



Lawton Chiles High School Choral Program

The Internet

(850) 270 8144

www.chileschorus.com

Corey Sullivan, Director

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WELCOME TO REMOTE LEARNING!

We are strangers in a strange land, folks.

Regardless of our current situation, I'm glad you're here. Like me, you're about to embark in uncharted territory for any choral program that I know of – instruction via the internet. Before we delve into the nitty-gritty of how this is going down, let me tell you where I am so we can be on the same page:

- Ensembles, as we know them, are now unable to meet in any musical fashion. The challenges of running a choir rehearsal or “virtual choir” are, from my perspective, insurmountable for us as a program right now.
- All afterschool activities, including performances, have been cancelled through the end of the year regardless of whether school meets face-to-face before the end of the semester.
- Not all students have access to the same level of technology or internet (I myself am running satellite-based internet from my family's farm in rural South Georgia).
- Many of us just saw our home lives change significantly and drastically, and the thought of returning to school in these new conditions is daunting.

SO, WITH THAT IN MIND...

I'm trying to balance keeping choir class down to the necessary bits, getting what we need done to close out the year and put a cap on our musical experiences while also not overwhelming you with work or stress. For many of you, choir was a source of relief and a nice break from an otherwise information-packed day. As such, I've altered the syllabus and handbook to reflect our strange new world while attempting to not put too much immediate burden into your lives. You will still have to meet many of the same criteria as before (yes, performance included), but most of it will be in a very different format from what you're used to. Please know that I am always resource for you to reach out to and that, in my mind, any activity is flexible if it needs to be to meet our mutual need.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. In the immediate future, my office hours are from 1PM-3PM every weekday, though I have limited availability in other times if those times do not work for you – contact me via email and we'll set something up. My email address is still sullivanc@leonschools.net. I am also available via Google Voice by dialing or texting (850) 270-8144 (office hours only, please). I want to be available to any-and-all who need to discuss something with me, so please don't be afraid to reach out.

We'll get through this! Good luck this nine weeks!

Mr. Sullivan

CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Attendance

- a. Online attendance is not taken in the traditional daily format – instead, students are given credit each day for completing their “Daily Assignments.”
- b. These assignments ARE NOT due daily – instead, they will be graded every two weeks. If a student decides to work ahead and complete these assignments all at once, they are free to. If a student wants to do one at a set time daily, go right ahead. They are not due until the end of the semester, but be warned – two sentences daily turns into paragraphs weekly, and those paragraphs turn into essays when left until semester’s end!
- c. When two weeks have passed, the next two week’s questions will be uploaded to FOCUS. The old set of questions will remain up – no worries!

2. Conduct

- a. Students will show respect to one another, their student leaders, and to their instructor at all times, video chat, phone conversation, or otherwise.
- b. Go ahead and chew gum if you like.
- c. Drinks and food are fine too – it’s your house! Just don’t make your parents clean it up if you spill.
- d. Multi-tasking while learning remotely is difficult to avoid – I know that the entire world is open to you just beyond your open browser tab. I promise not to multi-task you when we interact – promise me the same.

3. Participation

- a. More than half of your grade is based on the quality of your participation in our daily two sentence questions. Take time to do them. Think! Be engaged. It can be a struggle, at times – strive for mindfulness when necessary.

GRADING

Level I/II		Level III/IV (HONORS)	
PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS	50%	REHEARSAL PARTICIPATION	50%
PERFORMANCE PROJECT	50%	PERFORMANCE PROJECT	30%
		LOCAL CONCERT REVIEWS	10%
		MENTORSHIP/REVIEW, PART II	10%

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

I've removed the criteria that we do any more written assignments as we would normally do them in-class. Additionally, your chorus finals have been cancelled. At some point this semester I will be uploading all worksheets I've given out this year to our FOCUS pages with the correct answers filled in for you to have in your records.

PERFORMANCE PROJECT

For most students, the performance project is going to take the format of your normal end-of-year audition for placement in next year's choirs. This will involve students recording or live-streaming (or audio-chatting) a short vocalise and reading some short sight-reading examples. Information on this project will be posted to the "Performance Grade, 4th Nine Weeks" webpage on FOCUS. This audition is mandatory in some format for all underclassmen, even those who are not planning on taking choir next year. Please email me with any questions.

Seniors and students not taking choir next year will have an optional alternate assignment to complete in-lieu of a sight-reading based audition. Details will be posted to the "Performance Grade, 4th Nine Weeks" webpage on FOCUS in the coming days, so stay tuned!

HONORS STUDENTS

- The mentorship paper (unless you've already completed it OR have something in mind you'd like to write about) has been replaced by another concert review paper. That means you'll have a total of 2 concert reviews due this nine weeks OR 1 concert review and a mentorship paper.
- The criteria for at least 2 "classical" concerts and at most 1 "pop" and 1 "musical theatre" performance have been removed. All honors papers may be on ANY style of music.
- The criteria that you attend in-person is now also being removed. You may write about any full performance of at least 30 minutes that you are able to access.
- There are still live performances being streamed! From Elton John to the Backstreet Boys, The Talking Heads to The Metropolitan Opera, performers are still live streaming their performances or replaying performances from the recent past. I'd suggest using one of these!
- If you don't have access to a performance like this, YouTube is a great option for finding past choir concerts, orchestra concerts, operas, etc.
- I'd have fun with this, if it were me! Host a watch party, make some popcorn, tune-in with friends, talk about what you hear... all fair game!
- As always, papers are a minimum of 3 pages, double-spaced, usually with one page of composer bio and two pages of performance review. Bibliography should be included for any sources cited.

Nondiscrimination Notification and Contact Information

“No person shall on the basis of sex (including transgender, gender nonconforming and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status or genetic information be denied employment, receipt of services, access to or participation in school activities or programs if qualified to receive such services, or otherwise be discriminated against or placed in a hostile environment in any educational program or activity including those receiving federal financial assistance, except as provided by law.” No person shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

An employee, student, parent or applicant alleging discrimination with respect to employment, or any educational program or activity may contact:

Dr. Kathleen L. Rodgers, Assistant Superintendent
Equity Coordinator (Students) and
Title IX Compliance Officer
Leon County School District
2757 West Pensacola Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
(850) 487-7306
rodgersk@leonschools.net

Deana McAllister, Labor and Relations
Equity Coordinator (Employees)
(850) 487-7207
mcallisterd@leonschools.net

A student or parent alleging discrimination as it relates to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act may contact:

Karin Gerold, 504 Specialist
(850) 487-7160