



**Lakewood High School
Performing Arts**

2024-2025



A Word from Mr. Kraft

Dear Lakewood High School Families,

I hope this message finds you well.

As we continue to support our students in their academic and personal growth, I want to take a moment to emphasize the vital role that the performing arts play in their development. Whether it's through vocal or instrumental music, theater, or other forms of artistic expression, the performing arts offer invaluable benefits that extend well beyond the stage.

The performing arts have a unique ability to resonate emotionally with both participants and audiences. For our students, this means an opportunity to explore their emotions, gain empathy, and develop a stronger sense of self. Moreover, attending and participating in performances brings students together, creating lasting friendships and a sense of belonging that is so important during these formative years.

Engagement in the performing arts nurtures critical skills that are essential for success in school and beyond. Creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving are just a few of the benefits. Additionally, students who perform gain confidence, improve their communication skills, and learn the value of teamwork—skills that will serve them well in all areas of life, including their future careers.

The performing arts also offer pathways to future opportunities. Whether students pursue careers in the arts or apply their skills in other fields, the experiences they gain now can open doors to a wide range of possibilities. Furthermore, our school's award-winning performances and arts programs contribute to the local community, drawing in audiences and supporting our local economy.

Participating in the performing arts provides a healthy outlet for students to express themselves and manage stress. It can reduce anxiety, boost mood, and enhance overall mental well-being. For those involved in marching band or other physical performances, the arts also offer a fun way to stay active and healthy.

As a theater and vocal music dad, I believe the performing arts are a crucial aspect of our students' education and personal development. I encourage all families to support and encourage their children's involvement in these activities, whether it's through attending performances, participating in programs, or simply exploring the arts together. Together, we can ensure that the performing arts remain a vibrant and enriching part of our high school experience.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and the performing arts programs here at Lakewood High School

Warm regards,

Joshua Kraft

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joshua Kraft", with a stylized, cursive script.

Principal

Lakewood High School

LAKEWOOD PERFORMING ARTS

Lakewood High School Performing Arts is a triad of performing arts disciplines focusing on student development in instrumental music, vocal music, and theatrical arts. The department serves over 1/3 of the 1,750 students at the school.

The LHS Vocal Department comprises five choirs: Kaleidoscope (Advanced Treble), Eclipse (Advanced Mixed), Tenor/Bass, Treble, and Beginning Mixed. The Instrumental Music Department offers a variety of courses including Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Concert Orchestra, Symphonic Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, two percussion classes, and Jazz Band. Lakewood also offers non-ensemble classes such as Guitar, Unified Music, and Music Appreciation.

The music programs have performed around the country. The choirs have performed eight times at the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference. The choir program has received multiple awards and recognition, including Outstanding 5A Tenor/Bass choir at the 2023 Colorado West Festival. The Chamber Orchestra has been selected to perform at CMEA in 2007, 2011, 2014, 2018, and 2023. The Wind Ensemble performed at CMEA in 2013. The LHS Marching band has been a CBA state finalist 13 times and was the 2022 Class 5A Bronze medalist. The color guard was an RMCGA State Champion in 2012, 2016, & 2023, and the Lakewood Winter Percussion Ensemble was RMPA State Champion in 2000, 2022 & 2023. The Lakewood Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform at the Music for All National Orchestra Festival in 2025.

The Lakewood High School Theatre Company rounds out the performing arts department, offering eight classes in everything from Shakespeare in Performance and Advanced Acting to a Unified Theatre program. The LHS Theatre Company has been honored with 50 Bobby G nominations since the program began in 2012, garnering 11 for its production of Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street and three for its production of Anastasia, including two outstanding lead actor nominations and a nomination for best production of a musical. Lakewood's 2023 production of *Something Rotten* was nominated for 10 Bobby G Awards. *Something Rotten* earned five Bobby G Awards including Outstanding Performance by a Lead Actor, Outstanding Performance by a Supporting Actor, Lighting, Direction, and Outstanding Overall Production Awards. All three departments routinely collaborate on the musical each spring.

The Lakewood High School Performing and Visual Arts programs were honored as a 2017 Think360 Arts Outstanding Arts School. The mission of the arts programs at Lakewood is to foster personal and academic growth by developing students' understanding of humanity, our history and our future.



BAND & ORCHESTRA



Bryce Melaragno began teaching at Lakewood High school in 2015, where he teaches three orchestras, two concert bands, and the marching band. Prior to teaching at Lakewood he taught at Creighton Middle School and the Lakewood Area Elementary Schools. Mr. Melaragno has had three ensembles selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association - the 2015 Creighton MS Symphonic Band, and the 2018 & 2023 Lakewood Chamber Orchestra. The Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform at the Music For All Orchestra America National Festival in 2025. Under Melaragno's direction the Lakewood Bengal Regiment has been a 8-time CBA State Finalist, and the Wind Symphony has been selected to perform at the CBA State Concert Band Festival multiple times.

