

# **LANGLEY HS CHORAL DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK**



**2021-2022**

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Dear Langley Choral Students:

Welcome to the Langley High School Choral Music Program!

I have designed this Choral Handbook to give you an overview of the policies, procedures, and practices we follow within the Choral Department. Information about our choral groups; a description of the concert programs, competitions, and assessments in which we traditionally participate annually; and a discussion of the tools we use during the school year to keep you and your parents informed of choir activities are just a few of the topics covered within the Handbook.

Before the school year begins, read the Handbook carefully, as it will answer many of your questions. Because the Handbook contains information important to both students and parents, I require parents to read it as well. Once you and your parents have read the Handbook, complete the Student/Parent Handbook Signature Form and return the signed portion to me on the first day of class.

Continue to refer to the Handbook often as it is an invaluable guide to getting the most out of your membership in the Choral Department. Remember that being in a choir is like being on a team – all members need to participate effectively for the group to be successful.

I am looking forward to working with all of you!

Sincerely,



Mac L. Lambert, Jr.  
Choral Director

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## Music Syllabus – Langley High School Chorus

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- **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

**TREBLE CHORUS (926016)** *Treble Choir* **Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 Credit: one Prerequisite: none** Students will participate in a chorus of treble voices. Emphasis is placed upon correct vocal performance techniques and sight-singing through the study of appropriate choral literature. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

**INTERMEDIATE TREBLE CHORUS (928516)** *Select Treble Choir* **Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 Credit: one Prerequisite: Beginning level chorus or successful audition.** Intermediate level treble chorus will provide for the continued study of correct vocal production, sight-singing and development of musicianship through the study of appropriate choral literature. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

**ADVANCED MIXED CHORUS (928915) Level 1** *Concert Choir* **Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 Credit: one Prerequisite: Successful audition** Students are offered advanced choral experiences for mixed voices. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship and proficiency in ensemble performance. Course content includes a study of choral literature, vocal techniques, and sight-singing. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.**

**ADVANCED TREBLE CHORUS (928916)** *Chamber Choir* **Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 Credit: one Prerequisite: Successful audition**  
**Corequisite: Schools may require membership in intermediate or advanced choral class.**

Students are offered advanced choral experiences for treble voices. Emphasis is placed on the development of musicianship and proficiency in ensemble performance. Course content includes a study of choral literature, vocal techniques, and sight-singing. Based on successful completion of sequential concepts for each level, students will continue as specified in course level. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.** *Students in Chamber Choir must also register for Concert Choir (928915)*

**VOCAL ENSEMBLE (928015) Madrigals Grades: 9, 10, 11, 12 Credit: one**

**Prerequisite: Successful audition**

**Corequisite: Schools may require membership in intermediate or advanced choral class.**

The vocal ensemble class is designed to meet specific needs and/or interests. Content includes study of the appropriate ensemble literature, and rehearsal and performance techniques from the various areas of musical composition. Schools may also require membership in intermediate or advanced choral class. Voicing of the group is at the discretion of the instructor. Students must meet both the school day and outside of the school day participation requirements to receive credit for the course. **This course requires a student materials fee as listed in FCPS Notice 5922.** *Students in Madrigals must also register for Concert Choir (928915).*

- **CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS** (Regulation 3866)

A. Courses with co-curricular participation requirements.

Many courses include participation requirements outside the regular school day. In order to receive credit for the course, students must be enrolled in the course and meet both the school-day and after-school requirements. Additional details for these courses can be found in the course descriptions of the FCPS Standard and Optional Course Offerings catalogs.

B. Courses with co-curricular enrichment opportunities.

Many courses provide optional opportunities for students enrolled in program courses that occur outside the regular school day.

1. Students enrolled in the program courses.

Students participate in these optional enrichment opportunities on the basis of interest and commitment, as determined by audition or other selection processes.

- **Link to School's Course Offerings**

<https://insys.fcps.edu/CourseCatOnline/#/frontPanel/415/nocourselist/0/0/0>

- **Link to POS** <http://www.fcps.edu/is/finearts/music.shtml>

- **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

An objective is a goal, an end to be achieved, a standard to be met. The primary objective of the Choral Department is **EXCELLENCE THROUGH CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**. We strive for excellence in vocal production, intonation, dynamics, phrasing, articulation, balance, and blend. Our objective is for each choir to become a finely polished, sensitive, responsive choral ensemble. To achieve our goal, we need maximum cooperation and diligent work from each member of each choir. Our repertoire will change throughout the year, but our goals will remain constant:

