



## **Code of Conduct & Behavioral Expectations Little Miami Chorale**

**Little Miami High School**

**Sarah J. Baker, Director**

**2023/2024 School Year**

### *Vision*

Changing Lives Through Singing

### *Mission*

Nurturing the growth of confident young adults by inspiring excellence  
in choral music and sharing the love of music through song with audiences  
in our community, our country and our world

“The World Listens for the Voice that Sings with Its Heart”

The members of the **Little Miami Chorale** are known not only for their beautiful sound on the performance stage, but also for the camaraderie and integrity they demonstrate off the stage. Members are expected to conduct themselves with a manner of honor, respectability and decorum at all times, in order to reflect the outstanding reputation the chorale has earned from many years of development, both technically and musically, while growing into responsible young adults.

Each member is expected to show **RESPECT** in the following ways:

### ***ENSEMBLE COMMITMENT***

As a member of a select choir, you are an important part of a group, and you must be willing to make a commitment to that group. When one member is missing from a section, it can change the entire balance of the choir. The director balances the sound to achieve a certain effect during rehearsals. If one member misses a lot of rehearsals and/or performances, it makes it difficult for the director to achieve desired results. One individual's irregular attendance ultimately affects performances for the entire choir.

The time commitment with this program includes extra rehearsals and travel to performances. The member and her parents must understand the commitment level required for attendance, timeliness, preparedness, appearance, behavior and travel. We have many fundraisers available for members to raise money to pay for travel and other associated choir expenses; however, the student and her family are ultimately responsible to cover the balance of those expenses.

Homeless Local Liaison: Marla Timmerman (mtimmerman@lmsdoh.org) 513-899-2264

Foster Care Local Liaison: Marla Timmerman (mtimmerman@lmsdoh.org) 513-899-2264

### **TITLE XI**

No person in the Little Miami Local School District, shall, on the ground of race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, disability, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, all as in accordance with and as limited by the provisions of applicable law.

**Title IX Coordinator: Pamela Coates**

### ***ATTENDANCE***

Each member is expected to attend each rehearsal and all scheduled performances. If a member is unable to attend any of these, please inform your director as soon as possible. **PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR EMPLOYER OF CONCERT DATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Most employers are flexible in working around school events, as long as they have prior notice. If a conflict with an employer arises, please let Mrs. Baker know. Often, a phone call or letter from the school is all the employer needs in order to adjust a work schedule.

**ALL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY.** No excused absences will be issued for OMEA Adjudicated Events. You are an important part of a group - attendance is imperative. As a member of the chorale, you must check your calendar to make sure you do not have any conflicts.

Most performances are scheduled many months in advance, however, there are community performances that are added throughout the year. You will be notified of these as soon as they are available, at least 2-3 weeks before the scheduled performance. If poor attendance becomes an issue, the member will be asked not to participate in a choir event, and, if warranted, may be removed from the ensemble. If transportation is an issue, please speak with your director. There is always a way to work it out.

Select choir trips occur regularly with nearly 30-40 appearances per year. These could range from daytime/evening performances, to day trips to a conference or a college/university or a weekend trip to a destination out of the state. These are educationally focused trips, which include master classes with a university instructor or professional artist, as well as performances in concert venues unique to the destination. It is expected that 100% of the students participate in these events for the experience to be worthwhile for the ensemble and the clinician.

**Absences from rehearsals and performances** will have a major impact on the grade earned. Excessive absences from rehearsals will result in one not being allowed to perform.

## ***REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS***

**TIMELINESS.** Each member is expected to be on time for rehearsals as well as performances. If you are late, you are wasting your valuable learning and rehearsal time, as well as the time of the other members and the director. If you are unavoidably late, you should enter the rehearsal/performance area quickly and quietly as to prevent interruption or distraction of others.

**AT EACH REHEARSAL**, every member is to be prepared. Preparedness **INCLUDES** bringing your own music folder, a pencil and a bottle of **water**. You must be prepared to listen and learn. Do not rely on others for “sharing music.”

Demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette - pay close attention to instruction and do not interrupt the director. Raise a hand when you have a question. Study your part quietly while the director works with another section or singer.