In 2014, Mr. Melaragno received the inaugural Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the Colorado Music Educators Association. He has also received the received the Jeffco Values Award three times for Exemplary Performance, a faculty nominated award presented by Jeffco Public Schools. Mr. Melaragno has served on the Board of the Colorado Bandmasters Association as Metro Area Representative, and the CBA Marching Committee. Mr. Melaragno is the President-Elect of the Colorado Bandmasters Association. He is also a member of the Jeffco Music Advisory Team and the coordinator of the Jeffco Honor Orchestra.

Mr. Melaragno earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Metropolitan State University of Denver and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. Mr. Melaragno is a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Colorado Bandmasters Association, American String Teachers Association, and Phi Beta Mu.

Austen Jankowski is in his third year at Lakewood High School and teaches Advanced Percussion, Intermediate Percussion, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Guitar courses. Additionally, he is the Assistant Director of the Bengal Regiment Marching Band, directs the pep band, and instructs the state champion percussion ensemble.



Mr. Jankowski earned his Bachelor of Music Education and Bachelor of Bassoon Performance from The University of Colorado Boulder and is pursuing his Masters in Music Education from Central Washington University. He has performed locally with various ensembles including the Flatiron Winds, Arapahoe Philharmonic, Boulder Symphony, and MahlerFest Orchestra. In addition to bassoon, he also specializes in percussion having marched with the Blue Knights Drum Corps and Percussion Ensemble from 2014-2016. He is also in his 9th year performing with the Denver Nuggets Skyline Drum Line and the Colorado Avalanche Celly Squad.

Mr. Jankowski is thrilled to continue his time with Lakewood and grateful for the leadership and collaboration of band director, Mr. Melaragno.

BAND & ORCHESTRA

BAND & ORCHESTRA CLASS OFFERINGS

Concert/Symphonic Band (Full Year)

The Symphonic Band is an auditioned group open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. The Symphonic Band focuses on refining instrument playing skills and performing quality music literature of a higher difficulty level. The Symphonic Band will have the opportunity to perform at Concert Band Festivals in the spring.

Marching Band (Fall Semester)

Join Lakewood's award winning marching band – the Bengal Regiment! Marching Band is intended to develop students' technique for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments and cover appropriate marching band literature styles, primarily for marching performances. Students will rehearse during class time and outside of school. The band will compete from mid-September until the end of October. After marching season, the marching band class will become a concert band for the remainder of first semester. Students from this class will move to their auditioned concert band placement second semester.

Wind Symphony (Spring Semester)

The Wind Symphony is the most advanced band at LHS. The Wind Symphony is made up of mostly 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. A small number of 9th grade students may be invited to enroll in this ensemble. The Wind Symphony performs the finest literature and continues the development of refined, professional skills. The Wind Symphony will participate in concert band festivals around the state, including the CBA Concert Band Festival. Many students take private lessons and participate in ensembles outside of school. The Wind Symphony was selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association Convention in 2013.

Percussion (Full Year)/Advanced Percussion (Spring Semester)

Lakewood offers two levels of percussion class. All percussion students will be enrolled in this instrumental ensemble. These classes focus on all things percussion through the use of smaller percussion ensemble music and concert band music. Students will audition for placement in to a concert band in the fall.

Concert Orchestra (Full Year)

The Concert Orchestra is a non-auditioned ensemble open to any student who has played a string instrument three years or more. Students in the concert orchestra are exposed to a variety of literature, ranging from classical to pop music. Concert orchestra is designed to train young musicians in the many aspects of string playing, with the goal of helping students successfully audition in to one of the top orchestras.

Symphonic Orchestra (Full Year)

Symphonic Orchestra is the middle level orchestra offered at LHS, open to 9th through 12th grade students. Students must audition to be placed in this ensemble. Symphonic Orchestra offers students a variety of literature, ranging from classical to pop music. Many students in the Symphonic Orchestra take private lessons and participate in youth orchestras around the Metro Area.

Chamber Orchestra (Full Year)

Chamber Orchestra is the highest level orchestra offered at Lakewood. Students audition in the spring to be placed in this ensemble. Chamber Orchestra is designed to acquaint more serious string students with more advanced aspects of orchestral playing. Students are exposed to a wide variety of repertoire, ranging from chamber music to contemporary and full orchestra literature. The majority of students in the chamber orchestra study privately and many participate in youth orchestras around the Metro Area.. The Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association Convention in 2007, 2011, 2014, 2018, and 2023.

