

**LAKE BRANTLEY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PATRIOT CHORUS**  
**HANDBOOK**  
**2018-19**



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Facebook Group: Lake Brantley High School Chorus

Twitter: @ChorusLbhs

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the Lake Brantley High School PATRIOT CHORUS!! I am excited that you have chosen to be a part of our family. We are looking forward to a year full of excitement, activity and successes that can only be achieved by YOU! Students' participation in this program will help them become more knowledgeable as singers and musicians. In addition, they will become well-rounded individuals by learning discipline and compassion.

This handbook will outline the expectations, procedures, and overall information about the choral program at Lake Brantley High School. It is important that you read **ALL** of the information carefully. After reading the handbook, please complete the Handbook Agreement found under the Handbook and Forms section of [patriotchorus.org](http://patriotchorus.org) - this requires a parent/guardian signature and a student signature. Both of these forms must be submitted in the **choir room, by Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2018**. This information will be a crucial step for the success of the upcoming school year.

Chorus will allow students to develop skills and have learning experiences that will be useful in any endeavor they pursue. The Choral Department seeks to provide a musical outlet for any student at Lake Brantley High School, regardless of their musical background or any other consideration. Music is a vital part of a complete education and participation in the choirs at Lake Brantley High School can provide students with educational, creative, and social experiences. Music literacy, music history and music theory are an integral part of the curriculum, as well as a high standard of performance.

A chorus class requires cooperation among a large team of musicians working together toward a common goal. Chorus involves responsibility to the group. Success is assured if the student desires to learn, the parents and student understand what is required for success, and the parents share responsibility for the music education of their child. Most important, chorus students will experience the **joy of accomplishment**.

Students, you are now part of an organization that requires dedication, hard work, and a commitment to excellence. These are the ingredients for success. This handbook was written for you so that the Lake Brantley High School Choral Department can work as efficiently and smoothly as possible. It will give you the tools necessary to make a solid contribution.

**Carefully** read the handbook so that you are aware of the rules and expectations. Please do not hesitate to ask questions.

Please note that the chorus calendar is included in this handbook, it will be handed out in class and will be available online at [www.patriotchorus.org](http://www.patriotchorus.org). Students are responsible for the dates listed in the calendar. I anticipate a great year of creating music together!

Sincerely,

Mr. Nick Powers

Choral Director, Lake Brantley High School

# Table of Contents

Letter to Parents/Guardians and Students	2
Table of Contents	3
Patriot Calendar	4
Chorus Structure and Classroom Rules	5
Discipline Plan/Cyber Bullying/Classroom Procedures	6
Classroom Procedures Continued/Grading Policies	7
Performance Policy/Weekly Points Rubric	8
Supply Cost/Uniform Policy	9
FAQs/Concert Etiquette	10
Patriot Chorus Events	11

# Patriot Chorus Calendar 2018-19

S = Spectrum, B = Belissima, PS = Patriot Singers, VF = Voices of Freedom, P = Patriot Pride, T = Treble Voices

