



## Lansing Middle School Vocal Music 6th Grade Beginning Choir 2025-2026

Lansing Middle School Vocal Music  
6th Grade Beginning Choir  
Signature Page 2025-2026

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

- I have read the expectations, grading policy, rules, and attendance policies for LMS Choirs. I understand that my child's participation in choir requires them to be a model for others not only at LMS but in the community as well. I understand that failure to comply with these guidelines will reduce their grade and could lead to removal from the choral department. I also understand that successful organizations that work, require teamwork between the parents, students, and teachers.
- I have marked **tentative** concert dates on our family calendar.

\_\_\_\_ Date     /     /

**Parent/Guardian signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name (Print, First and Last)**

Our Kids would love your help!! If there is ever a need for volunteers, please indicate where you would be available!

\_\_\_Chaperoning Choral Event \_\_\_Concert Night/Attendance \_\_\_Chaperoning Social Events

This signed page is worth an **assignment grade** and should be returned by  
**Friday August 29th, 2025**

**\*\*HANDBOOK BELOW\*\***



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**Tear off the front page  
and turn in. Keep the  
remaining pages.**



## Lansing Middle School Vocal Music 6th Grade Beginning Choir 2025-2026

**Welcome!** We are **extremely** excited to see you in choir this year!

Please read the following information so you will know what is expected of you in class.

### **Personnel**

Mr. Josiah Ketterman - Choir Director - Assistant Drama Sponsor

Mrs. Jonnie Brice - Accompanist - Head Drama Sponsor

### **Philosophies**

1. By working together, we believe that each student has the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate various types of music as well as develop self-discipline toward the art of music.
2. We believe that every student deserves a safe and welcoming environment for students to learn and grow, free to make mistakes and free to be themselves.
3. The Choirs of Lansing Middle School will represent Lansing Schools and the community with pride and respect.

### **Rules/Procedures**

Our classroom will focus on four fundamental classroom expectations.

1. **Respect the Classroom:** The classroom is your learning environment, take care of materials handed out, instruments in the classroom, and other students learning. **Disruption of the learning environment is never ok.**
2. **Respect the Teacher:** Students will respect the authority of all personnel in the choir room and the building as a whole.
3. **Respect Each Other:** Students must respect personal space and safety of others. **Treat other people the way you want to be treated.** Show kindness and respect to others at all times.
4. **Do the Right Thing!**
  - Follow School Rules
  - **Place gum, candy in the wastebasket as you enter the room.**
  - Students must bring a charged iPad and a **Pencil** to class EVERY day.
  - Students receive 10 participation points per day, an uncharged iPad will result in a 5 point reduction for the day.
  - Class is over when I dismiss you, however, I will be respectful of your time as long as you are respectful of mine! **Do not pack up until I say!**

**Attendance Policy:** "Communication at all times is crucial" - In almost all instances, send an email to be covered.

**Rehearsals** - Unlike other academic classes, it is impossible to make up activities that occur during a choral rehearsal, thus attendance is imperative at all rehearsals, concerts, and extra-choir activities.

**Excessive unexcused absences will have a negative impact on the student's grade.**



## Lansing Middle School Vocal Music 6th Grade Beginning Choir 2025-2026

**Concerts** - If performances must be canceled or rescheduled, this will be communicated as soon as possible. When I know, you will know. Attendance at any choral concert is required. Missing a concert for an unexcused absence will lower a student's overall grade. Points for a concert will only be given to students with an excused absence. Makeup assignments might be given at the discretion of the director for excused absences only. Absences will only be excused in special situations, such as a medical/family emergency, religious holiday, death in the family, or prior arrangement/communication. **If transportation is an issue**, please communicate that so we can try and find a solution. In all cases **student absence must be communicated prior to the concert**. Note: non-school sponsored events do not constitute an excused absence for a required choral event and will not be allowed a makeup. Because of the nature of concerts, unexcused absences will result in a 0 and points can not be made up.

**Extra-Choir Activities** - These will only occur a few times per year and may not apply to every student. **However!** Students will be given sufficient notice of any activities outside of the school day, including rehearsals, sectionals, and concerts. These activities are essential to the development of the choral program.

