



Lower Dauphin High School

ecolpo@ldsd.org

201 S. Hanover Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036

(717) 566-5330 (2096)

Dear **LD Choirs** family:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! This syllabus & calendar contain essential info pertaining to our year in LD Choirs. Please check them out, mark your family calendars, and then send me an email to confirm your receipt of this information, by **September 5.**

Many opportunities await singers in LD Choirs:

- LD Choirs present **3 annual concerts**: the Fall Choral Collage (October **26**), Winter Wonderland (December **20**), and the Spring Choral Extravaganza (May **14**). These are sensational performances year after year! *Note that all HS ensembles hold mandatory dress rehearsals after school (2:30-4:30) the day prior to each concert. (October **25**, December **19**, May **13**)* Mark your calendars and get hyped!
- Women's Select Choir & Mixed Choir singers should stay tuned for information on **County Choir** this winter, and members of Chamber Singers are highly encouraged to audition for **PMEA District 7 Choir** on October **28**! Our students have been very successful in festivals, as shown on the "wall of honor" in our classroom. Attending these festivals is an unbelievable experience.
- Our annual **Musical** will take place **February 28-March 3**. This is an amazing opportunity for students to be part of a Broadway-style production! The informational meeting will be held in the fall – stay tuned!
- The **Music Honor Society, "Tri-M"** holds Coffeehouse & Recital performance opportunities throughout the year, providing students the chance to perform solo, or in small groups. All students are encouraged to check out these opportunities!

Please mark your family calendars, and send me an e-mail (ecolpo@ldsd.org) to confirm your receipt of this information, by **September 5.**

I look forward to a wonderful year of music-making with your student!

Here's to an outstanding year!

Miss/Dr. Elizabeth M. Colpo

*National Board Certified Teacher & Director of Choirs, Lower Dauphin High School
President, American Choral Directors Association - PA
DMA Candidate, Boston University*

***"To sing like this, in the company of other souls, and to make those consonants slip out so easily and in unison, and to make those chords so rich that they bring tears to your eyes – this is transcendence.
This is the power that choral singing has that other music can only dream of."*** - Garrison Keillor



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Syllabus

- 1) Instructor information – Elizabeth M. Colpo
Room: 501 E-mail: ecolpo@ldsd.org
- 2) Curricular ensemble meeting times:
Mixed Choir – period 6/7 Chamber Singers – period 4 Women's Select Choir – period 3
- 3) Objectives for all ensembles:
Students will experience meaningful aesthetic moments in choral music rehearsals & performances. This rewarding process will incorporate the development of vocal technique, music literacy and sight-singing, musical expressiveness/interpretation, the ability to listen to and evaluate performances, and an understanding of music in relation to history & culture.
- 4) Grading Overview:
Daily class participation: approx. 40%
Attentiveness (watching/listening), perceived physical exertion, score-marking (in pencil), verbal contributions, etc! Our success depends on 100% active engagement!

Singing Assessments & Music Literacy Assessments: approx. 25%
Singing: Will include a variety small group, quartet, partner, and individual settings, in a supportive environment appropriate to the ability level of each ensemble. Music Literacy: Will include quizzes via musictheory.net on topics such as pitch and key-signature reading.
Individual sight-singing progress/growth will also be tracked later in the year.

Written Evaluations: approx. 25% Written concert reflections and/or listening/analysis assignments.

Dress Rehearsals & Performances: 10% (See calendar for dates.) Only excuse: absence from school that day.

The following are items of interest and responsibility to you:

- 1) Concert attire
Mixed Choir: Dressy pants/skirt/dress/shirt, dress shoes, dark socks.
Extra credit for bow ties, vests, suit jackets dresses.
Dress shoes you can walk/stand/sing in.
NO SNEAKERS, FLIP-FLOPS, OR JEANS!
Follow school dress code: no cleavage, skirts should cover the knee.

Chamber Singers & Women's Select Choir: Robe, black/dressy for whatever can be seen
- 2) Promptness - Rehearsals will begin at the bell. You are expected to have retrieved your folder before the bell, and be in your seat with a pencil ready. School tardy policy applies (3=detention).
- 3) Pencils are needed at every rehearsal - Keep one in your folder. Marking music is key to creating ensemble artistry.
- 4) NO gum/food/drink ...in class OR in the auditorium...(exceptions: post-concert celebrations & special occasions ☺)
- 5) NO cell phones - No cell phones are permitted in class. Violation will result in a school disciplinary referral.



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- 6) Folders - You will receive a folder and music and an assigned number. You are responsible for your folder and its contents! Losing a folder or piece of music will cause issuance of a school fine report.
- 7) Excused from singing in class - If you feel well enough to be in school, yet not well enough to sing, you may ask for permission to be excused from singing that period. You will be expected to sit at the choir secretary's desk, follow along / mark your score, and complete a summary sheet about the rehearsal.
- 8) Restroom - If using the restroom prior to class, return to class on time. It is in the ensemble's best interest that you are in rehearsal. However, if an emergency arises, you may sign out. This should be limited (exception would be a medical excuse) and 1 student at a time.
- 9) Robes (Chamber Singers & Women's Select Choir) Care for the robe is your responsibility. Robes are to be kept in the garment bags and returned to the closet after every use. Re-hang robes in numerical order so that they are easy to locate during future uses. Be sure to zip your robe, to avoid it falling off the hanger. (Interns' jurisdiction)
- 10) Festivals - Members of LD Choirs have been very successful in festivals, as shown on the "wall of honor" in our classroom. Attending these festivals is an unbelievable experience. (What could be better than making music with an awesome guest conductor and 199 talented peers from seven surrounding counties?) Auditions are typically the 3rd or 4th Saturday of October, and the festivals are in the winter.
- 11) Practice rooms - You are welcome to practice for festivals, Tri-M, Musical, etc! There is a practice room next to Miss C's office, and 501 is open at various times throughout the day. Come be a part of the "District Chorus Factory!" (Be sure to check with Miss C, and ask your teacher's permission, if leaving a class.)
- 12) Senior Awards
 - a. Fred Waring Director's Award for Service– awarded to a student who has demonstrated the most service
 - b. National School Choral Award – awarded to the most accomplished senior choir member
- 13) Calendar
Be sure to see the attached calendar for many exciting dates pertaining to you!