That each phrase will be sung more beautifully than the last

That our dynamic coloration will be ever more varied

That our interpretation will be more sensitive and alive each time we perform

That, as the year progresses, each performance will be more skillful and exciting than the last

## ● **FCPS GRADING PROCEDURES – LANGLEY CHORUS**

Achievement grades will be determined daily on the basis of performance in class. Class performance will include the following:

Full participation in all class activities

Responsiveness to all verbal and conducted directives

Attentiveness at all times (whether one's voice part is singing or at rest)

Consistent eye contact with the Director

Correct sitting and standing posture for singing

The amount of written work and the number of concerts and performances for each choir will vary from one grading period to the next. Written and vocal tests will be given throughout the semester as well as grades for sight-reading. These will be averaged in the achievement grade at a percentage appropriate to their inclusion in any given quarter.

Students with an excused absence from class should make up the time missed by practicing at home for the amount of the class period and then bringing a note signed by a parent to verify. Only excused absences can be made up. Make-up work should be done within one week of the absence.

**Concert attendance is required.** Concert grades are weighted. All concert dates are announced well in advance of performance so that students can adjust their schedules to include these events.

Circumstances do develop which would necessitate an excused absence. In the case of a prearranged absence from a concert, a written request from the parent for an excused absence must be submitted to the Director no less than two weeks before a scheduled event. In the case of emergencies, the parent should contact the Director for notification of absence. A written excuse from the parent must be submitted to the Director on the day the student returns to school after the emergency absence.

After an excused absence, the student is responsible for arranging a make-up performance time with the Director within one week of the concert and/or the student's return to school, in order to receive a grade for the missed concert. On outside concerts or field trips where singing the music for a grade may not be feasible, a written report on a composer or some aspect of music may be assigned. The amount of time spent on the report should reflect the same amount of time that other students were involved in the event. Reports should be written in standard MLA format and include a bibliography. They should be emailed to the Director at [mllambert@fcps.edu](mailto:mllambert@fcps.edu) for verification on Turnitin.com.

**Dress Rehearsal attendance is required.** Dress Rehearsals before the Winter and Spring Concerts will be used to practice those songs that will be performed by the entire Choral Music Department. It is important that all students are present in order to find their placement on stage. Students who are not present at all the dress rehearsals may not be able to perform on stage in the combined numbers. An excused absence from a dress rehearsal may be made-up with some type of written report. The time spent on make-up work should reflect the same number of hours that are required for the dress rehearsal.

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/grading-and-reporting/secondary>

- **HOMEWORK/PRACTICE POLICY**

Practice Logs will be assigned to each class during various times within a given quarter. Students should practice their parts at home by logging into Schoology to access the music for their choir. Rules for practice include:

Practice should be 10 minutes per day.

Students must have their music and sing along with their voice part.

No other activities while listening and practicing.

- **Regulation on Homework 3205**

<http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=867SLA2A9049>

- **GRADING SCALE**

|    |          |
|----|----------|
| A  | 93-100   |
| A- | 90-92    |
| B+ | 87-89    |
| B  | 83-86    |
| B- | 80-82    |
| C+ | 77-79    |
| C  | 73-76    |
| C- | 70-72    |
| D+ | 67-69    |
| D  | 64-66    |
| F  | Below 64 |

- **HONOR CODE STATEMENT**

**Statement of Saxon Pride**

I am entrusted with the responsibility of upholding and contributing to an atmosphere of mutual respect, honesty, and fairness. My personal honor is essential to preserve my good name and the integrity of the Langley community. Without honor, I have nothing.

**Pledge**

On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on this work.

- **FINAL EXAM POLICY**

All teachers will provide a final examination, or other culminating assessment activity, in all courses taught during the designated exam period. The final exam schedule is determined by the Division Superintendent's office and will be published before exams. Final exams should be designed to assess objectives/topics advertised in POS and the teacher's course overview and outline distributed earlier in the school year. There will be consistency in test content and format in final exams administered by teachers that teach the same course.

Seniors, and only seniors, are exempt from a final exam if they meet all the following criteria:

Have an overall A-/A course average, including the fourth quarter interim grade.

Have no unexcused absence (or 3+ tardies) during the fourth quarter.

Have no more than three excused absences during the fourth quarter, excluding school activities.

Have attended the Senior Ethics Forum.

This exemption pertains only to full-year courses for which the student is graded (A-F).

- **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission...To provide a quality education that meets the diverse needs of students while preparing them for the challenges of citizenship in a global society.

