

LINCOLN EAST SHOW CHOIR CONSTITUTION 2020-2021

PURPOSE:

The intended purpose of the Lincoln East High School Show Choirs is to promote the achievement of performance excellence, through the development of musicianship in vocal performance and choreographic skills. Students will be expected to strive for excellence in performance through appropriate behavior, work ethic, attitude, and energy. Students will be expected to set goals both individually and as a group, demonstrating responsibility and purposes in achieving the desired goals. Students will be expected to understand and execute “performance discipline” in daily rehearsals and in scheduled performances. Students will serve as ambassadors to the school, community, and state.

1. ELIGIBILITY:

- 1.1. A candidate for “Express” must be a student of East High School and in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. A candidate for “Elegance” must be a student of East High School, female, and in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. A candidate for “Elevation” must be a student of East High School, enrolled in a curricular concert choir at East High School, and in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
- 1.2. Candidates will be selected through auditions. The auditions will be announced in advance. Students will sign up for audition slots. One or two choreography workshops will be scheduled in advance for students to learn the required dance routine. Students will be required to sing “America” (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee) as well as sing and dance the audition excerpt. Students will be allowed one audition opportunity.
- 1.3. Candidates will be accepted based upon trust in the student’s willingness to meet the demands of show choir participation, vocal ability, coordination of movement, acceptance of show choir membership rules, and without prejudice of race, creed, color or religion.

2. MEMBERSHIP:

- 2.1. Maximum enrollment of each of the Lincoln East High School Show Choirs will be determined at the discretion of the director. Additional members may be admitted and allowed to fill vacant ensemble positions after auditions have been held due to the following conditions: Student vacancies in the group and students new to East High School after auditions have taken place.
- 2.2. The Show Choirs will participate at scheduled East High concerts, competitions, fundraisers, and community events for which advance notice will be given.

3. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- 3.1. All Show Choir members will register for the appropriate Show Choir and/or Concert Choir class for both semesters. All Show Choir members will attend all extra rehearsals, choreography

workshops, competitions, scheduled concerts and performances for the entire scheduled time unless an absence is pre-approved by the director. It is important that students plan ahead and avoid conflicts with family vacations, trips, work, etc. **Unexcused absences of three (3) or more classes, outside rehearsals, workshops, competitions, scheduled concerts and performances may result in probation or disciplinary action as determined by the directors. During probation the student will be allowed to rehearse but not perform with the group. The probation will last no more than two weeks and/or two performances. If the student has an unexcused absence from a rehearsal while on probation, they may be removed from the group/class.**

- 3.2. Summer/Fall Choreography Camp: All show choir members are required to attend choreography camp. Information regarding scheduled camps, rehearsals etc. will be communicated with students in class and via email.
- 3.3. Competitions: All show choir members are required to attend competitions. When one person is missing, the entire group suffers.
- 3.4. In the event of illness, parents/guardians should contact the director by email within 24 hours of the missed rehearsal. After that time, the absence will be considered unexcused. If a member must unexpectedly miss a competition due to a sudden illness or family emergency, the director or a student leader should be notified as soon as possible.
- 3.5. In any instance where a student's absence(s), whether excused or unexcused, prevents this student from performing at a level (vocally, choreographically, and otherwise) deemed acceptable by their director, the director reserves the right to suspend this student from performances until their progress and level of performance is deemed acceptable by director.

4. CONDUCT:

- 4.1. Show Choir members are expected to uphold ALL East High School, LPS, and NSAA rules and policies as well as the East Music Code of Conduct while participating both on and off campus.
- 4.2. Members are to refrain from "inappropriate" behavior at all show choir events and at any time throughout the year. Vulgar language, inappropriate comments or attitudes displayed in person or on social media, and inappropriate displays of affections are unacceptable behaviors and may result in removal from the group/class.
- 4.3. All East Vocal Music Students are subject to LPS Policies and are expected to know and abide by all pertinent rules and regulations as written in the East High Athletics/Activities Code of Conduct.
- 4.4. Directors maintain the right to retain artistic integrity of the ensemble. If a student is absent from rehearsals or performances, demonstrates conduct in a manner deemed unacceptable by the director, or is not performing to the degree desired, student blocking may change and/or student soloists may change at directors' discretion.

5. DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

5.1. Show Choir members who act in violation of the rules and regulations of the ensemble will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the directors and/or school administration. Parents will be notified of issues in the classroom. Disciplinary action may include referral to administration, probation, removal from the ensemble, or other consequences specific to the offense. Performers placed on probation will not be allowed to perform, but will be expected to continue rehearsals in the hope they can rejoin the group's performance schedule. If a member continues to disregard rules and regulations while on probation, the member will be removed from the ensemble.

5.2. A Show Choir member may be suspended from performances for the following:

Three (3) unexcused absences from rehearsals, concerts, or performances.

Tardiness, three (3) tardies (class and extra rehearsals).

Non-compliance with rules and regulations of the ensemble.

Failure to cooperate with the director.

Failure to cooperate with other members of the ensemble.

ANY action that reflects negatively on the show choir and/or the school.

