Laurens Central School

Concert Chorus Handbook

2026-2027

Laurens Central School
Concert Chorus
Goals, Guidelines and Information

The goals of the Laurens Central School Concert Chorus are as follows:

1. *To develop* musicianship and appreciation of music.
2. *To instill* qualities of responsibility, leadership and character in all participants.
3. *To provide* the opportunity for students to promote cultural enjoyment for the school and community, and to provide entertainment and functional music wherever practical, without interfering with the educational goals of the organization.
4. *To lend color* and atmosphere to certain community events while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of the school through traditional performances.
5. *To develop* competent performers who can use their voice to help the development of music appreciation. To offer those who are considering music as a vocation an opportunity to develop their talents to the utmost to better prepare them for this vocation.
6. *To provide opportunities* for students to perform vocal music from many cultures and historical periods, and encourage performance in multiple settings.

GUIDELINES

Students in grades 7-12 who have chose concert chorus will receive one-half credit upon successful completion of the following requirements:

1. **Attendance** – Required for all rehearsals unless scheduled otherwise. To receive credit for concert chorus, students must attend at least 2 rehearsals and one lesson a cycle. Anyone attending fewer classes will not receive credit, but may participate in concerts or lessons as determined by the teacher.
2. **Rehearsal & Concert Conduct** – Students will behave in a respectful manner and demonstrate their best effort while responding to the conductor in rehearsals and concerts.
3. **Concerts** – Chorus members MUST attend all 4 in school evening concerts. Dates are posted early in the year with reminders coming in newsletters. Only students with serious illness or family emergency will be excused with a written explanation signed by a parent or guardian. If transportation to school and back presents a problem, arrangements are made prior to the concert date. Students who do not attend concerts and do not provide a written and signed explanation from a parent or guardian will be required to make up the credit with a written assignment prescribed at the teacher's discretion. 50/50 raffles are conducted at concerts to raise money for special projects or causes.
4. **Dress Code** – Students are required to adhere to the School Dress Code:
    - Gentlemen are to wear slacks and a tucked-in, button-down shirt. Dress shoes and socks are to be worn – no sneakers are allowed. Ties and/or sports jackets are encouraged but not required.
    - Ladies are to wear a dress shirt and slacks OR a knee-length skirt or dress. Flip flops or sandals are prohibited and heels must be a reasonable height.
    - For both gentlemen and ladies, sweat pants, jeans and T-shirts are prohibited.
    - Students are asked to dress as nicely as possible but should remember that they will be representing themselves, their school, and the music department during the performances and should be tasteful in all their fashion choices. Cover-ups or shawls may be appropriate accessories when wearing dresses. **The school policy regarding dress code must be followed and at the teacher's discretion, students may be asked to return home to change or may be provided with used clothing to borrow for the concert. If the dress code is not followed, a**

student may be asked not to perform and will be required to complete a written make-up assignment.

5. **Lessons** – All chorus members will attend a vocal lesson; one per Cycle. Every effort will be made to schedule this lesson during a study hall. Otherwise, a student will miss an occasional class on a rotating basis.

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPTIONS - *only for students receiving credit*

1. All County Junior Chorus – Grades 7-9 students may audition
2. All County Senior Chorus – Grades 10-12 students may audition
3. All County Jazz Vocal – Grades 9-12 students may audition
4. NYSSMA Solos – Grades 7-12 students may prepare and perform an approved solo or small ensemble for adjudication
5. Area All-State – Grades 9-12 select students are recommended and chosen on the basis of NYSSMA solo score (minimal score – Level 4 - Outstanding)

EXTRA CURRICULAR OPTIONS – *open to all students enrolled in choir or concert band, or with one year's prior experience in choir or concert band.*

1. Chamber Singers
   Grades 7-12
   Rehearsals will be held
   Once a week attendance required
2. Musical
   Grades 7-12
   Depending on volume, audition may be required
   Must be taking class for credit or have at least one curricular year of choir to audition.
   Students in solos, duets and small ensembles are responsible for scheduling afterschool rehearsals/lessons.

If a student commits to one of these options, they must follow through with auditions, preparation and participation in their respective ensemble or performance. The student must attend all rehearsals in their entirety in order to perform in the concert.

Students participating in extracurricular activities are subject to all rules of both the LCS Student Handbook and the Concert Chorus Handbook.

Participation Certificates

Participation certificates may be awarded to student for participating in choral extracurricular activities. Awarding of certificates is determined by the Vocal Music Instructor.

Grading Policy

Students will be graded on rehearsal participation/attendance, voice lessons, concert preparation, and concert participation/attendance.

Rehearsal Participation – 40%

- Students will be given 15 points per 6-day cycle. Points will be subtracted for lack of participation, excessive talking, disrupting rehearsal, forgetting their music, excessive tardiness, etc. Students that have an unexcused absence from a rehearsal cannot earn participation points for that day's rehearsal.
- Points may be earned back during a cycle if a student requests extra credit. These assignments will vary and are left to the teacher's discretion.

Voice Lessons – 25%

- Students will be required to attend at least 6 voice lessons per quarter. They may come to more than 6 lessons but will only be graded if they are in need of extra credit (i.e. If the grade for extra lessons is higher than previous lessons, the lower grades will be dropped).
- Lessons will be graded on a 10-point scale.

  Lessons will be graded in two categories: Preparation/participation & skills.
  Students are not graded on "talent", but on personal growth and success.