- **MATERIALS**

### **Music Binder/Folder**

### **Choir Uniforms**

Women will wear gowns that must be hemmed to one inch from the floor in black ballet shoes. Costume jewelry is not permitted, but students with pierced ears may wear a small post earring. Women should not wear large hair ornaments, but hair must be secured back out of the face with a tie or pins.

Men will wear a black tuxedo and a white wing collar shirt along with a coordinating cummerbund and bowtie. Men must also provide their own BLACK shoes and socks.

Uniform Order Forms will be available online in August. The order form will be available on the Choral Guild website and payment must be made on MySchoolBucks. Forms and payments must be completed by early September to provide enough time for the uniforms to be delivered and for students to have any alterations made, if needed, before the Fall Concert.

### **Spirit Pack (Choir Polo and T-Shirt)**

Students must have the choir polo shirt to wear on concert days as well as during the spring trip. In addition, students will have a t-shirt specifically designed for the spring show.

- **CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/GUIDELINES**

In order to maximize rehearsal time, we must begin on schedule. When the bell rings for class to begin, students are expected to be in assigned seats with folders and pencils in hand. All talking should cease. Any student who is not seated when the bell rings will receive an unexcused tardy to class.

Attendance at all scheduled choir events (concerts, festivals, dress rehearsals, etc.) is required of each choir member. For all events taking place outside of school hours, the rule of conduct is: always arrive at least ten (10) minutes before call time. At the announced call time students are to be seated or standing and ready for warm-up. Simply being in the building is insufficient to count a student present.

Tardiness to warm-up will affect the concert grade (which is a weighted grade). Students should make their arrival time early enough to accomplish all necessary chores (bathroom visits, changing clothes, etc.) before call time.



**2021-2022 Langley High School Chorus Course Fees**

FCPS and the Langley High School Chorus Program will not charge students a fee for any mandatory aspect of the LHS Chorus program except for course material fees which are permitted by the Virginia Department of Education regulations. Schools or Booster organizations cannot require a student to pay fees for course materials in excess of the amount approved by the FCPS School Board in Notice 5922.

| FCPS Required Fees                         | Amount   | Who pays this fee? | This pays for...  |
|--|--|--------------------|---|
| LHS Chorus Materials Fee<br><br><b>Due</b> | \$150  | EVERYONE           | This fee covers <u>consumable</u> items/expenses for the choir accompanist throughout the school year.  |
| LHS Chorus Materials Fee<br><br><b>Due</b> | (Amount varies depending on what items the student needs.) | EVERYONE           | This fee covers <u>consumable</u> items/expenses for choir uniforms.<br>\$94 Women’s Gown (or \$99/\$104/\$109)<br>\$109 (or \$114/\$119/\$124) Men’s Tuxedo Package<br>Individual Tuxedo Items Available as needed.<br>\$26 Choir Polo<br>\$15 Spring Show T-Shirt |

| <b>FCPS Sponsored Optional Activity Fee</b>   |        |   |
|---|--------|---|
| <p>This is a fee that students are expected to pay if they choose to participate in any activities/trips associated with the <b>Langley High School Chorus Program</b>. This fee is determined and assessed based on the estimated cost of the trip/activity – including such costs as transportation, accommodation, registration, food, and other miscellaneous expenses.</p> <p>Examples include the Spring Choir Trip. Students who do not pay the fees associated with a trip/activity will be ineligible to perform/participate in the trip/activity.</p> |        |   |
| Optional Activity   | Amount | Due Date  |
| Spring Choir Trip   | TBD    | We will follow guidelines from FCPS regarding a Spring Trip.. |

**Individual Performance Events:** There are opportunities throughout the school year for individual students to choose to audition and/or participate in other choirs. Examples include the VMEA Honors Choir, All-District or All-State Choir and the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Audition or participation fees are often assessed for these opportunities by the sponsoring organization. **The Langley High School Chorus Program** does not establish such fees, but the **LHS Chorus Program** often assists in the collection of these fees from individuals who elect to participate and the submission of one group payment to the respective sponsoring organization. These fees are communicated at the time other information about these opportunities is communicated.

## **Payment Policies**

### **MySchoolBucks**

- ALL payments made to Langley HS MUST be made through MySchoolBucks. This includes the \$150 Chorus Materials Fee, uniforms, and other payments.

Refunds: Typically fees paid are non-refundable once commitments and purchases have been made. These refund policies will be communicated separately as they relate to individual activities.

