

Christian Academy of Louisville
High School Show Choir
2024-2025 Syllabus

Angela Stephens, Director, Room CM 111
Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings at 7:30am
Phone: (502) 244-3225 ext. 1123
Email: astephens@caschools.us

Course No. 423; 1/2 Credit; Regular Grading Scale; Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Christian Academy of Louisville High School Show Choir is an auditioned, performance-based group specializing in Broadway, pop, and musical theater repertoire. This ensemble meets every day with the purpose of emphasizing basic fundamental choral skills, which include music literacy, sight reading, vocal technique, and introductory music theory, as well as basic choreography and dance technique. Students will perform regularly throughout the duration of the class. Fundamental skills will be addressed and built upon to move students into a higher level of performance. Vocal production, tone, blend, aural skills, and sight singing will be examined. Students will apply skills in school and public performances.

Show choir is a choral ensemble first and foremost – choreography and dance will be designed to enhance the overall performance. Students shall strive to pursue excellence ever and always – this includes the everyday, regular rehearsal as well as public performances. Students have a unique opportunity to praise God and represent Christ through performing music at a skillful level. Being on time for rehearsal, bringing necessary materials, and fully participating in rehearsals and performances contribute to this goal.

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
Colossians 3:15-17

Class Fee

Every student in one or more ensembles from 7th to 12th grade pays ONE \$50 class fee through FACTS. You do not need to worry about writing a check, but we want you to be aware of the charge so you aren't surprised when you see it. These fees will go to assist with music purchases, classroom needs and sectional staff for each ensemble, bus costs for performance assessment, etc.

OBJECTIVES

Performance and Production

The student will demonstrate proper posture and breathing techniques to support vocal production.

1. Demonstrate a consistent application of proper breath control.
2. Demonstrate a consistent application of proper singing posture.

The student will sing with a free and clear tone, using accurate intonation.

The student will sing with purity of vowels and clarity of consonants.

1. Produce pure vowels—ah, eh, ee, oh, and oo—across the vocal range.
2. Identify and articulate consonants, with emphasis on beginning and final consonants.

The student will use dynamics, tempo, blend, and balance in a group performance.

1. Apply dynamic markings, including *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *crescendo*, *decrescendo*.
2. Respond to conducting prompts regarding blend and balance.

The student will sing music written in three or more parts.

1. Maintain voice part in small ensemble.
2. Sight-read four-measure phrases, using a symbol system.
3. Sing with and without instrumental accompaniment.

The student will respond to music through movement.

1. Create movement to illustrate diverse styles of music.

Judgment and Criticism

The student will use choral techniques and musicianship in the evaluation of music performances.

MATERIALS

You need the following materials EVERY DAY in class. Even if we haven't used them in a while.

1. Folder (provided by school)
2. Music (provided by school)
3. Dance shoes

1. Black shorts under their dresses (dance style, but the brand does not matter)
2. Body tights (Capezio - caramel) - You can purchase a darker color if that would match your skin tone better
3. Capezio 550 Dance Shoes (caramel) - 1 1/2 inch heel - we buy them from Kinney Dancewear - they are pictured here:

<https://www.kinneydancewear.com/products/1-5-jr-footlight-2?variant=48642822111530>. My understanding is that the only other option available is black, which would not work, so all students would get this color. However, if you find a darker brown on a secondary website (like Poshmark) from a discontinued shoe, and this matches your skin tone better, then you may opt for this color instead.

*We have a limited number of shoe pairs that previous students have left behind in a box in the choir room. They are first come, first serve.

Kinney Dancewear has all of these things. If you like to try to bargain shop on websites like Poshmark, I wanted to provide as much detail as possible so you could purchase them correctly. I would love for all girls to have these things by the time we return from Fall Break.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Grading will consist of daily grades, sight singing, quizzes/evaluations, and performances.