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS

Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, Winter Guard, Winter Percussion, Drum Club,
Pep Band, Symphony Orchestra, AP Music Theory, Music Appreciation Class, Guitar Class

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Wind Ensemble CMEA Performance 2013
- Chamber Orchestra CMEA Performances 2007, 2011, 2014, 2018, 2023
- Chamber Orchestra Selected to Music For All Orchestra America National Festival 2025
- Consistent Superior ratings at festivals in Jazz, Concert Band, and Orchestra
- 13 Time CBA State Marching Band Finalist & 2022 CBA State Marching Band Bronze Medalist
- Orchestra Performances with Mark Wood, Barrage, and Spinphony
- Travel Opportunities – New York, Florida, Hawaii, Europe, Boston
- National/Regional Marching Band Competitions - Zia Marching Festival in 2019 & Bands of America St. George Regional in 2023
- 2012, 2016, 2023 RMCGA State Champion Winter Guard
- 2000, 2002, 2022, 2023, 2024 RMPA State Champion Winter Percussion Ensemble

VOCAL MUSIC



Katie Kenkel is in her first year as the Director of Vocal Music at Lakewood High School, where she directs five ensembles and teaches Music Appreciation. Prior to joining the team at Lakewood, Ms. Kenkel taught in both Douglas County and Lewis-Palmer School Districts. She holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Gonzaga University. Outside of Lakewood, Ms. Kenkel sings with Elus Vocal Ensemble and directs a choir for students with Down Syndrome through a non-profit organization in Colorado Springs.

Ms. Kenkel serves on the board for the Colorado chapter of ACDA and is an active member of the Colorado Music Educators Association (CMEA), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Colorado native and Golden High School graduate, **Kent Lemburg**, grew up on the west side of Denver and received his BFA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. While Kent developed his professional career as an entrepreneur, he was able to stay connected to many music and theater endeavors ranging from touring with Up With People, directing music for many church denominations and teaching music at CU Denver. Kent is pleased to be working with Lakewood high school's burgeoning choral department as their primary accompanist. Kent and his husband James are proud parents of two high schoolers and reside in central Denver.



ABOUT THE VOCAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Lakewood High School is a vibrant school with many opportunities for success and development in the Performing Arts. Membership in the choral program provides the opportunity to collaborate with others and participate in the longest human music-making tradition – singing! Students will develop and practice teamwork, personal discipline, social skills, self-expression, problem-solving, self-confidence, critical thinking, and many others. The continued development of these skills will allow students to be active musicians throughout their lives, to appreciate music in all aspects of society and culture, and to be well-rounded, productive contributors of society.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Kaleidoscope Selected to Perform at CMEA 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, & 2018
- Eclipse Selected to Perform at CMEA 2007 & 2009
- Performances at Colorado West Music Festival, & Metro State University Choral Music Festival
- Travel Opportunities to Florida, and New York
- Community Performances include the Colorado Symphony and Alpine Chorale

VOCAL MUSIC

LAKEWOOD CHOIR CLASS OFFERINGS

Mixed Choir

Mixed Choir is a non-auditioned choir open to all students and voice classifications at Lakewood High School. This class serves as an introductory to high school singing and is for the newer singer who wishes to develop their skills and music knowledge to advance into a more selective choir within the Lakewood High School Program. This choir attends and performs at the Jeffco All-County Sing-in as well as choral concerts at Lakewood High School.

Tenor-Bass Choir

Tenor-Bass Choir is a non-auditioned choir reserved for the more experienced tenor/bass voices who are interested in continued vocal development and are committed to taking their music and vocal skills to a more advanced level. Tenor-Bass Choir is comprised of singers from each grade level and explores advanced choral literature for tenor/bass choirs. This group regularly practices advanced vocal techniques, sight singing and aural skills, and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of music theory. Members of this choir participate in quarterly choir concerts, the JeffCo Tenor/Bass Festival, and help organize the Lakewood Area Choral Festival.

Treble Choir

Treble Choir is a non-auditioned choir reserved for soprano/alto voices who are interested in continued vocal development and are committed to taking their music and vocal skills to a more advanced level. Treble Choir is comprised of singers from all grade levels and focuses on diverse repertoire from various time periods and cultures. This group regularly practices advanced vocal technique, sight singing and aural skills, and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of music theory. Members of this choir participate in quarterly choir concerts, and help organize the Lakewood Area Choral Festival.

Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is the premiere treble ensemble at Lakewood High School. Kaleidoscope is an auditioned ensemble comprised of singers from each grade level and explores advanced choral literature for treble choirs. This group regularly practices advanced vocal technique, sight singing and aural skills, and demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of music theory. Students in this ensemble regularly participate in All-State Choir, JeffCo Honor Choir, and represent Lakewood in performances around Colorado and beyond, including the Metropolitan State University Choral Celebration each year.

Eclipse

This choir is the premier mixed ensemble for the choral program and is reserved for the most advanced singer - typically juniors and seniors. This choir performs choral styles that range from traditional chamber music, modern/contemporary a Capella, and various styles of vocal jazz. Concurrent enrollment in Tenor-Bass Choir/Kaleidoscope is mandatory to sing in this ensemble. Members of this ensemble regularly participate in All-State Choir, JeffCo Honor Choir, and represent the Lakewood choir program in performances around Colorado and beyond.

ADDITIONAL CLASS OFFERINGS

Music Appreciation

THEATRE



Jace Smykil is back for his 11th year of teaching at LHS. He was the first to develop a Unified Theatre course, which has become a model for bringing art to students with special needs across the state. Mr. Smykil holds a BA from the University of Northern Colorado and an MFA in acting from the University of Ohio. He has worked as a teaching artist with the Denver Center Education department and continues to work professionally as a voice over and commercial actor. Mr. Smykil has directed shows throughout his time with the LHSTC, and this season, he will be directing *The Laramie Project* (2024).

Ty Eatherton started teaching in 2018 and was a middle-school theatre educator until making the big leap to LHS. He is an established educator and director in the Colorado theatre scene, including residencies at the Arvada Center for the Arts & Humanities and the Denver Center of Performing Arts, and is currently the Artistic Director of Front Range Theatre Company. With both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Theatre Education from the University of Northern Colorado. Mr. Eatherton (ET) continues to explore opportunities to promote collaboration and creativity, and above all, push students to continually create and explore with the arts.



David Payne has been in the theatre community for over 40 years, and has been the Technical Director of Theatre for four years. Mr. Payne works actively throughout the Colorado theatre community as an actor, director, stage manager, and production manager. Mr. Payne studied Theatre at the University of Northern Colorado, and Studied Acting and Directing at the University of Denver. He directed multiple shows at the Arvada Center for Arts & Humanities, was also the Technical Director at the Community College of Aurora, and at the Mizel Arts & Cultural Center.

THEATRE

The Lakewood High School Theatre Company is made up of a group of students and adults who are interested in the art of acting, design, stage management, and technical theatre. Any Lakewood High School student is welcome to join the Theatre Company, and membership in the club does not require enrollment in a class.

The Lakewood High School Theatre Company produces three to four shows a school year consisting of the following:

- Two scripted fall plays, either drama or comedy
- One variety or improv show, usually in the fall, but varies depending on the interest level of students
- A spring musical in March that is in conjunction with the LHS music programs
- One Act plays in the spring directed by the advanced acting students
- A Unified theatre production

In addition, LHS Theatre students have the opportunity to participate in the following:

- The Actor's Showcase -- a compilation of performances by the Advanced Acting Students
- The Spring Acting Scenes -- duet scenes performed by beginning and intermediate-acting students enrolled in class
- Jefferson County Theatre Festival -- a district-wide performance and workshop event
- Jefferson County Improv Festival -- a district-wide improv workshop and showcase event
- Colorado State Thespian Conference -- a statewide festival with individual event opportunities, workshops, full-length and one-act performances, and much more

The LHS Theatre Company (LHSTC) has received over 50 Bobby G nominations since 2012 for outstanding performance and technical work for our spring musicals. In 2023, we garnered five wins, including honors for our student actors, technicians, and adult direction team. The Bobby G Award is the state qualifying competition leading to the national Jimmy Awards in New York City. In addition, we were chosen as the Colorado Thespians Critic's Choice Chapter Select One Act in 2020 with our production of "A Wrinkle in Time." The LHSTC was named one of three top theatre programs in the nation by the Educational Theatre Association in 2018. Students of the LHSTC regularly gain admission to some of the top acting and musical theatre university programs in the country, while others go on to careers in medicine, law, business, and writing.

Lakewood High School is a proud member of the International Thespian Society, an organization of student actors and technicians dedicated to excellence in high school theatre. To become a member of the LHS Thespian Troupe, you must log 30 points of on-stage or backstage work with the LHS Theatre Company, 35 for freshmen. Limited transfer hours from other schools or programs are accepted. At Lakewood, membership in the Thespian troupe is considered an honor, and only the most committed students earn membership. With your membership in Troupe #1697, you are awarded a letter, and service bars can be earned for additional hours spent in the theatre. In addition, members of the Thespian troupe attend the annual state conference, a two-night, three-day event of theatre-based workshops, competitions, and scholarship and college auditions.