Financial Assistance is available for those in need of such assistance. Requests for financial assistance should be made directly to the **Langley High School Director** prior to the due date for the related fee.

## 2021 - 22 Choir Calendar

*(Dates are Subject to Change 5/21)*

|                     |  |                       |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Sept. 10            | Choir Ice Cream Social (Chamber/Madrigals 6:15)  | 7:00 pm               |
| Sept. 25            | Car Wash – Sunoco Spring Hill/O. Dominion        | 9 am – 3 pm           |
| Oct. 9              | Honors Choir Auditions – Seniors                 | Longwood?             |
| <b>Oct. 14</b>      | <b>Fall Concert</b> (Choir Pictures before)      | <b>7:00 PM</b>        |
| Nov. 5 - 15         | District XII Honors Chorus Auditions             | Virtual Audition      |
| Nov. 18 - 20        | VMEA Honors Choir                                | Norfolk, VA           |
| Nov. 29 - 30        | <b>Renaissance Feaste Rehearsal</b>              | <b>3:00-6:00 PM</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 1 - 2</b>   | <b>And Set-Up – Langley Hall</b>                 | <b>6:00 – 9:00 PM</b> |
| <b>Dec. 3</b>       | <b>Renaissance Feaste (7:00 PM)</b>              | <b>3:00-10:00 PM</b>  |
| <b>Dec. 4</b>       | <b>Renaissance Feaste (7:00 PM)</b>              | <b>4:00-10:00 PM</b>  |
| <b>Dec. 13</b>      | <b>Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal</b>            | <b>3:00-6:00 PM</b>   |
| <b>Dec. 14</b>      | <b>Winter Concert</b>                            | <b>7:00 PM</b>        |
| <b>Jan. 18</b>      | <b>Pyramid Concert (Snow Date 1/25)</b>          | <b>7:00 PM</b>        |
| Feb. 10 – 12        | District XII Honors Chorus                       | ?                     |
| February            | All-Virginia Chorus Auditions                    | Virtual Audition      |
| <b>Mar. 15</b>      | <b>Pre-Assessment Concert</b>                    | <b>7:00 PM</b>        |
| <b>Mar. 17 - 19</b> | <b>District XII Choral Assessment</b>            | <b>Langley HS</b>     |
| Mar. 23 - 27        | Spring Choir Trip                                | <b>TBD</b>            |
| Apr. 21 - 23        | All-Virginia Chorus                              | Richmond, VA          |
| May 7               | Car Wash – Sunoco Spring Hill/O. Dominion        | 9 am – 3 pm           |
| <b>May 16 - 18</b>  | <b>Spring Show Dress Rehearsals (Three Days)</b> | <b>3:00 – 6:30 pm</b> |
| <b>May 19 - 20</b>  | <b>Spring Shows (2)</b>                          | <b>7:00 pm</b>        |
| May 26              | Choral Awards Potluck Picnic (LHS Cafeteria)     | 6:00-8:00 PM          |
| <b>June ?</b>       | <b>Graduation–Chamber and Madrigals</b>          | <b>?</b>              |

***Events in BOLD are required for all choirs.***

***Home Football Games for Madrigals: 9/17, 9/24 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night), 10/15, 10/29, 11/5***  
***Home Basketball Games for Chamber: TBD***

## **Choir Membership**



Membership in any musical organization at Langley High School is a privilege and an honor. Treat your participation in choir as such. The Choral Department has an excellent reputation that was earned in the past by students who were committed to excellence and unafraid of hard work.

You have a recognized talent and a desire to use it. Your instrument is with you at all times. You can't disassemble it and put it away in a case. Treat it well. Exercise it wisely and constantly strive to make ever more beautiful sounds. Discipline yourself to become the finest possible musician you can be.

Your full participation in the Choral Music Program is expected. This not only means classroom rehearsal and school concerts, but also includes festivals, competitions, extra scheduled rehearsals, and fundraising events. Attendance at all scheduled performances of the Choral Music Department is required of each member of each choir.

As a choir member you are expected to behave like ladies and gentlemen, not only while in concert dress, but also during all rehearsals, field trips, and other school activities during the day. Your behavior at all times reflects not only on you, but on the entire Choral Department and the school.

