



A Tradition of Excellence

PARENT HANDBOOK 2019-2020

The Logan Show Choir Parent Organization meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00pm in the LMC at Logan High School.

The Class Act, Classy Ladies, First Class, Classy Crew

Expectations

Welcome to the Logan show choir family! Show choir is a very unique musical experience yet functions much like a team sport. As with any team, every member is expected to consistently work hard so that all involved can continually improve and work towards the collective goals of the group. If all are dedicated to and focused on the goals of the group, we will have an extremely rewarding season and progress musically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

All members will...

Maintain a positive attitude.

Focus and improve throughout each rehearsal and performance.

Attend and actively participate in all rehearsals and performances.

Show respect to all participants, directors, clinicians, parents, and competitors.

Keep an open mind and be willing to try new methods.

Help others when in need and seek help when needed.

Importance of Scheduling and Responsibility

There are no second-string players or back-ups in the Logan show choir program. Members are responsible for continuously striving to improve and fine tune all aspects of the show. In show choir, everyone is a "starter" and all members are expected to perform cohesively at a highly competitive level. This is achieved through group rehearsals, consistent individual improvement, and teamwork.

Choir Requirements

Show choir is an extension of the curricular choir offerings at Logan High School. By making the commitment to being a singer/dancer, students are also making a commitment to participate in one of the curricular choirs offered at Logan High School.

Band Requirements

Show band is also an extension of the curricular band program at Logan High School. By committing to the show band, students are also committing to participate in curricular band at Logan High School.

Rehearsal Attendance

Members of *The Class Act*, *Classy Ladies*, *First Class*, and *Classy Crew* are expected to arrive early for all rehearsals. All absences must be communicated and excused with the directors prior to absence. The directors will review any unexcused absences. Consequences could include students not being allowed to perform at the next event on the calendar. If a student is not allowed to perform, they are still expected to participate in all rehearsals as well as be in attendance at the performance. Continued unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the group.

Regular Rehearsal Schedule

90% - 95% of rehearsals throughout the 2019-2020 season will follow the below rehearsal schedule. Days off of school, added clinician workshops, necessary added rehearsals, inclement weather, etc. may cause rehearsals to lie outside of these days and times. Any variations from the set schedule will be communicated and found on the calendar at www.loganchoirs.com. All members are expected to make adjustments to their schedules accordingly.

***The Class Act:* Mondays 6:00-9:00pm Thursdays 3:30-6:15pm**
***Classy Ladies:* Mondays 3:30-6:15pm Thursdays 6:00-8:15pm**

** Fridays before a competition: *The Class Act* will have a 2-hour rehearsal right after school.

** Thursdays before a competition: *Classy Ladies* will extend rehearsal until 9:00pm.

Workshops and Camps

The Class Act and *Classy Ladies* have several workshops and camps to teach vocals and choreography as well as to clean and refine both shows. Dates will be communicated with families and it is mandatory that students be in attendance. Vocal camps are traditionally in August and choreography camps are normally scheduled during September.

Competition and Performance Attendance

All singer/dancers, show band, and stage crew are expected to be at every performance and competition. This includes performances by only one of our groups. Members of the other group are to be in attendance to cheer on and support our program. Mark your calendars now! An unexcused absence at a competition or performance may result in dismissal from the group for the remainder of the season. If communicated early enough, schedule modifications may be possible in the event of a major conflict so that the student is able to be at both show choir and the other event. Students missing any competition or performance for any reason will be of the understanding that this may limit solo opportunities and blocking placements.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

Absences must be communicated to directors prior to said absence in order to be excused. An unexcused absence is one that is not communicated prior. Emergency situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Grades

Grades are the number one priority for students in the Logan show choirs. All members are students first; show choir members second. If a student receives 2 or more "F's" they will not be allowed to perform until all grades have been brought up to passing. This is a school district policy.

Contract

Parent/guardians and students will sign a contract stating that they understand the guidelines and expectations of being a member of the Logan show choirs and of the Logan Show Choir Parent Organization as laid out in the Parent Handbook 2019-2020.

Multi-Activity and Absence Protocol

It is the philosophy of the Logan show choirs that students are allowed and encouraged to participate in other activities. We work alongside other curricular, co-curricular, extra-curricular, and outside activities to make this possible. Protocol for splitting time with other activities is detailed below. Communication prior to any conflicts is essential. Notifying the directors after the fact is inconsiderate to your teammates. If a last-minute conflict occurs, contact the directors directly.