No electronic devices are allowed, unless the director has requested it. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES!**

Remain on task at all times; do not talk or play games on your phone or device. This will interrupt the focus of a rehearsal. If you find that you are distracted by another member's behavior please discuss it with the director after rehearsal. Do not take it upon yourself to correct your fellow member if you feel she is not on task. This will only distract you further and can sometimes be disrespectful to your fellow choir members and to the director. Let the director remind members of their attentiveness, behavior, etc.

## ***APPEARANCE***

As a choir that is present on the local, state, national and international stages, we must have a uniform appearance. This appearance is required for adjudicated events, as it has an effect on judges' scoring.

**Hair color:** Only colors resembling one that would naturally grow from a human scalp. If you have a question, please consult Mrs. Baker.

**Hair style:** During performances, hair must be above the shoulder, pulled away from the face in either a braided or bun style, secure to the head. Ponytails or any style that allows the hair to fall below the shoulder or swing around is not allowed. Consider the hairstyle of a dancer who cannot allow the hair to become a distraction to themselves or the audience.

**Makeup:** Natural colors only. No glitter, excessively bright or dark eyeshadows, excessive eyeliner or excessively bright or dark lip colors are allowed.

**No visible tattoos:** Tattoos must be covered by skin-toned makeup or a sheer, nude color garment.

**Nail color:** Natural nail polish color is acceptable. French tips are allowed; no bright colors.

**Jewelry:** Small stud earrings are allowed (no dangling earrings or hoops). No necklaces, bracelets or hair bands are allowed. Absolutely no facial piercings are to be visible while in performance attire.

**Undergarments:** Please consider wearing a black cami, leggings/boy shorts to make changing easier and more discreet. This also saves the performance attire from excessive wear. No visible bra straps are allowed, sports bras are not appropriate to wear under the velvet performance top as the straps are often visible with this top.

**Personal hygiene:** Please be considerate of others by maintaining a clean persona. Shower regularly, wear antiperspirant/deodorant, and refrain from heavy use of sprays and perfumes. These scents can make it very difficult to breathe and sing.

**Attire:** Each member's performance attire is expected to be clean and pressed for performances. Students must have the proper uniform for each performance. When in uniform, all parts of that uniform must be worn. Please care for your attire by washing/dry-cleaning regularly to maintain a professional appearance using these suggestions.

**Velvet top and skirt** – machine wash COLD, gentle cycle, hang to dry

**Satin skirts and sequin sashes** – DRY-CLEAN ONLY

**Chorale T-Shirt** – machine wash COLD, hang to dry

Informal performance:

- Select choir t-shirt/jeans (medium/dark, no tears or holes)
- Sneakers or other closed toe shoes (no flip-flops or sandals)

Semi-formal performance:

- Velvet shirt/black pants

- Black socks/black shoes (ballet flats or character shoes)
- Sequin sash

Formal performance:

- Velvet top/velvet skirt/sequin sash
- Velvet top/satin skirt
- Black knee-high hose
- Black character shoes

Awards pins should be attached to the bottom left hem of the velvet top.

If you do not have the appropriate attire and are not in compliance with the dress code, you will not be allowed to perform.

### ***DEMEANOR***

As soon as one arrives at rehearsal, or a performance, speak with an inside voice when in the rehearsal or warm-up room as well as in the hallways. Please keep in mind that we are guests where we perform. Therefore, there is to be absolutely no shouting or running about. Be cautious of what is said and that appropriate language is used. People are judging your performance before you even sing!

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Many local events (usually those within the Little Miami School District) will require one to provide his/her own transportation to the event. When using school buses for transportation to and from events, students should adhere to the following district guidelines:

#### **JFCC-R (Also EEACC-R)**

##### **Student Conduct on District Managed Transportation**

The following regulations pertain to student conduct on District managed transportation and are intended to ensure the safety and welfare of the students, the driver and other drivers on the road and to ensure safety and proper maintenance of school vehicles.