## **The Choirs**



**Treble Choir (Grades 9 - 12):** Treble Choir is designed for the 9th grade or beginning treble voice. The choir sings some music in 2-part harmony and unison, but mainly in 3-part harmony. The ensemble will study aspects of various types of music, as well as vocal and musical development, with an emphasis on sight-reading. Performance opportunities include:

- 5 major concerts
- Renaissance Madrigal Feaste
- District Honors Chorus Weekend
- District Choral Festival
- Spring Trip Competition/Tour

**Select Treble Choir (Grades 10 - 12):** Select Treble Choir engages the intermediate treble singer in challenging 3- and 4-part music. The class emphasizes independent and a cappella singing along with sight-reading. This ensemble studies choral literature from each musical style period. Performance opportunities include:



- 5 major concerts
- Renaissance Madrigal Feaste
- District Honors Chorus Weekend
- District Choral Festival
- Spring Trip Competition/Tour

**Concert Choir (Grades 9 - 12):** Concert Choir is a large advanced mixed choir of women in grades 10 - 12 and men in grades 9 - 12. The choir sings 4- to 8-part music from all musical style periods, including performance of small major works with orchestra. An emphasis is placed on good vocal production and development music theory, sight-reading, and ensemble performance. Performance opportunities include:



- 5 major concerts
- Renaissance Madrigal Feast
- VMEA Honors Choir Weekend
- District Honors Chorus Weekend
- District Choral Festival
- All-Virginia Chorus Weekend
- Spring Trip Competition/Tour

**Chamber Choir (Grades 10 - 12):** Chamber Choir is a small advanced treble ensemble whose members are also members of the Concert Choir. The main focus of the class is vocal jazz, with excursions into all other musical style periods. An emphasis is placed on independent and a cappella singing. There is a significant time commitment with after school rehearsals and evening performances, especially during the holiday season.



Performance opportunities, in addition to those of Concert Choir, include a variety of community and area concerts, as well as singing the National Anthem at home basketball games.

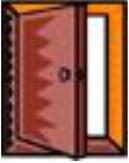
**Madrigals (Grades 10 - 12):** Madrigals is a small advanced mixed ensemble whose members are also members of the Concert Choir. The Choir performs mostly Renaissance music with occasional excursions into other musical style periods. An emphasis is placed on independent and a cappella singing. There is a significant time commitment with after school rehearsals and evening performances, especially during the holiday season.



Performance opportunities, in addition to those of Concert Choir, include a variety of community and area concerts, as well as singing the National Anthem at home football games.

**Voicemale (Grades 9-12):** Voicemale is a small, select, men's ensemble that performs a wide variety of musical styles, including both accompanied and a cappella selections. Founded in 2007 by choir students who wanted the experience of singing in a Men's Choir, the ensemble made its debut at the Pyramid Concert to rave reviews. Voicemale is an extra-curricular choir and usually meets one day a week after school. Extra rehearsals are sometimes necessary, depending on the performance schedule. Auditions for the group are held at the beginning of each school year and are open to any male singers enrolled in the Choral Department.

## **Choir Room**



The choir room is yours. You are welcome to make it your "home base" at school. But please remember that there are many other choir students who also share the room. Use trash cans for trash and your backpacks for books and other personal items. Personal items that remain in the choir room for more than a day or two will be sent to the school "*Lost and Found*."

You are welcome to be in the choir room before and after school, but please **do not** eat or drink in the choir room. Food and drink will be allowed only on special occasions. Water is allowed and recommended in sealed plastic bottles. Chewing gum must be deposited in the trash as you enter. It interferes with singing, could be a choking hazard, and counts against the daily participation grade.

## **Music Library**



Music will be assigned to folders by number. There may be two persons assigned to each folder. Partners will be responsible for the music assigned to their folder. When music is lost or not returned, both partners will be responsible for paying a replacement fee.

Students are free to take their folders home to study. When a student is absent, he/she should make every effort to see that the folder is returned to school so that the folder partner is not inconvenienced during rehearsals.

Students wishing to check out single copies of music from the Library should see the Director. A replacement fee will be charged for students who fail to return single copies of music.

## **Communications**

The Choral Department uses various modes of communication to inform students and parents about matters of importance: class announcements, flyer distributions, email communications, and website postings.

Our website at [www.langleychorus.com](http://www.langleychorus.com) is a vital source of information for both students and parents. The site is updated almost daily during the school year, so please bookmark the site and make it a habit to check it regularly for current news and messages.

Students and parents may subscribe to our Choral Department email list via the "TWIC-signup" button on the website or the Newsletter and Directory form (which is mailed to students in August and is also available on the "Forms" page of the website). The form is also used to gather information for our Choral Department Directory, which is published to help facilitate communication among choral students and parents.