Consequences for not following protocol may result in ineligibility to perform or dismissal from the group.

1. **Rehearsal and other activity rehearsal/practice:** Follow the 50/50 rule. Split your time evenly between activities and communicate to all adults in charge.
2. **Rehearsal and other activity game/competition:** It is expected you participate in the game/competition and come to rehearsal before or after (if possible).
3. **Performance and other activity practice/rehearsal:** It is expected you will attend the show choir performance and attend the other practice/rehearsal before or after (if possible).
4. **Performance and other activity game/competition:** You will be asked to choose between the events. In this case, your decision will come without consequences, but know that major conflicts will affect blocking for the rest of the group. We only have 4-7 competitions so conflicts with these events should be carefully considered. If possible, an option to attend both events may be available.
5. **Excused absences:** School sponsored activities (with prior approval), family emergencies, school/class meetings, sickness (you are expected to communicate sickness immediately for liability issues), holiday observations. Excused absences must always be pre-approved.
6. **Unexcused absences:** Work, social events, family gatherings, nonemergency medical visits or non-specialist medical visits (please schedule these visits outside of scheduled rehearsals), haircuts, dental visits, etc. Homework: You are a student first and a musician/athlete second. Part of being a student athlete is knowing how to organize homework schedules and activity participation. Missing rehearsals or performances to do homework will not be an excused absence and you may be assessed for academic probation if this is an issue. Special situations may be accommodated.

Behavior, Costume, and Make-Up Expectations

All members of the Logan show choirs will ride the bus to and from competitions and performances. All members will stay for the duration of the competition or performance. You will listen to and show respect for the adult chaperones, parents of the host school, other students, and other directors. You will respect our homerooms and other schools and keep them neat and tidy. You will be in costume and ready to go at least one hour prior to performances. You will watch other performances throughout the day in the performance space or alternate viewing area. You will cheer on and support other groups that are performing or competing.

Bus Rides

The buses will be kept clean by students. Anything brought onto the bus needs to also be removed from the bus. Any movies will be rated PG-13 and under. Significant others are not allowed to share seats. Everyone on the bus will respect each other at all times.

Activities Code

Students will sign and follow the Activities Code as approved by the school district of La Crosse and the WIAA.

Costume Care and Responsibilities

- Each show choir would like 2-4 parents/guardians to act as liaisons. At least one of these people needs to have sewing skills necessary for emergency costume repairs.
- Each show choir needs a team of sewing/costume parents/guardians. This team will be responsible for assisting with and carrying out any alterations needed throughout the season. The majority of any major sewing work and time will occur at the beginning of the season when costumes begin to arrive. This team does not need to be the same as the team of liaisons.
- Our costumes are a vital piece of our shows and make up a large piece of our annual budget. They need to be in presentable condition for every performance. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that all costume pieces are present and that costumes arrive to performances. It is recommended that you pack your bag the night before a performance or competition and check it again in the morning before you leave home. No one will be allowed to perform with an incomplete, soiled, or damaged costume.
- The cost of repairing or replacing any costumes should they become lost, stolen, destroyed, or damaged is the responsibility of the individual.
- Organize and store costumes in the proper location and manner at all times.
- Costumes will be taken out of garment bags immediately after performances so they can air out to help retain quality.
- Performers will wear designated costumes as decided upon by the directors and choreographers. Failure to do so may result in sitting out of a performance.

Make-Up, Hair, and Undergarments

All members will be informed of the expectations pertaining to make-up, hair, and undergarments. These expectations will be decided by the directors and will be followed by all members with no exceptions. Failure to do so may result in sitting out of a performance.

Set-Up and Tear-Down for Shows and Rehearsals

Everyone will help with set-up and tear-down within our shows. Jobs will be assigned for stage set-up for both groups and students will complete their jobs in a timely manner before and after performances. Students will also help set the stage before and after rehearsals.

Load In and Load Out

Everyone will help load all equipment necessary for the show(s) onto the bus or into the trailer before and after performances or competitions. Double-check that everything is loaded before getting on the bus or leaving to go home. Do not assume that everything has been loaded unless we have double-checked. If possible, we will always try to unload equipment at competitions the night before.

Rehearsal Shirts

Singer/dancers are each given two rehearsal shirts at the beginning of each season. These shirts are to be worn at all rehearsals and some early performances. This helps with blocking and cleaning and ensures appropriate attire at rehearsals. The exception to this will be choreography camp. Daily shirt colors will be communicated prior to camp.