  5 = Proficient
  4 = Well prepared
  3 = Competent
  2 = Needs improvement
  1 = Low functioning
  0 = Unprepared/unexcused absence

- Students have the option of bringing a baked good instead of a lesson. (This may happen only one time per quarter).

Concerts – 25%

- All Concerts at LCS, are required for all members taking the course for credit. 50 points will be given for concert attendance and participation. Points may be subtracted for poor concert etiquette or behavior before and during the concert. A written excuse, signed by a parent or guardian, is required for students who miss concerts due to extreme illness or family emergency.
- Students who fail to attend concerts and do not provide a written and signed excuse will be given a zero grade for that performance. Students may redeem full credit by completing a written assignment assigned by the teacher. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher and request the assignment; otherwise a grade of zero will remain.

Musicianship and Section Leaders – 10%

- Throughout each quarter, students will receive these points by opportunities such as musicianship tests, section leader part checks, auditioning for solos, accompanying the choir instrumentally, or other opportunities depending on the repertoire that quarter.

The following scale will be in place for assigning Chorus grades:

99 96 93 90 87

Below 87 the grade will be assigned as the teacher deems appropriate.

All areas of the criteria will be weighed when a student is assigned a grade.

Please post this on your refrigerator!!!

2026-2027 LCS CONCERT DATES

Fall Concert	**Thursday, October 15**	**6:30 PM**
Winter Concert	**Tuesday, December 8**	**7:00 PM**
Musical/Cabaret	**Fri. & Sat., April 16/17**	**7:00 PM**
Final Concert	**Tuesday, May 11**	**7:00 PM**

All concerts will be held in the L.C.S. Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise informed.
Warm-up in the band/chorus rooms 1/2 hour before concert

Appropriate Concert Attire:

Dress Code – Students are required to adhere to the following School Dress Code:

- Gentlemen are to wear slacks and a tucked-in, button-down shirt. Dress shoes and socks are to be worn – no sneakers are allowed. Ties and/or sports jackets are encouraged but not required.
- Ladies are to wear a dress shirt and slacks OR a knee-length skirt or dress. Flip-flops or sandals are prohibited and heels must be a reasonable height.
- For both gentlemen and ladies, sneakers, sweat pants, jeans and T-shirts are prohibited.
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All students must complete the permission form found at the end of the handbook. This information is needed for any extra curricular activities the chorus may perform in throughout the year. If there are any questions, please contact Vocal Music Instructor.

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026-2027

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
*Thur., October 15	LCS FALL CONCERT – (Grades 7-12)	MPR	6:30 PM
Saturday, October 24	All-County Auditions	Schenevus	TBD
Fri. & Sat. Nov. 20 & 21	Area All-State (select HS students)	Cooperstown	TBD
*Tues., December 8	LCS Winter Concert – (Grades 7-12)	MPR	7:00 PM
Thurs. & Sat. 2/4 & 2/6	All-County Festival 1 (Jr. Band, Senior Choir, Jazz Band)	Laurens	3:00 PM
Thur. & Sat. 3/4 & 3/6	All-County Festival 2 (Elem. Band, Elem. Choir/Jr. Choir., Sr. Band)	CV-SP	3:00/2:30 PM
Fri. & Sat., April 16 & 17	Annual LCS Cabaret or Musical	MPR	7 pm
Fri. & Sat., Ma7 7 & 8	NYSSMA Solo Festival	TBD	TBD
Friday, May 7	Grandparents' Day	MPR	1:00 PM
*Tuesday, May 11	LCS Final Concert – (Grades 7-12)	MPR	7:00 PM
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day Parade	Laurens	10:00 AM
Thur./Sat., 6/3 & 6/5	Sherburne Pageant of Bands	Sherburne	3 pm/TBD
Friday, June 25	LCS Graduation	LCS Gym	7:00 PM

*Required events for course credit for both Concert Band and Concert Chorus

Laurens Central School
Laurens, NY

PARENTAL PERMISSION/MEDICAL TREATMENT FORM

In order for a student to participate in the Music Department Choral Program at Laurens Central School it is important that all parents and students agree with each of the following:

1. Music Department Instrumental Department Handbook

- Students are required to follow all of the rules and regulations outlined in both this handbook and the Student Handbook to participate.
- All students will be subject to the consequences associated with any violations of the rules and regulations outlined in this handbook and/or the Student Handbook.

2. Emergency Medical Attention

- It is important that all students and parents understand that medical emergencies may arise through participation. The school district staff will make every effort to contact parents in order to obtain specific authorization before any treatment or hospitalization is undertaken. By signing this form parents grant permission to a physician or other hospital personnel designated by the Laurens Central School to attend to their son or daughter in the event of an emergency requiring medical attention.

3. Medication Permission Form

- There are times when a student is required to take prescribed medications while traveling, competing, performing, or acting in other roles as a member of the choral program of Laurens Central School. By signing this form parents acknowledge that they have:

    - Supplied their child with the appropriate medications
    - Listed the specific drug and dosage on this form
    - Absolved the school district and school staff of any responsibility for assurance that the medication was self administered
    - Understand that the staff of the Laurens Central School will attest that said drugs were self administered.

_____ _____

Student Name (Print) Student Signature

_____ _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print) Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ _____

Date Student's Date of Birth (Mo/Day/Yr)

Parent/Guardian's Home Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Work Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian's Cell Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Relationship to Participant _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Emergency Contact Cell Phone:_____

Home Address: _____

_____

List of Medications:

_____

_____

Dosage:

_____

Prescribed by:

_____

Allergies to Medications:

_____

Other medical conditions that a doctor or emergency room personnel need to be aware of:

_____