbook

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I. The Daily Experience

Meet the Curricular Choirs

Mixed Choir

The Mixed Choir is a group made up of grades 9-12 men and women. This ensemble performs high quality literature for men's and women's (mixed) voices. The curriculum is designed to cover the basic foundations of music reading and music theory for the beginning musician, to extend the abilities of more advanced students, and to increase singing confidence and aptitude. The Mixed Choir is a performing ensemble with its own schedule of public appearances, including concerts at Lincoln-Way. Members are encouraged to perform in the IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest during the year. Members are expected to practice individually outside of class. All members are eligible to participate in any music extracurricular activity.

Concert Choir

The Concert Choir is an auditioned ensemble made up of grades 10-12 women. This ensemble performs high quality literature for women's voices. The curriculum is designed to cover the basic foundations of music reading and music theory for the intermediate musician, extend the abilities of more advanced students, and increase singing confidence and aptitude. The Concert Choir is a performing ensemble with its own schedule of public appearances, including concerts at Lincoln-Way. The members of the Concert Choir are encouraged to perform in the IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest during the year. Members are expected to practice individually and in extra rehearsals or sectionals. All members are eligible to participate in any music extracurricular activity.

Chorale

The Lincoln-Way North Chorale is an auditioned, honors ensemble made up of grades 10-12 men and women. This ensemble is dedicated to performing the finest literature for mixed voices. The curriculum is designed to increase musical skills and abilities to an advanced level. Members will find themselves challenged by the level of difficulty of music, rudiments of music theory, and concepts of singing that are covered. The Chorale has a very active performance schedule throughout the school year including scheduled concerts, special programs, and IMEA and IHSA festivals. Members of the Chorale are encouraged to take private vocal lessons and to participate in the IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest during the year. Members are expected to practice individually outside of class. All members are eligible to participate in any music extracurricular activity.

Class Expectations:

1. Be Respectful
 - a. Be on time.
 - b. Pay attention in class.
 - c. Raise your hand to speak.
 - d. Demonstrate a positive attitude.
 - e. Show respect toward fellow students, the classroom, the belongings of others, school property, and, most importantly, yourself.
2. Be Responsible
 - a. Be seated with all class materials when the bell rings.
 - b. Maintain orderliness and patience.
 - c. Lead by example.
 - d. Always be accountable for your actions and your choices.
 - e. Be prepared to work and demonstrate an attitude of effort at all rehearsals.
3. Be Kind
 - a. Always treat others as you wish to be treated.

Classroom Procedures:

1. Students will enter the room quietly, pick up their assigned music folder from the cabinet, be seated, and immediately begin to silently complete the assigned Bell Work.
2. Students should be in their seats working silently on Bell Work when the bell rings, which will signify the start of class.
3. Students will raise their hands and wait for permission to speak.
4. Students will request permission from the teacher to use the restroom if it is an emergency only and will carry the hall pass with them. In all other cases, the restroom is to be used during passing periods.
5. Students may leave their seats to get a drink of water, sharpen pencils, or get a tissue only when the instructor is not working with their particular section.
6. Students will remain in their seats at the end of the period until the instructor dismisses the class.
7. Students who have been absent should check with section leaders for their missing assignments at the beginning or end of class and turn them in to the instructor in a timely fashion.
8. Students will always come to class with all of their assigned materials. Students may borrow pencils from the front of the class in an emergency and should return the pencil at the conclusion of the class period.
9. Students should label all classroom assignments with their NAME, FOLDER #, and DATE.
10. Students will come prepared for every class and ready to learn!



Daily Class Participation

The vast majority of what is done in class is application of music skills through singing. Sometimes illness may preclude this from happening to the best of a student's ability. Each student is expected to sing and participate fully in class unless a parent sends a note which should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. A one-day allowance will be given for the student to recover. If more than one day of vocal rest is necessary, the student should see a physician and obtain a doctor's note. This note should be provided to the instructor.