Event dates and times are subject to change

Date	Event	Time	Personnel	Location
8/15	D.C. Payment Due			
8/23	Candlelight Workshop with Mrs. Fox	6:15-8:30pm	S, B, PS, VF	Chorus Room
8/27	D.C. Parent Meeting	7pm		Community Room
8/29	Candlelight Rehearsal	1:30-3:30pm	S, B, PS, VF	Chorus Room
9/5	<b>Candlelight Taping</b>	1:30-3:00pm	<b>S, B, PS, VF</b>	TBD
9/8	Spectrum Workshop	9am-11am	S	Chorus Room
9/8	Bellissima Workshop	noon-2pm	B	Chorus Room
9/8	Officer Workshop	2:30-4:30pm	Officers	Chorus Room
9/15	D.C. Payment Due			
9/22	All-State Musicianship Testing	8am-noon		TBD
<b>10/2</b>	<b>Fall Concert Dress Rehearsal</b>	<b>6-8:30pm</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Chorus Room</b>
<b>10/4</b>	<b>Fall Concert - One Sound, One Voice</b>	<b>7pm (5pm)</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Annunciation CC</b>
10/2	All-State Vocal Quality Testing	8am-noon		TBD
10/15	D.C. Payment Due			
10/24-10/25	Pancake Breakfast Solo Auditions	5-8pm		
11/3	Pancake Breakfast Set-Up	10am-1pm	Officers +	TBD
<b>11/4</b>	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b>	<b>8am-1pm</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>TBD</b>
11/8	Veterans Day Concert (with Band)	7pm (5pm)	S, B	
11/15	D.C. Payment Due			
December	Caroling and Candlelight TBD	TBD	TBD	Disney
12/6	Hanukkah Latke Party Plus	7pm (6:30pm)	B	CRJ
<b>12/13</b>	<b>Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal</b>	<b>6-8:30pm</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Chorus Room</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>7pm (5pm)</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Annunciation CC</b>
12/21	Carols at the Springs	7pm (5pm)	S, B, PS, VF	Wekiwa State Park
1/9-1/12	All-State		By Audition	Tampa, FL
1/14	D.C. Payment Due			
TBD	Auditorium Opening Concert	TBD	TBD	Auditorium
1/23	Solo and Ensemble Workshops	5-8pm		Chorus Room
1/29	Workshop with Sylvester Otieno from Kenya	7am-5pm	S, B, PS	Timber Creek HS
2/1	Solo and Ensemble	TBD	By Audition	
2/14	Final D.C. Payment Due			
<b>2/26</b>	<b>PreMPA</b>	<b>7pm (5pm)</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>3/6-3/9</b>	<b>MPA (Music Performance Assessment)</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>First Baptist DeLand</b>
3/14-3/19	Washington DC Trip			
<b>4/6</b>	<b>B.o.B. Intensive</b>	<b>9:30am-2:30pm</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
4/17	Dear Evan Hansen Trip	7:30pm (4pm)		Dr. Phillips Center
<b>4/27</b>	<b>B.o.B. Tech Day</b>	<b>10am-4pm</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>4/29 + 4/30</b>	<b>B.o.B. Dress Rehearsals</b>	<b>2:30-6pm</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
4/30	Teague Concert Tear Down and BoB set-up		Officers +	Auditorium
<b>5/1</b>	<b>B.o.B. Dress Rehearsal</b>	<b>1:30-5:30</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>5/2-5/3</b>	<b>Brantley on Broadway!!</b>	<b>7pm (6pm)</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>5/4</b>	<b>Brantley on Broadway!!</b>	<b>4pm (3pm)</b>	<b>ALL REQUIRED</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
5/14	Senior Celebration	6:30pm	Seniors	TBD
5/15	Anastasia Trip	7:30pm (4pm)		Dr. Phillips Center
5/24	Graduation	TBD	Seniors	UCF

# Chorus Structure

The LBHS Choral program is split into 6 classes, though some classes perform together at different times throughout the year.

## 1 Patriot Pride

Lower Voices in 9th -12th grade, no audition

## 2 Treble Voices

Higher Voices in 9th-12th grade, no audition

## 3 Spectrum Chamber Choir

Mixed Voices in 10th-12th grade, auditioned

## 5 Patriot Singers

Mixed Voices in 9th -12th grade, auditioned

## 6 Voices of Freedom

Higher Voices in 9th-12th grade, auditioned

## 7 Bellissima Chamber Choir

Higher Voices in the 10th-12th grade, auditioned

# Classroom Rules

## BE POLITE

- Respect yourself, your fellow students and your teacher.
- Limit talking to appropriate times and raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged
- Do not bring food or drink (other than water) into the chorus room without permission
- Do not enter the director's office, practice rooms, music library or uniform storage room without permission.
- Use cell phones and other devices only at appropriate times.

## BE PROMPT

- Come to class on time – that means in your seat ready to warm-up when the tardy bell rings.
- Come to after school rehearsals and performances on time. Remember the adage, to be early is to be on time and to be on time is to be late.
- Make arrangements to be picked up in a timely manner after rehearsals and performances.