## **Choir Council**



A Choir Council President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer will be elected from the Concert Choir. Candidates for these offices must be seniors. Four section leaders from Concert Choir will also be elected. These section leaders will be responsible for leading sectionals when needed and will serve as librarians to their individual classes. Two section leaders will be elected from Select and the Treble choirs. They will be members of the Choir Council and serve as librarians to their individual classes.

All choir officers will be nominated, then elected by secret ballot. Nominations and elections for office in any choir will be by members of that choir only. Elections will follow nominations after a reasonable period of time. All nominees will be expected to prepare and present a speech to their choir, stating their plans for positively affecting the choir program if elected. Candidates should expect to field questions from the choir membership.

## **Special Choirs**

**District XII Honors Chorus (Grades 9-12)**  
**All-Virginia Chorus (Grades 9-12 eligible from District Chorus)**  
**VMEA Honors Choir (Grade 12)**

The selection as a member of any of the above-named choirs is an honor and as such carries a responsibility. Those selected will be representing Langley High School and need to be well prepared.

Before a student auditions, he/she must make a commitment to prepare for and fully participate in the choir for which he/she is auditioning. Between the time of selection for the choir and the event itself, the selected students must attend four after-school rehearsals to learn the music for the event. Failure to attend the prescribed number of rehearsals may result in expulsion as a Langley representative for that select choir. Alternates must also attend practice sessions in order to fill a vacancy that may occur in the select choir. It will be the student's responsibility to meet all deadlines for applications, payments, etc. Students selected for a special choir will be required to purchase their music for that event. Appropriate behavior as a representative of Langley is expected during any select choir experience.

For more information on these choirs, see **Annual Events**, pp. 18-19.

## **Field Trips**



Any time a choir goes to a performance off campus, a Field Trip Permission Form must be signed by each student and his/her parent and returned prior to the scheduled trip. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the permission slip and to meet the deadline for returning it.

Students will be expected to go to and return from all off-campus functions with the entire group on school transportation, unless otherwise informed. On the rare occasion when a student must secure other transportation to or from an event, written permission from the parent must be submitted to the Director no less than two weeks in advance of the trip.

Events such as District Choir auditions will often be considered local events, and in most cases, the parent will be responsible for the student's transportation if the event occurs after school hours.

## **Auditioning for Langley Choirs**

Auditions for new and returning Langley students usually take place in March, immediately after the District Choral Festival. All students must complete an audition in order to be placed in the correct level of choir. The audition will consist of the following:

1. A test of the vocal range to determine the most comfortable lowest and highest notes.
2. A portion of a selection from the District Choral Festival repertoire, chosen by the Director. (Students who are not currently enrolled in the choral program may select a song that demonstrates their best vocal ability. A song from current repertoire will be selected for eighth grade students who are taking chorus.)
3. An eight measure sight-reading example to be sung unaccompanied after one minute of study.
4. An ear training test consisting of three, three-note chords to be sung back at exact pitch, after being played on the piano.
5. An ear training test consisting of three, three-note melodies to be sung back at exact pitch, after being played on the piano.

A list of the results for all returning students will be posted near the Choir Room. Results for eighth graders will be sent directly to their school.

All students who are selected for the Concert Choir may audition for Chamber Choir and Madrigals. This call-back audition occurs after school and usually takes place in late April. The call-back audition consists of learning a portion of a selected piece and performing it in various combinations with other voice parts. This audition is designed to show the beauty of one's own voice, as well as how it blends with other voices. This audition also demonstrates the sight-reading ability of the student and how quickly he or she can put musical ideas into practice.

## Annual Events

### Concerts/Programs

**Fall Concert** – The first concert of the school year features all five Langley choirs performing choral works from numerous composers in a variety of musical styles and genres. In addition to sacred and secular European masterworks, this concert often presents some traditional American music, including spirituals, gospel songs, and show and jazz standards.

**Renaissance Feaste** - A December holiday favorite is our Renaissance Madrigal Feaste and Program, where we celebrate the season as in the ancient traditions of Merrie Olde England! Guests are treated to a fabulous renaissance-style dinner and an amazing evening of traditional 16th-century entertainment, led by our renowned Madrigals. The Feaste usually occurs the first or second weekend of December, with performances on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Tickets go on sale in November and the event does sell out!

**Winter Concert** - Our Winter Concert follows on the heels of our Renaissance Madrigal Feaste and leads us all into a celebration of the holiday season. A combined choir opening and finale are highlights of this concert.

**Pyramid Concert** – The Pyramid Concert is designed to showcase the musical growth and development of vocal music students from elementary school through high school. Several of Langley’s feeder elementary schools perform, followed by the middle school and high school students. This concert culminates with a grand finale performed by all the students in attendance!