Academic Releases

There may be occasions when a performance, competition, or recruiting trip may take the students out of the school day. Performers are expected to communicate with teachers in a timely fashion and ensure that all homework, projects, and tests are taken care of before the missed class period.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities and Requirements

All parents/guardians of Logan show choir members are automatically members of the Logan Show Choir Parent Organization or the LSCPO. The Logan show choirs would not exist without the support and involvement of the LSCPO. The main focuses of the LSCPO are fundraising, all events and most of the planning leading up to Showcase, chaperoning, and being the most supportive fans our kids could ask for! We hope that you will take an active role in supporting the Logan show choirs. The more involved you become, the more fun it is and we promise that your children notice! Please mark your calendars now for the scheduled performances, festivals, and competitions, as well as the monthly LSCPO meetings in the Logan High School Library.

Fees

The Logan show choirs are almost entirely funded by our parent organization (LSCPO), through activity fees paid by each member, and through fundraisers throughout the season. Student fees form only a portion of the funds it takes to put each student on stage each year. There are numerous fundraising opportunities available throughout the year and you will be able to fundraise the entire amount of the annual fee by taking part in them!

Fees for 2019-2020

The Class Act: \$550.00

Classy Ladies: \$350.00

First Class: \$250.00

Classy Crew: \$100.00

Activity fees are all-inclusive. This allows everyone to be able to more accurately budget payments. One overnight (The Class Act), all t-shirts worn by students (rehearsal, spirit, and invite), show shoes, make-up, a portion of costume costs and competition expenses (registration and busing), and The Class Act track jacket are some of the items included in the activity fee. A more in-depth list of fee inclusions is available separately.

Payment on student accounts is expected each month of our 10-month season. This includes the summer months!!

If this is financially impossible, several options exist:

- Participate in fundraising and volunteer opportunities to lower the amount owed or even pay your entire activity fee without a penny out of pocket!!!
- Pay fees in full by September 1st and receive a 10% discount off of remaining balance.
- Pay your fees on a monthly basis – contact the LSCPO treasurer to set-up a payment plan.
- Financial Aid for up to half of the activity fee is available to those who apply for it. Contact the LSCPO treasurer or a director for details about how to apply.

The LSCPO will not let financial concerns be the reason a student cannot participate in show choir. For this reason, financial aid will be available to those who request it and meet the requirements. **Deadline to apply for financial aid is November 1st.**

Students will not be allowed to audition for the next season unless fees from the current year are paid in full. This mandate is effective for all students entering the Logan Show Choir program during the 2017-2018 school year and beyond. Carryover balances from prior years will be exempt from this rule but will still need to be paid in full by the end of Senior year in order to graduate.

The Logan Show Choir Parent Organization has a budget of approximately \$85,000 per year (about \$950 per student). Annual expenses include, but are not limited to: costumes, travel, choreography, musical arrangements and licensing, competition fees, purchases necessary to host our competition, and clinician fees. Funds are brought in through activity fees, fundraising events, sponsors, and profits from the Logan Showcase, Chocolate Soiree, and Spring Spectacular.

Money collected is placed in one of two accounts: individual student accounts or the general fund. The general fund pays for expenses that are responsibilities of the entire group. Parents/guardians will receive monthly statements that provide information on your student's credits and balance. We appreciate prompt payment to maintain an adequate cash flow as many of our expenses are accrued at the beginning of each season.

Any overpayment to a student's account will be rolled over to the following season for that student. If you have overpaid or over-fundraised during your final year as a member of the Logan show choirs, the overpayment will become a donation to the general fund.

While it is the goal of the LSCPO Board to allow all qualified students to participate in show choir regardless of their ability to pay, the Logan show choirs would not exist without financial support. The Board offers several methods to lessen the financial impact of participation.

Please contact the LSCPO treasurer at treasurer@loganshowchoir.org with any financial questions or concerns. Final decisions on financial aid recipients will be made by the LSCPO president and treasurer and will be kept confidential.

All payments should be mailed to the treasurer at:

**LSCPO
P.O. Box 697
La Crosse, WI 54602**

Checks should be made out to LSCPO.

Please write student's first and last name on the memo line of your check payments.