## BE PREPARED

- Bring a pencil to class...every day!
- Keep your notebook in order.
- If necessary, prepare your music outside of class.
- Bring everything you need to a performance– music and complete uniform!

# Discipline Plan

First offense – Verbal warning

Second offense – DETENTION, phone call to parent/guardian

Third offense – REFERRAL

*Please note that violations of the Seminole County Public Schools Discipline Code will result in disciplinary action as dictated by School Board policy.*

## Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Policy

In addition to the punishment dictated by the SCPS Discipline Code, students who engage in confirmed bullying and/or cyber-bullying will be unable to perform at the next two LBHS Chorus performances. A repeat offense will result in that student transferring to a non-performance based curriculum for the remainder of the school year. This type of behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form.

## Chorus Classroom Procedures

**Belongings** - Put belongings on designated backpack tables- make sure you have anything you may need for the entire class because you will not be able to access belongings until the end bell rings. All lotion, make-up and electronic devices are not permitted during chorus class. Electronic devices must not be used to check the time. You may charge devices at the charging stations on the backpack tables.

**Pencils** - Make sure to have a pencil everyday (**even if we don't use it**). If you forgot your pencil, please borrow one from the folder cabinets and take before class begins. Make sure to put it back where you found it at the end of class.

**Sheet Music** - Grab your binder before the period begins. Be ready in your seat with your music, pencil and anything you may need **BY THE BELL**. © Please put your binder away in the correct slot.

**LBHS Rules** - Follow all school rules including the LBHS dress code.

**Dismissal** - When the bell rings, wait for Mr. Powers to release you. Make sure to check that your surroundings are clean and that your folder is put away.

**Restroom** - Use between classes. If you must use the restroom, only one student is permitted to leave at a time. Do not use during a song or lecture. Get up quietly, fill out restroom log with designated student. Take official hall pass, be prompt and sign back in.

**Tissues/Hand Sanitizer** - Do not ask, just get up to use.

**Clinic** - Raise your hand and Mr. Powers will write a clinic pass.

# Chorus Classroom Procedures Continued

**Any dire emergency (about to vomit, about to have an accident, bloody nose, etc.)** - Take care of business as soon as you can. There is no need to raise your hand for real emergencies.

**Forgot folder** - Share with neighbor

**Turning in Paperwork** - Turn in all paperwork at the front of the room in the FORM FOLDER.

**Turning in Money** - Please turn in money in the safe in Mr. Powers' office in a LABELED envelope.

**Rehearsal Procedures** - It is important to listen to directions when you are cut off from singing. That is not the time to have a conversation, EVEN if your intentions are awesome. Always mark your music with a pencil to remember the concepts we rehearsed. Always use hand signs when possible. When your section is not singing, figure out a spot to improve upon or listen to the conductor because what he or she is saying may apply to your section as well.

## LBHS READING AND WRITING INITIATIVES

As part of our school wide focus on reading and writing, Chorus students will be working with the lyrics of choral repertoire as poetry and working to describe music using correct musical terminology. Assignments will include persuasive essays, compare and contrast essays and paraphrasing of poetry.

## Grading Policy

The choral program has very high expectations for its students. It is my wish that EVERY student is successful in these classes. Therefore, it is important to review the expectations for grades.

The following facets of the program will be scaled out of 100 percent:

**Assessments 25 %** - class work, homework, quizzes and exams.

**Weekly Points 25%** - see Rubric on page 9.

**Performances 50%** - To receive full credit for performance, students must attend all performances. In addition, students must follow the appropriate dress code and the proper behavior as outlined in the Performance Policy on page 8.

## Extra Credit

Students may earn extra credit by 1) attending concerts or musicals, writing a brief review and turning in the program and review to the director OR 2) participating in extra choral activities outside of school.

## Performance Policy

Being punctual is extremely important. Refer to the adage “to be early is to be on time.” A tardy will result in a 10% deduction of the final performance grade.