**Pre-Assessment Concert** - This concert provides our choirs the opportunity to showcase for the public the musical selections they have prepared for their participation in the District XII Choral Assessment (see below). The Pre-Assessment Concert occurs a few days before the Choral Festival Weekend.

**Spring Show** - The capstone of our school year, this concert always has a show business theme, from Disney to Broadway and beyond. Popular tunes, professional choreography, and a traditional send-off for our graduating seniors make this a fun and memorable evening for all. Tickets for this concert go on sale in early May.

\*Concerts are free and open to the public, except where otherwise noted.

### Competitions and Assessments

#### VMEA Competitions and Assessment

Each year, the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) sponsors several statewide choral events for chorus members. The VMEA has divided the state into sixteen districts. Langley High School is in District XII.

\* ***District XII (All-District) Honors Chorus*** - Members of the District XII Honors Chorus represent the best high school chorus students in our district. Students are required to sing alone and to sight-read a piece of music for the audition. A guest conductor of national renown rehearses and conducts the chorus.

District Honors Chorus members participate in four after-school rehearsals to learn the music. The event takes place in early February at a local high school and consists of two days of rehearsal with the conductor and a performance.

\* ***All-Virginia (All-State) Chorus*** - Top 9th - 12th grade vocalists from around the state perform music that broadens the musical experiences they have already received in school. Students have the opportunity to work with master conductors to learn a varied repertoire of quality music that will challenge and enhance their singing skills.

To audition for the All-Virginia Chorus, students must first audition and be selected for their District (All-District) Honors Chorus. Those students who place in the top 50% are eligible to audition for the All-Virginia Chorus and auditions are held during the District Honors Chorus event. Students are required to sing alone and to sight-read a piece of music for the audition. Twenty-four students are chosen from each district to participate in the All-Virginia Chorus. This event usually takes place in late April from Thursday through Saturday at a selected venue from around the state.

\* ***VMEA Honors Choir*** - All 12th grade students enrolled in their school choral programs are eligible to audition with the recommendation of their school choral director. One hundred thirty-two seniors are chosen from across the state to participate in the Honors Choir. The Choir performs at the VMEA Annual Conference in mid-November.

For additional information, visit [www.vcda.net/honorschoir.htm](http://www.vcda.net/honorschoir.htm).

***District XII Choral Assessment*** - This event is open to all schools in our district. Each chorus performs a warm-up selection and two adjudicated (judged) selections before a panel of judges. The judges grade each chorus on their performance, giving each chorus a rating (superior, excellent, good, fair) and comments. Each chorus is also judged on their sight-reading ability.

### **Competitions**

\* ***Spring Choir Trip Competition or Performance Tour*** - Our annual Spring Choir Trip has become a favorite LHS Choral Department tradition. Each spring, choir members vote to choose the competition in which they will participate the following spring. Past competitions have taken us to Atlanta, New York City, Orlando, and San Diego. Past performance tours have included Italy, the Czech Republic and Austria, and France. Choirs perform the selections they prepare for the District XII Choral Assessment.

## **Letter and Bar Requirements**



Letters and Bars will be awarded to students in the Choral Music program on the basis of participation in Music Department activities above and beyond class work. Each student must keep a copy of the **Letter and Bar Point Tally Sheet**. This will allow the student to keep track of his/her progress towards a letter or bar. Students are responsible for keeping track of all points earned. The Tally Sheet must be submitted at the end of the first semester and, again, at the end of the year for a student to be eligible to receive a letter or bar. All points accumulate from year to year, but minimum totals must still be met in the year of application for a letter or bar. The requirements for letters and bars are as follows:

### **Minimum Point Requirements**

To receive a letter or bar, a student first must have a minimum number of points in each of the following Tally Sheet sections:

- I. Minimum points = 7 (Student must audition for District Honors Chorus.)
- II. Minimum points = 12 (Student must attend **ALL** required concerts.)
- III. Minimum points = 10 (Student must make an effort toward fundraising – Coffee Sale, Holiday Greens Sale, Car Wash, etc. – reaching a net profit of at least \$61.)
- IV.C. Minimum points = 6 (In an effort to encourage student attendance at outside concerts, students must attend at least three different types of musical performances.)

### **To Receive a Letter**

The student must have met the above minimum point requirements and have a total of 100 points.

### **To Receive a Bar**

Silver: The student must already have received a letter, must meet the minimum point requirements, have auditioned for at least two (2) choirs from Section I of the Tally Sheet, and have a total of at least 50 points.

