

LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHORAL DEPARTMENT



LIBERTY CHOIR
MADISON, ALABAMA

2024-2025
HANDBOOK

Liberty Choir Students & Parents,

On behalf of our administration and faculty, I gladly welcome you to the Liberty Middle School Choral Department. I am excited about this school year and the many opportunities and experiences that await us. This school year will be filled with wonderful music making, engaged learning about music, and excellence in creating music that we will perform. I believe your involvement in choir will be rewarding. You will sharpen your music skills and deepen your appreciation of the culture around us. I expect that you will have an enjoyable time being part of this organization, which continues to build a tradition of superior performance and musical excellence. Music is an integral part of education. Music awakens imagination, opens the mind and activates the body. I believe vocal music training has merit for all learners. I am committed to helping all students gain organizational and study skills to help them be independent learners, to learn to ask well thought out questions and express themselves creatively. Music can also strengthen self- discipline, dedication, commitment, teamwork, and determination. In choir, we will learn to work together highlighting our strengths and work to improve our weaknesses.

This handbook is provided to be a resource of information about the procedures and requirements for being in choir. I encourage both students and parents to read this handbook so that you may better understand policies, regulations and what is expected of you as a member and parent of the choir. I also recommend looking things up in the handbook when a question arises.

Parents!! Your support is crucial to the success of the choral department! I highly encourage you to be involved in the many different facets of our choral program.

I am looking forward to working with each one of you. Your talents and hard work can make this year at Liberty very exciting, fun-filled, and musically rewarding for all of us!

Please also follow us on social media! We are on Facebook and Instagram!
@lmschoirmadison

Sincerely,
Mr. Stacy Daniels - Choral Music Director

DIRECTOR INFORMATION

Mr. Stacy Daniels M.M. Ed, Director

sddaniels@madison.k12.al.us

281 Dock Murphy Drive

Madison, Alabama 35758

256-430-0001

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

JUSTICE SINGERS

The Justice Singers is an **un-auditioned** ensemble that is open to **all sixth grade students** at Liberty Middle School. In this class, students are introduced to singing fundamentals, sight-singing, and music theory. This choir performs in the LMS Veterans Day Program, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and State Choral Performance Assessment. Students are also heavily encouraged to participate in events such as Madison County Honor Choir, UAB Honor Choir, and the Alabama ACDA Young Voices Festival. Students may also elect to participate in our annual Spring choir trip.

FREEDOM SINGERS

The Freedom Singers is an **un-auditioned** ensemble that is open to **all new and returning seventh and eighth grade males** at Liberty Middle School. In this class, students will engage in continuing to strengthen their vocal technique, music theory knowledge, and intermediate/advanced sight-singing skills. Students will sing and perform a wide variety of many different types of music. This choir performs in the LMS Veterans Day Program, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and State Choral Performance Assessment. Students are also heavily encouraged to participate in events such as Madison County Honor Choir, UAB Honor

Choir, and the Alabama All-State Choral Festival. Students may also elect to participate in our annual Spring choir trip.

LIBERTY SINGERS

The Liberty Singers is an **un-auditioned** ensemble that is **open to all new and returning seventh and eighth grade females** at Liberty Middle School. This class will focus on expanding vocal range and technique, music theory, and sight-singing. Students will sing and perform a wide variety of many different types of music. This choir performs in the LMS Veterans Day Program, Winter Concert, Spring Concert, and State Choral Performance Assessment. Students are also heavily encouraged to participate in events such as Madison County Honor Choir, UAB Honor Choir, and the Alabama All-State Choral Festival. Students may also elect to participate in our annual Spring choir trip.

MATERIALS

Each student a part of the Liberty Choir will need to have the following **EVERYDAY** in class:

- One 1 inch binder - any color, clear cover
- Pencil pouch (3 ring)
- Pencils (mechanical or No. 2)
- Highlighters (yellow, orange, pink, blue)
- Loose Leaf wide ruled paper
- School issued Chromebook - charged

Wish List

- Kleenex tissue
- Clorox Wipes
- Paper Towels
- Expo or dry erase markers and erasers
- Copy Paper (white and other colors)
- Hand sanitizer

FEEES

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

There are some costs associated with choir membership. We do not receive ANY 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"

<https://madisoncityval.csiepay.com/Views/Payment/Pay.aspx?pageid=fb5c653c-d5ee-4ba7-90ee-94fbb7f69161>

Checks should be made payable to Liberty Middle School with a phone number and driver's license number on it. All monies for fees, uniforms, and other events must be placed in a designated locked money box in the choral classroom.

Students will place money in a provided envelope (or may bring it in envelope from home) with the following information: Student Name (First & Last), Amount of \$, Date, What it is for.

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

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| Music/Textbooks/Online Programs | \$20.00 |
| State Festival Entry Fee | \$3.00 |
| Bus Transportation to Required Festivals | \$6.00 |

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| Printing and copying | \$4.00 |
| Accompanist, subs, professional development/continuing education, national organization dues. | \$7.00 |
| 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.).