5.3. A Show Choir member may be dismissed from the ensemble for the following:

Consistent and excessive disruptive conduct (both in rehearsal and/or performance).

Use of drugs and/or alcohol (including tobacco products).

ANY action that reflects negatively on the show choir and/or the school.

6. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

6.1. Necessary clothing and accessories: Show choir members will be expected to purchase their own socks, pantyhose, and undergarments. **These items are not part of the overall costume cost.**

6.2. Members are responsible for their own meals and beverages on trips, at choreography camps, and at competitions.

6.3. Members will be required to pay for equipment and attire such as costumes and required accessories needed for the class, not to exceed \$500.00 (per policy 5520) for a school year. All costume fees will be published on Synergy.

6.4. Students will learn of their acceptance into Elevation, Elegance, or Express the spring semester of the preceding year. Elevation membership will be finalized in the fall after auditioning incoming 9th graders. All payments/donations need to be received by the due dates outlined in the payment plan below:

Payment Plan:

Due July 1st - \$100

Due August 1st - \$150

Due November 1st - Any remaining costume fee amounts.

Per school administration, students will receive their costume pieces only after their costume fees have been paid in full. Students unable to get their account paid off must make arrangements with the director or forfeit their right to perform in concerts and competitions. Students on the obligation list are also unable to purchase dance tickets, receive report cards, or receive their diploma at the graduation ceremony.

- 6.5. Every effort will be made to keep costs down for the group while maintaining a high competitive standard; however, there may be additional costs such as competition fees, transportation costs and miscellaneous expenses which are not mandatory but need to be covered anyway. A highly-encouraged, optional donation will be added to Synergy to help defray these expenses. Partial/complete payment of this optional donation will be greatly appreciated to help us maintain a competitive standard.

Optional Donation Amounts:

Elevation - \$200

Elegance/Express - \$250

7. FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

- 7.1. All Show Choir members are expected to assist with fundraising projects throughout the year. The money raised will be used to fund additional instructional costs such as choreography, competition fees, transportation costs, etc.
- 7.2. Some fundraising projects will be of individual nature while others will involve the entire group. The guidelines for each fundraiser will be discussed with the student as the fundraiser approaches.
- 7.3. All Show Choir members are responsible for providing *at least* two volunteer shifts (beyond show choir members' volunteer responsibilities) at our annual "Spartan Spectacular" Show Choir Competition. As this is the largest singular fundraising event put on by the East vocal music department, all show choir members' families are required to contribute these volunteer shifts. Students whose families do not do their part to support this event may not be allowed to perform at subsequent competitions and concerts.
- 7.4. Any positive balance in an individual account at year's end will automatically roll over into their individual account for the next year. If a student is not in show choir the following year, any positive balance in their individual account will automatically roll into the general scholarship account.
- 7.5. The director will approve all fundraising activities.

8. AUDITIONS:

- 8.1. An audition is required to establish the following: To demonstrate singing and vocal ability, coordinated movement, and stage presence. Accompanists and additional judges may be present during auditions to assist with the selection of the participants. A video camera or audio tape may be used during the audition. The director will make the final selection of applicants.

- 8.2. Auditions will take place during the spring semester. Additional auditions may be conducted at other times at the discretion of the director.
- 8.3. The format of the auditions will be determined by the director. The auditions will be carried out in a fair, appropriate and professional manner conducive to allowing candidates to show their talents, abilities and potential.

9. REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

- 9.1. The director will set the rehearsal schedule beyond the daily classroom rehearsals. The rehearsal schedule for each ensemble will be outlined in their respective “At-A-Glance” Calendars. Additional practices may be called on Saturdays or before/after school as needed. Advance notice will be given for these rehearsals.
- 9.2. Students involved in another activity or have a conflict on the days listed for their practices should inform the director/coach and try to work out a compromise. Students should not expect the director to work it out. It is the student’s responsibility to come up with a solution, present the solution to the director and then implement the plan. If the student is unable to work out a compromise, the director will make this decision for you.
- 9.3. **All show choir members are required to attend all rehearsals.** Parental permission in the form of a signed note and e-mail to the director(s) will be required to miss a rehearsal. Notes or e-mails received the day of a rehearsal will be unexcused except in the event of an emergency. Students must make the director aware of conflicts two weeks in advance and no less than 24 hours in advance. Work and/or family vacations are not viable excuses for missing any show choir rehearsal or event. See section 5.2 with regard to absences and tardiness.

10. APPEARANCE:

- 10.1 Members are expected to strive for a ‘uniform’ and neat appearance.
- 10.2 Costumes/Uniforms should be kept clean and stored properly between performances.
- 10.3 Make-up for performances should be ‘uniform.’ For hygienic reasons, each female performer will be asked to purchase specific brands & shades of make-up.
- 10.4 Members should not wear nail polish or long fake nails for performances. However, a nude shade or a classic French manicure are acceptable.
- 10.5 Each performer is responsible for keeping their hair neat and secured up and out of the face. The hair should not need attention or draw negative attention during a performance - hair is expected to be natural colors for all performances. Use of hair care products may be necessary. In some cases, a haircut or trim may be necessary.

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