**Excused absences** from a concert will only be granted with a parent call or letter AT LEAST two weeks before the concert date. The excuse MUST be approved by the director and the student will **complete a concert make-up packet**. Emergency absences may be granted at the discretion of the director with a follow-up email NO later than one week following the concert date.

Concert grades are not only about attendance. Students must be engaged in their performance and follow all concert etiquette guidelines. These performances measure standards of learning and are a crucial part of our curriculum.

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## Weekly Points Rubric

Each day students will be able to earn up to 5 points based on in-class assessment. Students will be reminded to follow these guidelines throughout the year. Each one of the following categories is worth one point per day:

**Body Alignment** – Students will sing with appropriate body alignment conducive to healthy vocal production while sitting and standing.

**Kinesthetic Techniques** – Students will use all kinesthetic techniques demonstrated by Mr. Powers when deemed appropriate. These techniques have been proven through research to aid learning musical concepts. Kinesthetic techniques include movements during warm-ups, Curwen hand-signs while using solfege, keeping an external pulse when called for, vowel signs, etc.

**Vocal Production** – Students will attempt to sing with proper vocal technique to the very best of their ability. Students will use appropriate vowel sounds and sing using correct breathing technique.

**Vocal Accuracy** – Students will sing accurate pitches, rhythms, and musical concepts appropriate for the stage in which the music is learned. If a particular section of music is selected to be worked on at home it is expected to be accurate in class.

**Musicianship** – Students are expected to regurgitate musical concepts that have been assessed previously. Students will read their sheet music when necessary.

# Supply Cost

**First Year Chorus Members- \$85.00**

**Returning Chorus Members- \$50.00**

Included in this supply cost:

- sheet music
- 2018-19 Chorus T-Shirt
- Uniform (some items are rented, some you will be allowed to keep)
- General Chorus Costs including but not limited to concert instrumentalists, some transportation costs, guest clinicians, snacks at events, etc.

Possible extra costs:

- Some transportation not covered in the supply cost
- Candlelight polo (\$25) - if your students participate in Candlelight, they will need this polo shirt.
- Brantley on Broadway T-Shirt
- Black dress shoes for anyone wearing a tuxedo
- Any extra field trips such as the Washington, D.C. trip, the trip to see Dear Evan Hansen at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, etc.

**Supply costs should NEVER discourage a student or families to be involved in the chorus department. If you need to be enrolled in a payment plan of any sort, please contact [powersnz@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:powersnz@scps.k12.fl.us) ASAP.**

## Uniform Policy

Every student is required to wear a standard chorus uniform at every performance. The uniforms are provided by the Choral Department, but each student will need to provide some accessories (detailed below).

### **If wearing a dress:**

Dress (rental)

Black character shoes, Pearl Necklace (keep)

Black Pantyhose (**not included in supply cost**)

No large jewelry or earrings, no necklaces other than pearls; no bracelets

Hair pulled back off face

2018-19 Chorus t-shirt (keep)

### **If wearing a tux:**

Tuxedo coat and pants (rental)

Tuxedo shirt, bowtie and cummerbund (keep)

Black dress shoes and Solid black socks– no white! **(not included in supply cost)**

Hair pulled back off face– for those with long hair

2018-19 Chorus t-shirt (keep)

## Parents/Guardians FAQs

Please check with website [www.patriotchorus.org](http://www.patriotchorus.org) for Frequently Asked Questions!

### Concert Etiquette

Concerts are the culmination of hundreds of hours of diligent work from students. It is our goal to make our concerts professional and of the highest caliber. As the students prepare for their performance, so should the audience. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with setting a good example for other audience members.