II. Philosophy

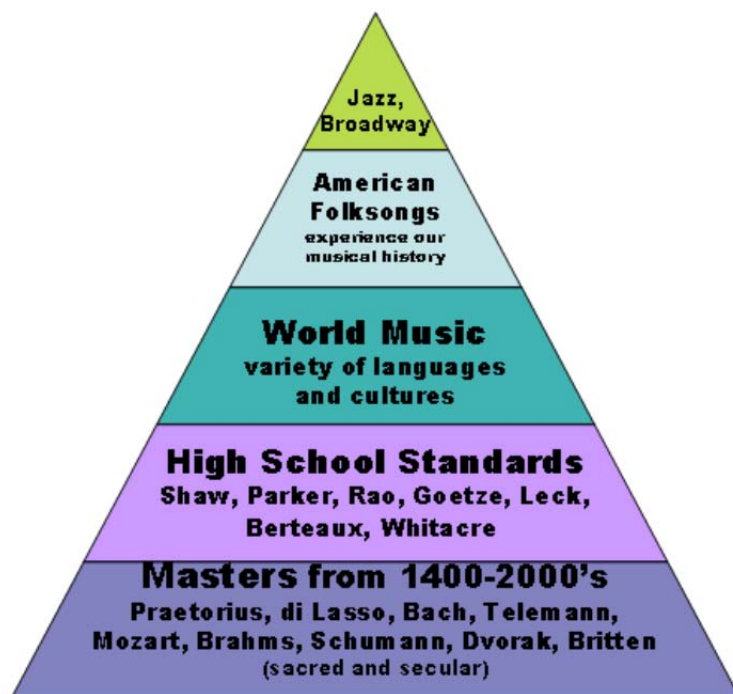
The purposes of the Lincoln-Way North Choral Program are:

- ♪ To provide students with the opportunity to be part of the greater whole and know that each individual is equally important to the overall success of the group while remembering that we can do together what none of us can do alone.
- ♪ To work towards excellence in choral sound and interpretation, involving Energy, Freedom, Beauty, and Understanding, so as to create moving experiences for ourselves and others.
- ♪ To progress in individual and collective musical skills, including note reading, diction, memorization, and musical interpretation so that the students can experience the excitement of sharing musical gifts with others through performance.

Choral Repertoire

Students will sing a balanced diet of music! For example, students will perform music composed by today's working composers as well as music from the last 600 years (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic historical periods). The world's diversity will be celebrated by performing music from across the globe. Through rehearsing and performing the noblest choral repertoire, students' skills for both the large ensemble setting and one's individual voice will be developed and enhanced.

A Balanced Diet



*Great Repertoire
allows for
Great Music-Making!*

Sacred Music in Public Schools

In an effort to expand our musical experiences, the highest level of repertoire from the last 600 years will be studied and performed, including works, both sacred and secular, by master composers. To be sensitive to the diversity of our community, sacred pieces of multiple religions will be presented as works of art. For example, though Bach may have composed a cantata to be performed in a religious worship service, the purpose for its study and performance today in choir is different. Such works possess a historical significance and are present in our culture and public schools as works of art aside from their original intent. The meaning of the text of the sacred work is not the purpose of study, but rather the music is studied because it is worthy repertoire. Avoiding sacred music in choral singing may be similar to avoiding cathedrals in the study of architecture.

The Board, Administration, and staff respect all people and endeavor to be aware of the cultural and religious sensitivities that are related to the delivery of instruction and to the core curriculum. However, this awareness must not interfere with our obligation to teach about significant works of art. The following is extracted from the American Choral Directors Association policy set forth in December, 1993, Choral Journal:

“Any work of art studied or performed should be selected for its inherent beauty of structure and form. Its purpose in study should be learning for the sake of developing artistic understanding and responsiveness. Often artwork is related to a specific religious/cultural tradition. The study of such works of art can enhance one’s understanding and appreciation of a cultural product which a particular tradition has fostered.”

The Lincoln-Way North Music Department believes that music should not be selected for study and performance in the District 210 schools for the purpose of advancing or perpetuating a particular religious belief system. Rather, music should be selected first, on its own merits as an art form, and second, as a development of a particular movement in human civilization.



