

Lyman High School Choir Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVE

Students will learn techniques and skills to create and perform while collaborating with others in a choral setting. They will connect music with history, cultures, and society. They will also learn the basics of music theory and literacy. This is a performance-based course. Out of school performances are required.

CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. **Sing.** This means you must open your mouth. If you can't fit two fingers in your mouth, you are not singing.
2. **No food, drinks (water is acceptable in a clear container), gum, candy, etc.** Please don't bring any food or drink in the room – even if you are not in the act of consuming it.
3. **No cell phones or other electronic devices.** I would prefer to not even see it.
4. **Be in your seat, ready to work, when the bell rings.** "Ready to work" means you will need to clear stands and extra chairs away from you before class starts. I would prefer not having anything obstructing my view of you (or your illegal electronic device). It also means sitting in assigned seats and having your music in hand. All of these things must be accomplished *before* the bell rings.
5. **Take care of your music and have a pencil at all times (no pens please).** I would suggest just keeping a pencil in the bottom of your folder. You must also return your music to your assigned music slot at the end of each class. Stray music, lying on the ground, is a violation of Rule #5.
6. **No excessive talking.** I don't mind if you talk quietly while I work with other sections. But, when it's time to sing, it's time to sing. Don't be caught talking when you are supposed to be singing.
7. **No homework in class.** Homework is called homework for a reason. As much as some of you would like it to be, the music room is not your home. This applies to reading, as well.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

- 90% - 100% A
- 80% - 89% B
- 70% - 79% C
- 60% - 69% D
- 59% & ↓ F

GRADING

Assignments, Evaluations, etc. – 2%

Daily Participation – 49%

Concert Attendance & Behavior – 49%

ASSIGNMENTS, EVALUATIONS, etc. (20%):

Every music class will have class specific items that will account for **twenty percent** of the student's grade. These items may include clinic/festival participation, theory homework, other performances, other performance tests, post-concert evaluations, theory assignments, etc.

DAILY PARTICIPATION (40%):

The participation grade will comprise **forty percent** of the student's semester grade and is based primarily upon an individual's classroom behavior and that individual's ability to follow classroom rules and directions. Students will receive **nine points per quarter** for their participation grade. Failure to perform any of the aforementioned will result in a one-point deduction from the original nine points. Also, please note that because this is a participation-based class, students will lose one participation point for every non-school-excused absence over four. Students will also be charged for lost or damaged music.

CONCERT/PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE (40%)

Performances will make up **forty percent** of the student's grade. Grading will be based on concert behavior, attire, and attendance. (See pg. 3 for behavior expectations.) Missing a performance will result in a "0" for that event. Please notify Mr. Willie of any known conflicts by Sep 1st. In the case of extreme illness, please call as soon as possible **before** the performance, even if school is missed on the day of a performance. Work is not and will not be considered an excuse for missing a concert or performance.

Students are responsible for the following performances:

- Fall Concert – Oct 14
- Christmas Concert – Dec 16
- Pops Concert – Feb 18
- District Festival (Star Valley) - Apr 21-22
- Post-Festival Concert – Apr 23
- Graduation – May 19

Other Dates to Consider:

- Musical Auditions – Sep 2-3
- All-State Auditions – Nov 10-14
- Musical – Nov 20-22
- All-State Music (Cody) – Jan 18-20
- Pre-Festival Recital – Apr 20
- Festival Solo/Ensemble Day - Apr 21-22
- Performing Arts Awards – May 4
- Choral Auditions – *May 11-22

*Auditions for 9-11 graders will take place in class throughout the first week, shown above, while auditions for 8th graders will take place during the second week, shown above. Additional auditions will take place on the 15th for 9-11 graders and on the 22nd for 8th graders, via sign-up.

LETTERING REQUIREMENTS

Students may obtain a letter in choir by fulfilling one or more of the following criteria:

- Perform on solo/ensemble day at Festival
- Audition for All-State

CONCERT ATTIRE

All choir members will wear **black and white**, with female choir members wearing dresses or skirts that coincide with school dress rules and males wearing a collared shirt and tie, slacks (no jeans), black socks, and dress shoes (no tennis shoes, please).

MAKE-UP POLICY

Any lost points in any of the aforementioned categories can be made up in one of two different ways. For more information on our make-up policy, please visit the department website, shown below.

CHORUS ONLINE

Please visit the Music Department's website for additional information regarding chorus classes at LHS:



(<https://jessewillie0.wixsite.com/mrwillie>)

Or, simply go to the District website, click on "Students," then "Music Department Website."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Jesse E. Willie".

Mr. Jesse Willie
williej@lymanschools.org – e-mail
786-4100 ext. 6114 – high school
307-600-3040 – cell
Uinta County School District #6
Lyman High School
P.O. Box 1090
Lyman, WY 82937

The Six Rules of Concert Etiquette (for performers)

1. **Refrain from talking**
The first and greatest rule. It also includes whispering during the music.
2. **Please tap fingers or feet quietly**
The musicians do not need your help, and your neighbors need silence. Learn to tap your toes quietly inside your shoes—it's a good exercise to reduce toe fat.
3. **Please have nothing in your mouth, besides your teeth and tongue**
Gum and candy are not allowed.
4. **Do not flip hair, wear watches with alarms, or jangle jewelry**
Not only does this send the impression that you don't care, but the added percussion is disturbing to everyone around you.
5. **Do not sigh with boredom**
If you are in agony, keep it to yourself. Your neighbor just may be in ecstasy, which should also be kept under control.
6. **Do not wave to your parents (or anybody else) during the concert**
After all, they do know who you are, and they know you are there; they most likely brought you to the concert.
7. **Do not read nor play with a toy in your pocket**
To listen means just that. Use the time to turn on a "video screen" in your mind and create a story to the music.

The Eleven Rules of Concert Etiquette (for audience members)

1. **Refrain from talking**
This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or talking to your neighbor.
2. **Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance**
If the composer wanted to include crinkly paper noises to the music, he/she would have written it into the parts.
3. **Do not open and close your purse nor rip open your velcro wallet**
The best plan is to leave purses, etc., back at school or on the locked bus.
4. **Turn off pagers, cell phones, and watch alarms**
While many phones and pagers now have very symphonic-like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.
5. **Do not wave to (or make faces at) your friends or siblings during the concert**
They, too, know you are here. You can talk to them after the concert is over.
6. **Do not take flash photography**
You don't want anyone to walk off the edge of the stage from flash blindness, do you?
7. **Please do not walk down the center aisle with your video camera**
Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium (besides; the light is usually not good enough for video taping anyway.)
8. **Do not leave as soon as your portion of the concert is over**
All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances. Remember, next time your song could be last!
9. **Applaud at appropriate times**
Some music has several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections have been performed.
10. **Do not leave the auditorium during the music**
Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom or to do anything else that probably isn't all that important anyway. The same goes for re-entering the auditorium, as well.
11. **Do not wander around the performing venue**
There's a reason concessions aren't sold outside the auditorium. One of those reasons is to prevent children from running in and out during the performance. Pick a seat, stay there, and only get up during emergencies.

THE GOLDEN RULE

Do not embarrass your teacher, your parents, or your school; a/k/a DON'T BE STUPID

Remember that you are representing your school, and you want to be on your best behavior. There are many eyes looking at you both on stage and in the audience.