Our concerts are frequently recorded, and therefore the following expectations of general concert etiquette are requested:

- **No cell phones, tablets or any other electronic device that may interfere with the performance.** Since music is the art of sound, it is imperative that the auditorium is perfectly silent in order to hear all the beautiful sounds from the students. Even when silent, the bright screens are distracting to audience members around you and cell signals may interrupt the sound system resulting in feedback.
- **No flash photography.** This is distracting and disruptive to the performers.
- **No talking during performances.** Voices are easily picked up by professional microphones during recording. Be courteous to the performers and to those seated around you.
- **No yelling or screaming your student's name.** Younger children may be inclined to try to get the attention of older siblings. This is a serious concert, and not a sporting event.
- **Kindly keep your babies on silent mode.** Babies or young children will probably NOT enjoy our concerts. Performances last about an hour and a half to two hours in length. This is a long time for little ones to sit still or remain quiet. For the enjoyment of those in the audience, and to insure that taped performances pick up only the sound of music, please IMMEDIATELY take restless or crying children from the auditorium.

**Late Arrivals-** If you arrive late for a concert, you will not be admitted into the auditorium until there is applause. Please be respectful of the ushers about this point and do not argue. In any professional theater you will find the same standards. *If you must leave the concert for any reason, you will not be admitted until there is a moment of applause.* Again, please be respectful of the ushers. The sound of doors opening and closing is distracting to both the performers and the audience.

**When am I supposed to applaud?** Watch the conductor for cues. It is appropriate to applaud when the conductor enters the stage, when the choir enters the stage, or when the choir is seen for the first time. When a selection is concluded, always wait until the conductor's arms are down before

applauding. If we perform a major work or a sectionalized piece, wait until all movements are complete before applauding.

## PATRIOT CHORUS EVENTS

**Fall & Winter Concerts**- traditional choral programs that feature all choral students performing a wide variety of music, these concerts are REQUIRED for every choral student and are for a grade.

**Candlelight**- all students in Patriot Singers, Voices of Freedom, Bellissima, and Spectrum are invited to participate in Walt Disney World's Candlelight Processional. In order to attend, students must attend rehearsals and the audition taping. Candlelight music will not be taught in class. Students will receive part learning tracks and will be tested on their knowledge of the music before being allowed to sign up for any potential performances. Only 100 singers will be able to attend each night. Preference will be given to students in class order- Senior, Junior, Sophomore, Freshman.

**Pancake Breakfast** - a fundraising and performance opportunity for all students, REQUIRED for all students. Students with church or other conflicts are encouraged to sign up for a time to perform either before or after their other commitment. If the student is unable to attend, a parent/guardian note must be received by Mr. Powers to excuse the absence. Students may audition to perform at this event. All styles of music are welcome. All students will perform as part of a mass choir in the show.

**District Solo and Ensemble**- an optional adjudication opportunity provided by the Florida Vocal Association (FVA) for soloists and small groups under 16 members. All advanced ensemble members are encouraged to participate. Students are strongly encouraged to take private voice lessons if they wish to be adjudicated as a soloist.

**Pre-MPA Concert**- a concert to aid in preparation for District Choral MPA, this concert is REQUIRED for all LBHS Chorus students.

**District Choral MPA**- a choral adjudication opportunity that is provided by the FVA and is REQUIRED for all LBHS Chorus students. This is a chance for choirs to get feedback on their onstage performance and their sight-reading ability from highly-qualified adjudicators.

**Brantley on Broadway**- three nights of concerts celebrating American musical theatre, this is the only ticketed concert and is REQUIRED for all chorus students. The dress rehearsals and other rehearsals are also a REQUIRED performance grade. Students may audition to perform solos and small group numbers.

## ADVANCED ENSEMBLE EVENTS

In addition to the other requirements, students in the Advanced Ensembles (Patriot Singers, Voices of Freedom, Bellissima, and Spectrum) are responsible for additional performances at the director's discretion, this includes the following:

- Veterans Day Concert with the LBHS Band (November)
- Veterans Day Assemblies (November)
- Winter caroling performances as determined by the director
- Other invited and community performances as determined by the director

Students in the advanced ensembles of the LBHS Chorus are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of musicianship, citizenship and academic excellence.

Advanced ensemble students serve as ambassadors for the Chorus and for Lake Brantley High School throughout the year and must be in good standing.