FUNDRAISING

There are several opportunities to raise money to offset extra expenses. Students in the Liberty Middle School Choir are encouraged to participate in the fundraising programs. The choral department will run ONE fundraiser each semester. The choral department will also host spirit nights at local restaurants regularly.

Monies raised will pay for portions of the activities, programs, in school trips, performances, and materials needed to operate and maintain a flourishing choir program.

The monies earned through fundraising belong to the Choir Program. Should your student leave the choir department, the monies earned through fundraising opportunities will remain with the Choir Program. Money earned through fundraising is not refundable for any reason.

All fundraising monies not applied to students will be utilized for the purchase of music, equipment, furniture, and other choir related items that Mr. Daniels (with the approval of the principal and bookkeeper) feels directly or indirectly increases the

success of the choir program. If a student damages or loses fundraising merchandise, he/she is required to pay for its replacement.

UNIFORM INFORMATION

Each student in the Liberty Choir will need to purchase a choir t-shirt. T-shirts are \$12.00.

Informal Uniform - Choir t- shirt (required), jeans, and tennis shoes - ALL CHOIRS

Justice Singers - FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM

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|---|--|
| <p>OPTION 1 (boys)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Black long sleeve button down dress shirt (tucked in)● Black dress pants● Black dress socks● Black belt | <p>OPTION 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Solid black dress (school appropriate)● Solid black non-see through tights (if dress is shorter than floor length) |
| <p>OPTION 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Solid black formal blouse (with sleeves)● Black dress pants● Black dress socks | <p>OPTION 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Solid black formal blouse (with sleeves)● Black skirt (school appropriate)● Solid black non-see through tights (if skirt is shorter than floor length) |

Required Shoes: Formal black dress shoes (closed toes) - provided by student/parent

UNACCEPTABLE DRESS (formal uniform)

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

Freedom Singers - FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM

Provided by student/parent

- Black long sleeve button down dress shirt (tucked in)
- Black dress pants
- Black dress socks
- Black belt
- Formal black dress shoes (closed toes)
- Orange necktie (ordered through Choral Department - \$15)

UNACCEPTABLE DRESS (formal uniform)

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

Liberty Singers - FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORM

- Black choral dress (Ordered by the choral department for discount price- cost to keep \$50.00 - make checks payable to Liberty Middle School or pay online)
- Black dress shoes-no sneakers (student/parent must provide)
 - Low heel is recommended for comfort
 - No open toed or open heeled shoes
 - No tennis shoes

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Enter classroom quietly
 - Respect EVERYONE
- Respect classroom materials
 - Respect classroom equipment (piano, technology, etc.)
 - Do not touch classroom equipment without permission
 - Place binder in assigned slot
- No food, drinks (only water), or gum allowed in the choir room
 - NO CELL PHONES unless instructed to use by Mr. Daniels

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 - 20 points)

- Have all materials at the assigned seat at the start of class. Binder with paper, handouts, pencil, Chromebook, etc.
- Follow behavior expectations - no gum chewing, no distractions - stay on task, talking with permission, no food in the classroom.
- Follow instruction expectations with a positive attitude - showing consistent effort in rehearsal.

WRITTEN WORK (Daily)

Grades vary according to assignment

- Bell Work/Journal Writing
- Music Theory Worksheets, Performance Evaluations, Other
- Written Assignments/Reports/Projects/Quizzes

CONCERT & PERFORMANCE (Assessments)

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. The Holiday and Spring Concerts are **MANDATORY!! Each concert is 400 points and will serve as a student's final exam for Winter and Spring concerts.**

As part of our Alabama Course of Study, mandated by the state board of education, choir students must be provided with performance opportunities. This means that performances are a required part of the curriculum for a choir class; therefore, **performances and concerts are graded** and considered to be co-curricular, not extra-curricular. Please mark all choir performance dates on your calendar now in order to avoid conflicts.

Eligibility Requirements to Participate in Concert/Performances/Off Campus Events

- Turn in permission slip by deadline
- Attend dress rehearsal (arrive on time and leave on time)
- Meet all behavior expectations during rehearsal (3 strikes you're 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 school event,

doctors appt., funeral, etc.). We will do everything in our power to create a win-win situation for each of our students.

- **The only absences from concerts and performances that will be excused are: Illness, Death in the family, or LMS sponsored event or program with approval. Students will FAIL the class for the nine weeks/semester if they have an unexcused absence for the concert.**
- If a student is granted an excused absence an email must be sent to the director at least **72 hours** in advance (if possible) of the concert date. Students will be given one of the alternate assignments to receive credit. Those include: perform concert repertoire for the director individually, write papers on a certain musical topic, take a written test on certain aspects of concert repertoire, or other assignments in which the director deems necessary.