III. Grading

Choir is a curricular offering and, as such, choir students receive a grade at the end of each semester.

Semester grades will be calculated on the following percentage scale:

40% First Quarter Average

40% Second Quarter Average

20% Final Exam

Quarter Grades will be calculated on a points system:

♪ **Performance: 100 pts. Each**

This is a “Co-Curricular Performance-Based Music Class” meaning that all of the work done in class culminates in a public performance outside of the school day. If a student misses ANY performance for ANY reason, deductions will be incurred. The only absences for which a make-up assignment will be given for full credit are serious student illness or death in the family. This will be strictly enforced, so please pay attention to the “required for a grade” dates on the calendar and here in the syllabus.

♪ **Sectionals: 10 pts. each**

In addition to individual practice time students are expected to work with their section leader for a total of 30 minutes a week. **There will be NO individual make-up sectionals** since a practice session with 2-3 people defeats the point of a sectional rehearsal. The dates are for first and second semester and are listed on the calendar at lwnmusic.org. Section leaders are encouraged to schedule extra sectionals beyond those posted online that will not be graded.

♪ **Notebook: Various points per quarter**

There will be a notebook assignment every day of class. If a student misses the daily assignment for ANY reason, the student must get the assignment from the instructor or section leader. If an assignment is missing, the student will earn zero points for that entry.

♪ **Voice Hearing Assignments: 25 pts. each**

Every semester students may be asked to perform an individual voice hearing for their director. Voice hearings may consist of one or more of the following activities: perform an excerpt of a prepared piece, sing within a small ensemble, sight-sing with solfege, rhythmic counting and memory tests.

♪ **Daily Grades: various points**

♪ **Quizzes: various points**

♪ **Final Exam: 100 pts. Each**

DATES REQUIRED FOR A GRADE

10/13/2011	Fall Concert	7:00 PM
12/8/2011	Holiday Concert	7:00 PM
12/12/2011	Solstice Concert Rehearsal	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
12/13/2011	Solstice Concert	7:00 PM
2/17/2012	Winter Choir Workshop	3:00 PM – 8:00 PM
2/18/2012	Winter Choir Workshop Day 2	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
2/6/2012	“Step-up” Workshop and Concert	3:00 PM
3/6/2012	Winter Concert	7:00 PM
3/9/2012	Institute Senior Luncheon (Chorale only)	mid-day
5/16/2012	Spring Concert Rehearsal	3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
5/17/2012	Spring Concert	7:00 PM
6/4/2012	Graduation (’12-’13 Chorale members)	TBD

Chorale: Honors Course Distinction

Being in Chorale gives a student honors credit, so with that being the case, extra work beyond what is listed in the grading policy is included in the curriculum to justify the grade.

Writing Assignments:

Each student will complete one writing assignment per quarter. Assignments will be distributed with the unit plan at the beginning of each quarter.

♪ Vocal Music Appreciation Assignment (Quarters 1 and 3):

Students will be required to focus on a particular aspect of vocal music appreciation and write a brief paper on what they have learned. More information will be distributed at the beginning of the quarter.

♪ Patron of the Arts Assignment (Quarters 2 and 4):

Each student will be required to attend and review one musical performance other than his/her own, i.e. LWN band, other high school music ensembles, musical theatre, recitals, opera, symphony, etc. The only requirement is that the student is NOT PERFORMING on the same concert. To receive full credit, the student must turn in a program and a full one-page review (NOT A CRITQUE) of the performance.

Individual Singing Grades:

Individual assessments of the student's musical accuracy will take place throughout the year. Every student will complete one assessment per semester.

Fall Semester: IMEA Audition Preparation

Each student will prepare the selected IMEA music to meet the IMEA music audition requirements. IMEA stands for the Illinois Music Educators Association. Every fall, IMEA holds a district wide audition to select students for a District Choir, Band, and Orchestra. We will be holding a "mock" audition at North for a grade to meet the honors component of our class. All students who receive an 80% or higher will participate in the official district audition on Tuesday, October 11th.