LAKESWOOD THEATRE COURSE OFFERINGS

Foundations of Theatre (Introduction): An overview of theatre, looking at history, technical basics, and introductory acting technique. A good class for students in previous middle school level theatre classes and for the theatre novice. All grades.

Technical Theatre (I and II): Focuses on the technical aspects of theatre, including set design and construction, costume design, and stage management. Team leadership opportunities. All grades.

Unified Theatre: A course that partners differently-abled students with mainstream coaches and mentors to produce and perform a theatrical production. This course is as much about community and mentorship as it is about theatre. Sophomores – Seniors.

Beginning Theatre (Acting): A beginning/intermediate course that focuses on character development and scene study. Student perform in duet scenes as well as hone their skills with monologues and other performance work. This class can be repeated. Sophomores – Seniors. (Open to freshmen who have taken Theatre Comprehensive)

Intermediate Theatre (Shakespeare): A chance to learn and perform the works of the Bard. This is our level II acting class. Sophomores – Seniors (Open to freshmen who have taken Theatre Comprehensive)

Advanced Acting: An interview course for juniors and seniors who want to broaden their experience in theater. Semester one consists of performing in an actor's showcase and duet scene study. Semester two focuses on students becoming the production team, including taking on the role of director, designer, and dramaturge, and outreach programs to local middle and elementary schools. This class can be repeated. Juniors and Seniors.

International Baccalaureate Theatre: For juniors and seniors in IB AND non-IB theatre students looking for a theatrical challenge. Takes a world view of alternative performance and creation styles with assessments in research, directing, performance, and reflection. Focuses on theatrical traditions distant in time and/or place from contemporary American theater. Produces the World Theatre Project in April. Juniors and Seniors.



2024-2025 Season

OCTOBER 4-5, 7:00 PM	Almost Maine
OCTOBER 5.....	Big Cat Marching Invitational
OCTOBER 8, 6:30 PM.....	Band Concert
OCTOBER 8, 7:30PM.....	Orchestra Concert
OCTOBER 9, 7:00 PM.....	Choir Concert
OCTOBER 22.....	Jeffco Theatre Festival
OCTOBER 26.....	CBA State Marching Championships
NOVEMBER 14-16, 7:00 PM.....	The Laramie Project
NOVEMBER 21.....	ROARchestra Festival
NOVEMBER 22.....	Jeffco Honor Choir
DECEMBER 3, 6:30 PM.....	Orchestra Concert
DECEMBER 4, 6:30 PM.....	Area Choir Festival
DECEMBER 10, 6:30 PM.....	Band Concert
DECEMBER 11, 7:00 PM.....	Combined Holiday Concert
DECEMBER 12-14, 7:00 PM.....	State Thespian Convention
JANUARY 9-11.....	Colorado All State Choir
JANUARY 24.....	Jeffco Honor Band & Orchestra
JANUARY 30- FEBRUARY 1.....	Colorado All State Jazz Band
FEBRUARY 6-8.....	Colorado All State Orchestra
FEBRUARY 4, 6:30 PM.....	Area Band Festival
FEBRUARY 12, 6:30 PM.....	Area Band Festival
FEBRUARY 13, 7:00 PM.....	Actor's Showcase
MARCH 4.....	CBA Concert Band Regional Festival
MARCH 6, 7:00 PM.....	Nice Work if You Can Get it
MARCH 7. 7:00 PM.....	Nice Work if You Can Get it
MARCH 8, 1:00 PM.....	Nice Work if You Can Get it
MARCH 8, 7:00 PM.....	Nice Work if You Can Get it
MARCH 11, 7:00 PM.....	Music for All Chamber Orchestra Preview Concert
APRIL 2.....	Area Jazz Band Concert
APRIL 3.....	Choir Concert
APRIL 3-5.....	Colorado All State Band
APRIL 15, 6:30PM.....	Band Concert/Awards
APRIL 16, 6:30 PM.....	Orchestra Concert/Awards
APRIL 21-22.....	CBA State Concert Band Festival
APRIL 23, 6:00 PM.....	Unified Theatre: Peter Pan
APRIL 25.....	Jeffco Honor Jazz Band
MAY 2, 3:30 & 7:00 PM.....	Once Acts
MAY 7-9, 7:00 PM.....	POPS Concert
MAY 10.....	Theatre Banquet