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
- Acting appropriately in audience when other choirs are performing

HONOR CHOIRS & FESTIVALS

These events are open to all Liberty Choir students and are **OPTIONAL**. Students are encouraged to participate in these events. These events will require participation fees

such as registration, festival fees, hotel, meals, etc. Information will be provided for students interested in participating closer to the time of the event.

Madison County Honor Choir - ALL students

The Madison County Honor Choir Festival is a one day annual festival which provides choral students in Madison City, Madison County, and area private and home schools an opportunity to rehearse and perform together under a nationally recognized choral conductor.

UAB Honor Choir - Liberty and Freedom Singers only

A one day event where students will rehearse and perform in a professionally recorded concert under the direction of a well-known choral conductor and clinician. Students will have the opportunity to visit the UAB campus and perform in the Alys Stephens Center Concert Hall.

Alabama All- State Choir - Liberty and Freedom Singers only

The All-State Choral Festival is a three-day event that culminates in a professionally recorded concert. The Festival is an opportunity for students with outstanding ability and initiative to receive public recognition, to sing under the direction of nationally recognized choral clinicians, and to perform choral literature of the highest quality. The festival is held annually in Birmingham at the BJCC.

ACDA Young Voices Festival - Justice Singers only

The Alabama ACDA Young Voices Festival is a unique opportunity for 4th-9th grade public school, homeschool, community, and church choir students in the state of Alabama. The Young Voices Festival offers choral students a challenging opportunity to perform advanced choral literature under the direction of nationally recognized music educators. The festival is held at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

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 perform or participate in choir activities.**
- Pay fee/expenses on time
- Help with fundraisers /Donate needed items
- Come to all choir parent meetings
- Make effort to attend all choir concerts/events
- Join Liberty Choir Parents Association
- **Drop student off on time (rehearsals/performances)**
 - **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 Mr. Daniels to inform him with tardy situations.**

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Please consider volunteering with the Liberty Choral Parents Association. Your support is greatly appreciated and truly helps the Liberty Choral Program.

- **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>

The LCPA is currently seeking parent volunteers to serve on various teams. If you are interested in serving, click the button below to fill out and submit the Choir Parent Volunteer form. **Filling out this form doesn't commit you to anything. It simply lets us know who is interested.**

[Choir Parent Volunteer Form](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@lmschoirmadison

Liberty Middle School Choir



Liberty Middle School

281 Dock Murphy Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758

CHOIR (ALL LEVELS)

Mr. Stacy Daniels ~ Choral Music Director

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|--|---|
| Teacher Contact Information | Email: sddaniels@madisoncity.k12.al.us Classroom Phone: 256-430-0001 ext. |
| Classroom Digital Platforms | Webpage Link: Schoology Link: https://madisoncity.schoology.com/ |
| Textbook Information | N/A |
| 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-three 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, Rounds, Partner Songs/Classroom Protocol and Procedures Unit 2: Sight Singing/ Posture Unit 3: Vocal Technique/Vowel Production Unit 4: Rhythmic Counting Unit 5: Patriotic Literature Unit 6: All County Festival Literature Unit 7: Winter Concert Literature Unit 8: State Choral Performance Assessment Literature Unit 9: Spring Concert Literature |
| Classroom Expectations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings. Students tardy more than three times to class will receive a detention per LMS policy. 2. Come prepared for class. Bring all necessary supplies/materials to your seat. 3. Respect your teacher, your classmates, and yourself. 4. Listen and follow directions. 5. If it's not yours, don't touch it. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. If you break something of mine, be prepared to replace it. This also applies to school technology. 6. Follow all school rules. 7. The teacher dismisses the class, not the bell. |
| Progressive Discipline (LMS Policy) | Step 1: Verbal warning Step 2: Student/teacher conference |

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| | <p>Step 3: Parent contact/conference</p> <p>Step 4: Detention and a parent contact</p> <p>Step 5: Office referral</p> |
| Grading Policy <i>(MCS Policy)</i> | <p>60% = Assessments (Tests, Concerts, Performances, Projects)</p> <p>40% = Daily Grades (Quizzes, Homework, Classwork, and Rehearsal Techniques)</p> |
| Late Work Policy | Work turned in after the due date will be added to the gradebook upon <u>student written request</u> only. Students will have up to three days after absence to receive credit. |
| 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. 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. |
| Materials & Supplies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One 1 inch binder - clear cover - Pencil pouch (3 ring) - Pencils (mechanical or No. 2) - Highlighters (yellow, orange, pink, or blue) - Loose-leaf wide ruled paper - School issued Chromebook - charged |
| 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 complete it for homework. |
| Parent & Student Acknowledgment Form | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate questions, comments and/or concerns via email, text, call and/or written note (before deadlines). • Sign and return documents by deadline (students who do not turn in signed documentation will not be permitted to perform) • 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) |

This syllabus is subject to change.