Payments can also be made via Venmo to @LSCPO

Financial Obligations in the Event of Discontinuing Participation

While it doesn't occur often, there are instances where members of the Logan Show Choirs have left the program throughout the season. In the event that this happens, there is a tier of financial obligation based on how far into the season we have come when the student leaves the program. Fundraising opportunities will still be available to help with this financial obligation.

1/2 of Annual Fee

If student leaves the Logan Show Choir program before October 1st, the student's account will reflect a balance for half of the initial fee for the season (minus credits already paid toward said balance). We will already have paid a significant amount of the cost of putting each student on stage by this time in the season.

Entire Annual Fee

If student leaves the Logan Show Choir program October 1st or later, the student's account will reflect a balance of the entire fee for the season (minus credits already paid toward said balance). We will have financially invested the entirety it takes to put each student on stage.

Fundraising

Student activity fees cover only a fraction of the annual costs generated by our show choirs. To fill the gap, the LSCPO sponsors many fundraisers throughout the year. Parent/guardian volunteers are needed to help make these efforts successful. Some fundraisers offer students the opportunity to earn money for their individual accounts. A list of some of our most successful fundraisers include: Riverfest, Oktoberfest, Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards, butter braids, our Calendar Raffle, Classy Kids Camp, the Chocolate Soirée, and our largest fundraiser of the year, Logan Showcase.

SHOWCASE 2020: FEBRUARY 7 & 8

Celebrating 34 years of excellence!

SHOWCASE IS A MANDATORY EVENT FOR ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS & STUDENTS

This is the biggest fundraiser each season!! In 2019, we hosted 31 show choirs over our two-day event! Most of our operating budget comes from profits made at Showcase. Every student involved in show choir is required to work the entire event. **Every family is also required to work at least six hours during the event.** These hours can be broken up into smaller shifts. There are many areas where volunteers are needed including, but not limited to: ticket sales, set-up, working in the cafeteria and concession stand, information desk, office, and so on. For a smooth transition from year to year, senior parents who are committee chairs have a shadow follow them to learn the job. At the September meeting there will be a list of chairpersons and what is involved with chairing a committee. In past years, this event has brought in a significant amount of money for the organization!

Riverfest

July 3-7. The LSCPO cleans tables, empties garbage cans, and keeps the food tent area clean throughout the celebration. The shifts are scheduled for 4 hours each between 11am-11pm each day. There are 6 people per shift needed and at least one adult needs to be signed up for each shift. This is a great fundraiser that the entire family can participate in. This is an individual fundraiser and money earned will go directly toward your student's account.

Ashley for the Arts

August 9 & 10. Multiple and diverse opportunities to raise money toward your show choir account! Areas we can volunteer in are wristband booths, gate guards, parking attendants, beverage servers, entrance guards, ticket booths, shuttles, and several more! Held in Arcadia, WI. This is an individual fundraiser and money earned will go directly toward your student's account.

Oktoberfest – Selling Drink Tickets

The LSCPO sells drink tickets in the ticket booths at the Southside Fest Grounds. Volunteers must be at least 21 years old. Volunteers who are 18 or older are allowed to sell tickets as well but must be in a booth with someone who is 21 or older. This is a group fundraiser and money earned will go directly into the general fund to help support our program!

Chocolate Soiree

The Chocolate Soiree is the first official performance of the show choir season for the Logan Show Choirs. It is also the LSCPO's second largest performance fundraiser of the year. Logan Middle *Touch of Class* and Lincoln Middle *9th Street Connection* join *The Class Act* and *Classy Ladies* for a double-performance day. There are two shows with the Taste of Chocolate in the cafeteria in between. Volunteers are needed in many areas: set-up and decorating, ticket sales at the door, set-up of desserts, serving, and clean-up. Parents/guardians are also asked to donate desserts to maximize the profitability of this event. In the past, this event has raised over \$3,000 for the organization.

Country Boom – Bartending

July 11, 12, and 13. The LSCPO bartends this amazing event held practically in our backyard! Volunteers must be at least 21 years old.

Other Fundraisers

Additional fundraisers are discussed, considered, and voted on at the monthly parent meetings.

Frequently Asked Questions

Parent process for voicing concerns or questions:

Please reflect on whether your concern or question is about the LSCPO, fundraising, meetings, etc., or is a concern or question about the show or the directors' specific decisions. If it is a LSCPO question, please email the President or Vice President and they will respond appropriately. The directors have considerable training and experience and will make all decisions based on what they believe is best for the group as a whole. These concerns should not be brought up to the parent board or at LSCPO meetings.