Spring Semester: Solo and Ensemble Contest

Each student will be required to prepare a solo for the third quarter individual singing assessment. Students will have the opportunity to sing their solo for the class if they wish. All students who receive a I or a II on their solo will participate in the L-W Solo and Ensemble Contest on Saturday, March 3rd. The top three soloists (based on the solo score) will be featured on the Spring Choir Concert.

IV. Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all performances. Failure to attend a required event (performance, concert, dress rehearsal, festival) without a valid, written excuse via the Absence Request Form (available from the director or at www.lwnmusic.org), fully explaining the absence will result in the lowering of the student's grade. Punctuality also impacts grades. A written note via the Absence Request Form, fully explaining the absence must be received at least one month prior to the event in order for the excuse to be considered. Phone and e-mail messages to the director regarding student absences are appreciated but do not suffice as written communication or request for excusal. For an absence request to be considered, it must be submitted via the Absence Request Form. Submitting the Absence Request Form does not automatically excuse a student. Upon notification of an absence via the Absence Request Form, the director will acknowledge on the form that the absence is either Excused or Unexcused. An excused absence means that the student has an opportunity to make up the grade in the form of an alternative assignment. In the case of an unexcused absence, the student is not given the opportunity to make up the event, and the student's grade will be lowered. In the case of an excused absence, failure to successfully fulfill the make-up assignment will cause the absence to be graded as unexcused.

Please be respectful of our musical team and do not offer excuses at the last minute. Open communication is essential, and last minute excuses may not be greeted with high degrees of cooperation or assistance.

Conflicts that are not valid may include: club athletics, family vacations, booked airline flights, community activities, college visits, work schedules, babysitting, lack of transportation, forgetting, etc. Absences for these reasons will not be excused and will result in a lowered grade. Make-up work for such excuses may not be available.

V. Conduct

Students will respect their choir, the music department, and Lincoln-Way North High School at all times. Choir students are expected to display conduct of the highest caliber during daily rehearsals, dress rehearsals, performances, festivals, contests, field trips, or any activity associated with choir. No gum, food or drink (except water) is allowed in the choir room. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action, a lowered quarter grade, and/or removal from choir with a failing grade.

Membership in choir is truly a privilege. Each member must take the responsibility to be positive and be interested in working hard for the betterment of the entire ensemble. Students who, by their actions, display that they are not interested in putting forth such effort jeopardize both their grade and their membership in choir.

VI. Concert Attire and Class Materials

Tuxedos and Concert Dresses

Women in Chorale and Concert Choir will rent a black gown from the music department. Men in Chorale will rent a tuxedo from the music department and will be required to purchase a tuxedo shirt. There will be a \$10 dry cleaning fee for tuxes and gowns. Singers will be measured in class for sizing, and the attire will be provided before the first concert. Men will provide black dress shoes (and black socks); women will provide black dress shoes (low heels).

Choir Robes

Members of Mixed Choir will be fitted for and assigned a school choir robe and stole for use in performance. After each performance, all singers must neatly return their robes and stoles to their hanger, in order. Robes must be zipped and the stole design should face outward when returned to the hanger. Students will be held accountable for the care of their robe and stole. Any student who does not properly re-hang the robe/stole will receive a lowered performance grade. Should any robe or stole be torn, stained, or experience any other damage, the assigned student will be held liable for the expense of its repair and/or cleaning.

All Singers

Long hair should be pulled back out of the eyes and face; no athletic shoes or the like; no perfume, no cologne, no heavily scented hair applications; and no jewelry that can be seen outside the robes "Concert Black" to wear under the Robes or when Robes are not worn:

Women: conservative length black dress or skirt (below the knee or longer) or long black dress pants, conservative black top with at least 3/4 -length sleeves (no low-cut, etc), black dress shoes (low heels/flats, no high heels, bricks or flip-flops)

Men: black dress pants, black button-down dress shirt (no tie or coat), black dress shoes (no street shoes), dark socks

Class Materials:

Music folder, a three ring binder with dividers and loose-leaf paper, pencil, and one box of tissues (Chorale and Mixed)/one roll of paper towels (Concert).

The music folder and its contents are provided by the school.

If a student loses the folder, the replacement fee is \$50.00.