Gold: The student must already have received a letter, must meet the minimum point requirements, have auditioned for at least three (3) choirs from Section I of the Tally Sheet, and have a total of at least 50 points.

# LETTER AND BAR POINT TALLY SHEET

2021 - 2022

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Page 1

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>I. Musicianship</b> |
|------------------------|

|                                    |    | Points | Director Signature |
|------------------------------------|----|--------|--------------------|
| A. Auditioning for Special Choirs  |    |        |                    |
| 1. District XII Honors Chorus      | 7  |        |                    |
| 2. All-Virginia Chorus             | 7  |        |                    |
| 3. VMEA Honors Choir               | 7  |        |                    |
| B. Participation in Special Choirs |    |        |                    |
| 1. District XII Honors Chorus      | 12 |        |                    |
| 2. All-Virginia Chorus             | 15 |        |                    |
| 3. VMEA Honors Choir               | 17 |        |                    |
| <b>II. Responsibility</b>          |    |        |                    |
| A. Required attendance at ALL      |    |        |                    |
| 1. Fall Concert                    | 1  |        |                    |
| 2. Winter Concert                  | 1  |        |                    |
| 3. Pyramid Concert                 | 1  |        |                    |
| 4. Pre-Assess./Assessment Concerts | 2  |        |                    |
| 5. Spring Show                     | 2  |        |                    |
| 6. Other                           | 1  |        |                    |
| B. Grades                          |    |        |                    |
| 1. B average both semesters        | 3  |        |                    |
| 2. A average both semesters        | 6  |        |                    |
| <b>III. Support Services</b>       |    |        |                    |
| A. Fundraising (\$\$\$)            |    |        |                    |
| 1 - 15                             | 2  |        |                    |
| 16 - 30                            | 4  |        |                    |
| 31 - 45                            | 6  |        |                    |
| 46 - 60                            | 8  |        |                    |
| 61 - 100                           | 10 |        |                    |
| 100 - 150                          | 15 |        |                    |
| 151 - 200                          | 20 |        |                    |
| Over 200                           | 25 |        |                    |
|                                    |    |        |                    |
|                                    |    |        |                    |

What are you applying to receive? \_\_\_\_\_

# LETTER AND BAR POINT TALLY SHEET

## 2021 - 2022

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Page 2

| IV. Miscellaneous  |    | Points | Director Signature  |
|--|----|--------|---|
| A. Renaissance Feaste  |    |        |   |
| 1. Jester, Page, Singer  | 30 |        |   |
| 2. Serving Wench or Fellow   |    |        |   |
| a. Friday dinner only  | 15 |        |   |
| b. Saturday dinner only  | 15 |        |   |
| c. Friday and Saturday dinners   | 30 |        |   |
| B. Setting up for Concerts   |    |        |   |
| 1. Fall  | 3  |        |   |
| 2. Winter  | 3  |        |   |
| 3. Pyramid   | 3  |        |   |
| 4. Pre-Assessment  | 3  |        |   |
| 5. Spring  | 6  |        |   |
| 6. Other   | 3  |        |   |
| C. Attendance at Musical Performances  |    |        | You must provide ticket stub, program, etc., as proof of attendance |
| 1. Musical   | 2  |        |   |
| 2. Jazz  | 2  |        |   |
| 3. Orchestra   | 2  |        |   |
| 4. Choral  | 2  |        |   |
| 5. Solo Recital  | 2  |        |   |
| 6. Opera   | 2  |        |   |
| 7. Folk/Rock   | 2  |        |   |
| 8. Other   | 2  |        |   |
| D. Private Voice Instruction   |    |        |   |
| 1 point for every hour lesson up to 20 points. Must be verified in writing by private voice instructor |    |        |   |
| E. Other: Includes piano lessons and other performing experiences.                                     |    |        |   |
|  |    |        |   |
|  |    |        |   |
|  |    |        |   |

**Handbook Student/Parent Signature Form**  
**Langley High School Choral Music Department**

Once you have read the LHS Choral Department Handbook and fully understand the requirements, procedures, concepts, and responsibilities that Langley Choir students must uphold, please sign below. **The completed form is due the first day of class.**

If you have any questions or concerns about the contents of the Handbook, please call me at school (703-287-2956) to discuss the matter.

Sincerely,

Mac L. Lambert, Jr.

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We have read and fully understand all that is contained in the Langley High School Choral Department Handbook.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Choir(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_