What is an invitational or competition?

Invitationals or competitions are the events at which show choirs compete against one another. These events generally take a full day. Please plan for your child to be at a competition from very early in the morning until very late at night. ***Invitationals and competitions are usually the major fundraiser of the year for the hosting choir.***

Can I travel with the show choir to a competition?

Any parent who chooses to may come along on any trip as long as there is room on the bus. There may be a small fee attached to riding the bus depending on the amount of interest and if it is enough that we have to add an additional bus.

Are meals provided at competitions?

The cost of meals is not included with the registration fee for competitions. Students will need to bring food and/or money for the cost of food (up to 3 meals). Healthy snacks are encouraged for travel and competitions and a water bottle is a necessity. Food sales at competitions are another area where much of the fundraising for the host school occurs. Students are encouraged to purchase meals at the host school in support of their program.

Who is a liaison and what do they do?

The liaison is a volunteer parent/guardian whose primary function is to act as an assistant to their choir's director(s) in any way that they see fit. The liaisons will be the only extra personnel allowed into rehearsals or clinic days as well as homerooms during competitions.

Why do we do so much fundraising?

The Logan Show Choir Parent Organization (LSCPO) covers all expenses for the show choir program with the exception of the directors' contracts. The costs for costumes, choreography, music rights and arrangements, etc. for two choirs of 30-50+ students each adds up quickly. Although a sizable amount of money is raised through the activity fees paid by singer/dancers, show band, and stage crew members, it does not cover the entire budget. Our organization chooses to cover the balance of the budget through group fundraising. It costs approximately \$950 to put each singer/dancer on stage.

I have a fundraising idea. What do I do with it?

Get as many details for your idea as possible and then contact the LSCPO Board or any of the directors! We are always looking for new, fun, fresh, and successful fundraisers!

Who picks the songs for the shows? Costumes? Soloists?

These are all decisions made by the directors. Our shows are selected in an extremely cooperative process between our directors and our choreographers. Costumes are chosen by the directors, often with input from the choreographers. Soloists are always auditioned and judged with selection going to the student who best fits the needs of each particular solo.

Besides my child's activity fee, what other expenses can I expect leading up to and throughout the show choir season?

The following clothing and accessory items, considered "personal", are required to be provided or purchased by each choir member:

1. Garment Bag

2. Panty-Hose

3. Foundational make-up

Show-specific make-up will be ordered for each group if necessary and is included in the fee.

4. Proper Undergarments (ladies and gentlemen)

5. Show Choir Apparel – fan gear not mandatory for all involved

Students will receive rehearsal shirts, spirit shirts, and a Showcase shirt included in their fee. Each year, both of our show choirs and our band have their own spirit shirts made. Members wear spirit shirts when they travel to competitions. Spirit shirts help provide group spirit as well as make choir members easily recognizable to one another and distinguish them from other choirs (who will also be wearing their own spirit shirts!) as they sit together watching other choirs. Students are required to wear presentable blue jeans with their spirit shirts.

6. Travel Expenses

One meal is typically included on the overnight and we always try to stay at a hotel with a continental breakfast. Meals will still need to be brought or money for food needs to be with the student for the actual competition. In the case of the opportunity for a fan bus, the cost of that opportunity will be shared with everyone.

7. Dry Cleaning

Costumes will need to be cleaned throughout the season as well as at the end of the season before they are inventoried and stored for future use or sale/rent. We have a relationship with a local dry cleaner and that information will be made available to you.

****NOTICE****

This list is intended to give parents/guardians an idea of additional charges that may occur during the show choir season but should not be seen as a guarantee of any kind. The all-inclusive fee will significantly cut back on the amount of additional charges but they still may occur. Directors will make every effort to let parents know of additional charges at the earliest opportunity and will do our best to keep additional charges from arising.

2019-2020 LSCPO Meetings 6pm in the LHS Library

* Please put these dates on your calendar *

May 13

August 18

September 9

October 21

November 11 (mandatory)

December 9 (mandatory)

January 13 (mandatory)

January 20 (Showcase Chair Meeting)

January 27 (Showcase Chair Meeting)

February 3 (mandatory)

March 16

April TBD

Contact Information

LSCPO Board of Directors

President – Gwen Salzwedel
salzy1974@gmail.com

Vice President – Andrew Johnson
vicepresident@loganshowchoir.org

Treasurer – Sheryl Solberg
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Secretary – Kat Hardie
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The Class Act

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