##### **Students will:**

- be careful in approaching bus stops, walk on the left facing oncoming traffic, be sure that the road is clear both ways before crossing the highway and wait in a location clear of traffic;
- arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive in order to permit the bus to follow the time schedule;
- wait in an area clear of traffic and refrain from exhibiting behavior at the bus stop that threatens life, limb or property of any individual;
- sit in assigned seats (drivers have the right to assign a student to a seat);
- go directly to their assigned seat without disturbing or crowding other students and remain seated while the vehicle is moving;
- observe classroom conduct, or the bus conduct established by administrators and transportation personnel and obey the driver promptly and respectfully;
- keep the vehicle clean and free of trip hazards);
- refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons or as permitted by the District for non-routine trips when supervised by an appropriate chaperone, school

administrator or school personnel;

- refrain from using profane language and from loud talking or laughing (unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and might result in a serious accident);
- remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear, keep head, arms and hands inside the vehicle at all times and not throw or pass objects on, from or into the vehicle;
- be courteous to fellow students and to the driver;
- treat equipment as one would treat valuable furniture in their home (damage to the school vehicle is strictly forbidden);
- refrain from using nicotine products on the vehicle or possessing alcohol or drugs on the vehicle except as prescription medications may be required for a student and
- carry on the vehicle only items that can be held in their laps or can otherwise be stored on the vehicle in accordance with State law.
- Students must remain seated until the vehicle stops, then promptly unload and wait in their designated place of safety until the vehicle leaves. Students who must cross the street to reach the residence side of the street must wait for the signal from the driver and cross in front of the vehicle after also checking for traffic themselves.

**Failure of a student to follow these regulations may result in his/her forfeiting the right of transportation on District managed transportation.**

## **DISCIPLINE**

**The Board authorizes the Superintendent or other administrators to suspend a student from transportation privileges only for a period of up to one school year. The only due process required is notice to the student of an intended bus riding suspension and an opportunity to appear before the administrator considering the suspension before it happens. The administrator's decision is final.**

When discipline problems with individual students arise, use the following guidelines.

If possible, the driver should resolve the problem.

When the driver is unable to resolve the problem, he/she should report it to the transportation supervisor. The transportation supervisor and driver, if necessary, confer with the principal. Any discipline is imposed by the principal of the school.

Problems that cannot be resolved by measures specified above are referred to the Superintendent.

The suspension of preschool students and students with disabilities from transportation may require a modification of these procedures and complies with all applicable statutory requirements.

NOTE: It is advisable that regulations in the area of student transportation bear the Board's official stamp of approval.

Adopted by Little Miami Board of Education  
April 26, 2022

**SOCIAL MEDIA** can be a great way to show the community what we have to offer. As mentioned above, however, audiences are judging us even before we perform. **Be very cautious of using or posting inappropriate or demeaning language, photos, etc., on social media, even when not engaged in an activity at school or with the select choirs.** Read carefully any posts you create and ask, “Could someone misinterpret this phrase or picture?” “What would Mom/Dad/Grandma/Grandpa, etc. think of this?” Use the utmost integrity – knowing there is always someone watching. You are not only a reflection of many people who care about you – your family, your ensemble, your director, your school, your community, your country – but, also, the reputation you are building for yourself.

Members are expected to treat the director, fellow choir members, accompanist, parents/trip chaperones, performance hosts and guests with dignity and respect. Extreme behavior issues may result in an office referral and could ultimately result in dismissal from the ensemble. Remember that you auditioned and were chosen to be a member of this outstanding organization. Be proud and cherish every moment.

Sarah J. Baker, Director  
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Little Miami High School  
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513.899.3781x20404  
sbaker@littlemiamischools.com

In that the **Little Miami Chorale** is an auditioned, select group that performs in public venues, and as such represents the good character and integrity of the Little Miami School District. In addition to the Little Miami High School Code of Conduct, I promise to conduct myself in a manner that reflects the caliber of the Little Miami Select Choirs. I will set high moral standards for myself, and treat my fellow choir members with respect. Not only will I strive to accomplish a positive attitude while in the Little Miami Chorale, I will also strive to do so outside of the choir. I accept that if I fail to uphold the reputation of this group and do not abide by this Code of Conduct, then I will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and/or removal from participation at public performances, and ultimately, removal from the ensemble.

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(student name – please print)

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(student signature - date)

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(student phone)

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(parent name – please print)

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(parent signature - date)

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(parent phone)