**Student Expectations:** "Excellence is not a talent, it is a habit"

As music educators, we believe that occasionally students need time to step away from the stimulation of the choral environment to reflect on choir classroom procedures, calm their behavior, or separate his or herself from the current activity if they are unable to perform without distressing or disturbing others. As opposed to punishment, this gives the student the ability to find acceptance as a valued member of the team who requires a moment to re-establish the connection between his or her actions and the needs of the classroom. The student will be asked to step away from the learning environment after they are given verbal notice from the director alerting them that they are hindering the procedures of the classroom and their cooperation is needed to improve the learning environment. After a short period of time, the teacher will check on the student to see if he or she is ready to rejoin the class. **Student learning and musical achievement is the ultimate goal. Class disruption is NEVER okay.** Parents can be contacted any time that the director(s) feel that their involvement can improve the actions of the student in the choral classroom.

**Step 1: (Safe Seat)** The student has chosen to distress the classroom after a verbal notice from the director has been given and personal reflection is needed to improve the learning environment. The student will be asked to sit away from others, to ensure that he or she is able to stop the activity and quietly reflect. By sitting away from others, the student is still a part of the learning environment.

**Step 2: (Buddy Room)** The student chooses to continue distressing the classroom and a second reflection in the form of a written refocus activity is needed to identify the procedure infraction. The student will be asked to sit in a cooperating teacher's room away from others to refocus to ensure that he or she is able to stop the activity and quietly reflect. Parent support is needed upon stepping out for a second time and a **phone call will be made**.



## Lansing Middle School Vocal Music 6th Grade Beginning Choir 2025-2026

**Step 3: (Office Referral)** The student chooses to continue distressing the classroom and an office referral is needed to improve the learning environment. Administration and parent support is compulsory upon stepping out for a fourth time and contact will be made immediately following the incident to set up a parent/teacher conference. Administration will decide whether further action should be taken to improve the future of student success in class.

**NOTE:** Any action that warrants a direct violation of student safety or direct insubordination of authority will be considered an AUTOMATIC step 3. Students must also follow all school behavioral expectations, both on and off campus. Violations will be dealt with not only by the director(s), but also by the appropriate school officials.

### **Grading Policies:**

**Daily Grade/Rehearsal Accountability** (50% term grade) - The student's grade consists of work done during the choral rehearsal. Students will be assessed using the rehearsal Etiquette Rubric available on Skyward. Students will not receive any credit for days absent that are unexcused.

**Assignments** (25% term grade) - Assignments such as sight-reading tests, memory checks, music analyses, and web-based assignments will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Doing so allows assessment of the student at an individual level rather than as a group. If a test or quiz is missed on an excused absence day the student must be responsible and request missed work. **However, I do keep grades updated. If you see a Missing Score/NHI/INC on an Assignment, I have not received it when it is due!**

**Concert Attendance** (25% term grade) - Performance outside of the school day is a necessary component of performing in choirs. Attendance is required for all concerts and called rehearsals as they are a form of assessment in choir. Our concerts will be held on campus in the auditorium unless otherwise specified. Performance dates are listed on the calendar of events and any extra-choir activity dates will be given to students with adequate notice.

### **Concert Grade will be broken into 4 categories: Attendance, Attire, Performance, Concert Etiquette**

These categories are weighted at 25% each for a total of 100 points per performance. A student may lose points for any of the 4 categories at the discretion of the director.

**\*\*Missed concerts and rehearsals will be a consideration when placing students in future groups.**



## Lansing Middle School Vocal Music 6th Grade Beginning Choir 2025-2026

**Calendar of Events: (Dates in bold/highlighted print are required performances and are 25% of your choir grade.)**

### 2025 Fall Semester and Spring Musical Dates

#### **Concert Dates:**

|                      |                                |                      |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| September 26th       | MS Talent Show                 | 7pm                  | LMS Auditorium        |
| <b>October 1st</b>   | <b>Fall Concert (GRADED)</b>   | <b>7pm</b>           | <b>LMS Auditorium</b> |
| <b>December 16th</b> | <b>Winter Concert (GRADED)</b> | <b>7pm</b>           | <b>LMS Auditorium</b> |
| April 10th           | MS Musical                     | 7pm (time tentative) | LMS Auditorium        |
| April 11th           | MS Musical                     | 1pm (time tentative) | LMS Auditorium        |