- **Group/Video Sight Singing:** The ability to read music is vital for members of this ensemble. Sight singing skills will be taught and evaluated individually as sight singing enables students to learn music independently. Students will have the opportunity to sight sing as an ensemble at every rehearsal, although assessments will be given individually. Students will be notified in advance of a sight singing assessment and can earn up to 20 points per assessment. Expect at least one of these per quarter. Unannounced Sight Singing evaluations may take place throughout the quarter as well. These will be worth a total of 10 points.

- **Choreography Video/Group Video Activities:** Students will be responsible to learn and retain choreography throughout the semester. If at any point a student is not in class, there will be a spot on Canvas for that student to upload the choreography they learned from home that day. Students will often be asked to work in groups, whether that is on their music or to choreograph sections of songs. They will be expected to fully participate in this process and put forth their best effort. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 20 points for these assignments.
- **Performances/Dress Rehearsals:** All music students are expected to be in attendance for all concerts in which they are performing. Unexcused absences will result in a concert grade of no more than 60%. If illness should preclude a student from attending a concert, the student and/or parents *must contact the director prior to the concert* by email. Failing to contact the director in advance constitutes an unexcused absence.

Note: The athletic department is aware of all concert dates at the beginning of each school year. However, when conflicts occur, it is understood that music concerts come first, as they are curricular rather than extracurricular. The athletic department is supportive of this policy, and coaches should be aware of this policy as well. Missing a concert due to an athletic event constitutes an unexcused absence. Please let your coach and your director know about any schedule conflict as soon as possible, as we always try to accommodate these events.

Exceptions to this rule can be made for state level tournaments, senior nights, or final game for seniors, but only if you talk to your director well in advance. (Please see “Concert Requirements” on next page for more details concerning performances.)

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Attendance: “To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late.”

Please make an effort to be early and prepared for class. This is just one way to pursue excellence in every area of our lives. One hour of Saturday detention will be assigned for every three times a student is tardy. Points will also be deducted from the student’s grade for being tardy or absent. If a student is absent from rehearsal but is in school for the rest of the day, it is considered an unexcused absence.

Code of Conduct:

Luke 6:31 states, “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.” Respect for teachers and peers will be expected. Music students are most certainly considered to be some of the best students at CAL, and are held to the highest level of performance as well as discipline. Should discipline be required, the following steps of action will be taken. Due to the severity of the issue however steps may be skipped at the director’s discretion.

1. Give the students their first verbal warning.
2. Ensemble Director will have a conference with the student individually.
3. The Ensemble Director will offer a second verbal warning, assign a detention and contact the parents of the student.

4. The Ensemble Director, Student, Director of the School of the Arts and possibly the parent will meet with student.
5. Call a conference between the Ensemble Director, the Director of the School of the Arts, the Parent and the Principal or Assistant Principal to discuss removal from the music program.

Cell Phone/Personal Electronic Policy:

Phones (any personal electronic devices, even apple watches) are to be on silent at all times during class time and in the cell-phone caddy. This means from bell to bell, not just when direct instruction is occurring. Phones are not to be used during class time without express permission for academic purposes.

Rehearsal Standards:

1. No gum or food is allowed in rehearsal.
2. Be on time to every rehearsal – this includes rehearsals during, before, and after school.
3. Have your own music, pencil, and other supplies at every rehearsal. Students who go back to their locker to retrieve missing items will be counted tardy.
4. Prepare your music and your mind well. This means you have looked over your part before rehearsal and are ready to be a contributing member of the ensemble.
5. Be attentive during rehearsal – give the director and others who speak your utmost respect.

Dress Code Requirements for all Performances

Our concert attire for show choir differs from the traditional black dresses and tuxedos of our other choral ensembles. Ladies performance attire consists of a dance dress, character shoes, body tights, and accessories. Uniform rental is \$35 annually (new dresses cost upwards of \$125). Ladies are responsible for purchasing body tights and character shoes (nude with a 1/2 inch heel) from Kinney Dancewear, located at 1850 South Hurstbourne Parkway or (502) 499-6262. They also need to purchase black spandex shorts for under their dresses. These can be purchased from Walmart and/or another athletic store, they just need to be solid. No dangling jewelry will be accepted. Failure to comply with the dress code without prior discussion with Mr. Wooten or your ensemble director the student may not be allowed to perform with the ensemble and they will not receive their full concert grade.