VII. Private Voice Lessons

Our Voice Instructor offers private voice lessons to choir students during the school day. At the onset of the year, students will be asked about their interest in studying privately. Arrangements of schedule and payment are done through each instructor. Private voice study is highly recommended as voice lessons develop the vocal instrument, build confidence and enhance the choral experience. Though not a requirement for membership in select ensembles and upper level choirs, voice lessons will greatly improve a singer's range and vocal control.

Selina Prasad, Mezzo-soprano
selinamprasad@yahoo.com
(815)469-0224

VIII. Student Leadership Teams

Each choir will have a student leadership team, or choir officers, who assist the director and act as liaison between the ensemble and the director. The officers meet on a consistent basis scheduled at the beginning of the year. Positions are voted on by each ensemble. At the beginning of the school year, students will have the opportunity to run for a leadership position. They will prepare a brief statement to be made in front of the class. Then, students will vote to select the members of the Leadership Team.

IX. Music Tech Lab and Practice Rooms

Music Tech Lab

The Music Department of Lincoln-Way North High School is fortunate to offer music students the opportunity to work within the Music Tech lab. The Music Tech lab is outfitted with individual workstations which allow students to learn music theory, develop aural skills, compose music, print music of publishable quality, and numerous other music enhancements. To preserve this quality facility the below guidelines have been established.

Guidelines:

- ♪ Computers may only be used under supervision of music faculty.
- ♪ No food or drink allowed in the lab.
- ♪ Only district purchased software may be used.
- ♪ Ask permission to print.
- ♪ Ask permission to download.
- ♪ Music Seminar, Music Tech, and piano students have priority to the workstations.
- ♪ Computers are ONLY to be used for musical work (no email, social networking, or web surfing).

Practice Rooms

The Music Department of Lincoln-Way North High School is fortunate to have several practice rooms equipped with pianos and keyboards.

Guidelines:

- ♪ No food or drink allowed in the practice rooms.
- ♪ No equipment may be removed without consent of instructor or director.
- ♪ Practice rooms are for practice ONLY, no socializing.
- ♪ When using the practice rooms the light must be on.
- ♪ Private instructors have priority to the practice rooms.
- ♪ Practice rooms are for music students only unless special permission has been granted.

X. Extra-Curricular Ensembles, Festivals, and Opportunities

- ♪ **Madrigal Singers** is an auditioned, mixed ensemble made up of 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. They perform advanced music from the Renaissance period as well as more contemporary music at the Annual madrigal Dinners. Membership in Choir is required. Attendance at summer camp is required as well as rehearsals during the school year (mainly Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5:00 PM). There are numerous required performances in addition to the dinners. Auditions are held in the spring semester and membership is limited to 18 singers. **Madrigal Ladies** is an auditioned, treble ensemble made up of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. They perform advanced music from the Renaissance period as well as more contemporary music at the Annual madrigal Dinners. Members must be music department students. Attendance at rehearsals during the school year (mainly Mondays and Thursdays from 3-5:00 PM) is required. There are numerous required performances in addition to the dinners. Auditions are held in the spring and fall semesters and membership is limited to 20 singers. **Troubadours** is an auditioned, male ensemble made up of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. They perform advanced music from the Renaissance period as well as more contemporary music at the Annual madrigal Dinners. Members must be music department students. Attendance at rehearsals during the school year (mainly Mondays from 3-5:00 PM) is required. There are numerous required performances in addition to the dinners. Auditions are held in the spring and fall semesters. **TROUBADOUR AUDITIONS: MONDAY, AUGUST 29TH. Madrigal Dinners** also require casting of the several actors. Auditions for these roles will take place in September and rehearsals will start in October. In addition to these dramatic roles, there is a need for technical help and servers for the meal. Community service hours and dinner will be given for serving at the Madrigal Dinner. **ACTOR AUDITIONS: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.**
- ♪ **The Spring Musical** is an incredible performance experience that provides experience in music, dance, and drama. Rehearsals for musical chorus members are held Thursdays from 6-8:30 as well as selected Saturdays. If students are cast as a featured dancer, they will be required to be at rehearsal on Thursdays from 6-8:30 as well as Tuesdays 3-5:30. If students are cast in leading roles, they will be required to be at all rehearsals, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The title of the musical will be announced before Winter Break. **AUDITIONS ARE JANUARY 9TH – JANUARY 12TH.**
- ♪ **Golden Girls** is a women's ensemble made up of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders and is open to any LWN student. They perform a variety of repertoire from the popular genre. Attendance at weekly rehearsals is required (1st semester Thursdays 3:05 – 3:30, 2nd semester Thursdays, 3:05-4:00). The group will perform at the Fall, Winter Spring Choir Concerts. **FIRST MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 25TH.**
- ♪ **Acafellaz** is a men's ensemble made up of 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders and is open to any LWN student. They perform a variety of repertoire from the popular genre. Attendance at weekly rehearsals is required (Thursdays, 3:05-4:00). The group will perform at the Spring Music Concert. **FIRST MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH.**