**\* TAKE NOTE \*** All dates are subject to change. There may be additions or deletions to this calendar as we go through the school year due to inclement weather or school related circumstances. In all cases, **ANY CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED.**

#### **Concert Attire:**

6th Grade Concert Outfit will be:

- LMS Choir Polo (\$15 if Lost)
- Blue or Black Jeans (black leggings acceptable) (No Rips)
- Nice Tennis Shoes or Dress Shoes, No Bright Colors.

**Students Responsibility:** (It is understood that these kids are growing rapidly. It is ok to borrow from a family member or a good friend.

**IMPORTANT! MUST READ!** The goal of performance attire is to be a proud representation of our school. Concerts are formal events and dress should display the appropriate respect for the occasion. **Shirts are to be completely tucked in.**

#### **Activity Fee:**

A \$15 course fee is paid when enrolling in this class. The fee covers items that keep the choral program running including: Polo Purchase, choral music octavos per copyright law, multiple online resources, black binder. If applicable to your student, the activity fee also covers 1 outfit dry cleaning for formal wear (end-of-year), festival fees, guest directors etc... Please know, we do not want a student kept back from participating in choir. If this is a major financial burden, please let me know.



## Lansing Middle School Vocal Music 6th Grade Beginning Choir 2025-2026

### 6th Grade Music Appreciation Overview:

We are so excited to share with you this year's approach to 6th Grade learning in the choral classroom. Students will be in a hybrid model of learning. Approximately 2 days of their class will be music appreciation based and the other half will be choir based. Students will have the opportunity to sing in performances outlined above as well as explore other areas of music. In 6th grade students will perform 1-2 selections of choral music per concert. Students will have an opportunity to explore various music units which may include: Ukulele, Garage Band, World Music, Decades, Popular Musicians, Music History, Composers, Music Jingles, Commercial Music etc...

**Facilities and Materials:** "Treat these as if they were your own"

**Choir Room** - We are fortunate to have wonderful facilities for choirs at LMS. Maintaining the choir room should be a top priority for our students. **NO FOOD OR DRINK (except water in a sealable container) is allowed in the choir room.** (Multiple instances of breaking this rule may result in disciplinary action.)

**Piano/Speakers** - Students may use the piano and stereo ONLY with director's permission before or after school. Preference is given to those practicing for NEKMEA auditions or Solo & Ensemble. Please do not set any of your belongings (especially water) on top of the pianos or audio equipment.

**Music** - Throughout the year, you will be given music that has been purchased by the LMS choral department. Any physical copies issued must be returned in the same condition it was provided in. If music is lost or in poor condition when returned, you must pay the replacement cost. Distributing electronic copies of music beyond our classroom is illegal!

**Black Binders** - Each student will be given a black binder used for classroom materials. Sight reading work, various worksheets or handouts. **These will be \$5 to replace if damaged beyond normal wear and tear.**

**Practice Room** - Priority for practice room use should be given to those making up daily points, taking voice lessons, practicing NEKMEA or solo and Ensemble music, or taking sight-reading tests / voice placement. Students may use these rooms only with a director's permission and WILL be supervised.

**Choir Office** - The choir office is our (Mr. Ketterman and Mrs. Brice) home away from home. We spend almost as many hours of our day here as we do in our homes. WE want to get to know each and every one of you, but please knock before entering. If we are not busy, we will let you enter. If we do not answer, we are either busy, in conference, or on the phone. Please try again later. **We do want to talk to you!**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Ketterman at:**

Office Phone: (913) 727-1197 EXT. 3123 (plan time 8:15-9:00am) After school appointments available, please email to set this up.

Email: [Josiah.ketterman@usd469.net](mailto:Josiah.ketterman@usd469.net)

My email is linked to my phone and I check email often!