Some secondary ensembles have their own dress code requirements but all fall within the Christian Academy of Louisville School System Handbook for dress code requirements.

Solo and Small Ensemble attire will fall within the Christian Academy of Louisville School System Handbook dress code requirements. Failure to comply with the dress code without prior discussion with Mr. Wooten or your ensemble director will result in an hour of detention and in some cases the student may not be allowed to perform and they will not receive their full concert grade.

Concert Requirements

Part of being an excellent musician is knowing how to also be a good audience member and to know what behavior is acceptable and unacceptable at any public concert.

1. All music students are expected to be in attendance for all concerts. In the event of an excused absence for another event, students will be required to complete a make-up assignment.
2. Students are expected to attend the concert in its entirety unless prior approval has been given (requests need to be made through email at least 1 week prior). Students will not receive full credit for the concert if they are not there for the entire duration of the evening.
3. Students will sit with their ensemble for the duration of the performance. Students observed in the hallways or classrooms during a performance will receive disciplinary action.
4. If you do have an emergency and need to leave (or enter), out of respect for the performers and the other audience members, please only exit (or enter) between selections.
5. The use of any and all electronic devices is not permitted during a concert. Any electronic device seen during a concert will be confiscated.
6. There should be no talking while a group is performing or while anyone is addressing the audience.

Music Boosters

Christian Academy is blessed to have a Music Booster organization. This organization is made up of parents who see the need, and share the vision of the music program here at our school. ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Without parental support we could not accomplish nearly as much as we have. The Music Boosters take care of fundraising, set-up and break-down for performances, and are actively involved in planning and chaperoning our trips, as well as many other things. I would HIGHLY encourage all parents to join our Music Boosters organization and become actively involved in the musical experience here at CAL.

CHORAL ACTIVITIES

KMEA Festivals:

Large Ensemble Festival occurs in mid-March and will most likely be during the school day. This is considered a field trip from school, and all students will be participating. At KMEA Festival, school ensembles from around Louisville will perform their prepared concert music for a panel of judges to be critiqued and scored. This is our biggest event of the school year – our performance will demonstrate all the skills we have worked on throughout the school year!

KMEA All-State Choirs:

CAL Choir students have the opportunity to audition for and participate in the Kentucky Music Educator's Association All-State Choirs. This consists of rehearsals during the school day at the Kentucky International Convention Center and overnight accommodations at the Galt House hotel. Students are responsible for the cost and fees for the audition, registration, music, and hotel.

The Kentucky Junior High Chorus (KJHC) is comprised of the Kentucky Junior High Mixed Chorus (KJHMC) and the Kentucky Junior High Treble Chorus (KJHTC). Each chorus has approximately 200 seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students who are selected by taped audition from the state of Kentucky. Both choirs perform in concert as part of the Kentucky Music Educator's Association In-Service/Professional Development Conference in Louisville, in February, in Whitney Hall at the

Kentucky Center for the Arts. This is an optional event and is available to 9th grade students ONLY. Students interested in auditioning should see Miss Holfinger as soon as possible. Deadline for audition forms, fees, and tapes is in October.

The Kentucky High School All-State Chorus is comprised of the Kentucky High School SATB Choir, SSAA Choir, and TTBB Choir. Auditions are open to students in 10th-12th grade and consists of a live quartet performance audition and an individual sight-singing audition. Students will be notified of acceptance by mid-November. The concert will take place at the Kentucky Center in Louisville in February as part of the Kentucky Music Educators Association Professional Development Conference. Students will spend two full days in rehearsal and will spend two nights downtown at the Galt House as the CAL music department teachers will be attending the conference, workshops, and clinics those same days. Auditions will be held in September. The rest of the information is TBD.