Festivals and Opportunities

- ♪ **Participation in the District Choir Festival** (and All-State Festival) is a prestigious and highly sought after achievement by high school musicians. Preparation involves a great deal of individual work and preparation. Auditions are held outside of the school day on October 11th (transportation will be provided). The festival is led by a guest conductor of the highest caliber. IMEA Concert Festival, November 19th, all day.
- ♪ **District 210 Solo & Ensemble Festival** (open to all grades), Winter season, by audition/director permission. Students will prepare a solo or small ensemble entirely outside of class. A minimum number of sessions must be held with the director in order to participate. At the Festival, a clinician will work with students in 15 minute master class sessions. An accompanist fee should be expected. District 210 Solo & Ensemble Festival will be held Saturday, March 3rd throughout the day at Lincoln-Way North HS.

LWN Choral Music – 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

****Events in bold are required.****

August, 2011

29 Incoming Troubadour Auditions, 3:30 PM

September, 2011

9 Madrigal Actor Auditions, 3:30 PM

15 Madrigal Parent Meeting, 7:00 PM

October, 2011

11 IMEA District Auditions, after school

13 Fall Concert, 7:00 PM

November, 2011

19 IMEA District Festival, details TBA

December, 2011

1-3 Madrigal Dinners

8 Holiday Concert, 7:00 PM

12 Solstice Concert Rehearsal, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

13 Solstice Concert, 7:00 PM

January, 2012

9-12 Spring Musical Auditions

23 Musical Parent Meeting

February, 2012

6 “Step-up” Workshop and Concert, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

17 Winter Choir Workshop, 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM

18 Winter Choir Workshop (Chorale/Concert), 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

March, 2012

3 LW Solo and Ensemble Contest, all day at Lincoln-Way North

6 Winter Concert, 7:00 PM

9 Institute Senior Luncheon (Chorale only), mid-day

15 SWSC Choir Festival (Concert only), field trip

April, 2012

26-28 Spring Musical, 7:00 PM

May, 2012

16 Spring Concert Rehearsal, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

17 Spring Concert, 7:00 PM

18 Jazz Coffeehouse Concert, 7:00 PM

19 Music Honors Banquet

June, 2012

4 Graduation ('12-'13 Chorale members), Time TBD

Please note: this is not a complete list of all music department events and performances. Please see www.lwnmusic.org for a complete listing.

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Lincoln-Way North High School Choir

After reading this handbook in its entirety, please detach, complete, and return this page by **Friday, August 26th**. Students must have this completed page on file with their director before being allowed to participate in a concert.

Check Your Choir:

___ Chorale, 1st hour ___ Mixed Choir, 4th hour ___ Concert Choir, 7th hour

I have read the Choir Handbook in its entirety, agree to be responsible for the information contained within it, and have marked my home calendar with all required events. I understand the ramifications of missing a required event. I understand the expectations and my responsibilities in choir and am willing to live up to them.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

We will include your e-mail in the LWN music department and choir listserv to be distributed to music students and families only with reminders and updates.

Student E-mail Address (print neatly):

Parent E-mail Address (print neatly):
