



Mennonite Children's Choir OF LANCASTER

Frequently Asked Questions

*We are thankful your family is a part of MCCL. Most of the FAQ comes directly from the Choir Handbook (page numbers listed).
Please email directors or the choir manager with any questions.*

Who is MCCL?

- 25 years of community faith-based singing for children and youth!
- Program of Lancaster Mennonite School - separate board and financial structure.
- Singers represent 52 congregations, 43 schools, and 12 denominations.
 - Prelude Music & Choristes - non auditioned choral classes
 - Carol, Concert, and Chamber - auditioned choirs
- Staff, board, volunteers, and the community.

Parent Volunteers (page 10) and Weekly Snack (page 14)

- Thank you for signing up to serve during the registration process!
- Review the tentative volunteer schedule (will be sent via email) and respond to the link confirming availability.
- Snack time is to build community. We encourage simple and healthy snacks. Singers have water bottles.

Student Safety, Drop-off, and Pick-up. (pages 12 & 13)

- Thank you for following the traffic patterns.
 - NMC: drop off singers and then park.
 - BHMC: park and then bring singers into church.
- Parents and siblings (supervised by an adult guardian at all times) are welcome to be in the church buildings during rehearsals. Please do not talk in the sanctuary. There are two local parks nearby that families may use.
- If someone other than parent/guardian will be picking a singer up and that person is not on the "authorized pick-up list", please inform the Choir Manager via email before evening rehearsal.
- Student Safety Guidelines (Member Portal) are in place. Staff/board/regular volunteers have clearances.
- MCCL addresses bullying (unwanted, repeated negative behavior towards another person) immediately. Please be in touch with any MCCL staff member if you see, hear, or experience bullying.

Uniforms (pages 15 & 16)

- Christmas formal uniforms will be distributed at the fall retreats in September and will be used for concert series.
- Casual uniforms (MCCL blue t-shirt with khaki bottoms) will be used throughout the year.
- Clothing swap is an option (more details coming soon).

Annual Fundraisers (page 24)

- Annual tuition covers about one third of the cost for each singer's choral experience and music education in MCCL (over 80 hours of instruction). Fundraisers provide about one third of MCCL's budget and generate significant financial support to help keep MCCL singing and to keep tuition increases minimal.
- MCCL's goal is for fundraisers to be simple, family friendly, and community building.
 - Jar fundraiser: great gifts, easy to sell, look beautiful, taste wonderful!
 - Do-Re-Mi-Dollars: invite people to support you and the music skills you are developing, as well as invite them to come to spring concerts.
 - Families may choose to participate or pay a set opt-out fee (not tax deductible).

Business Sponsorships (page 24)

- We are thankful for our current sponsors. Their partnership supports each MCCL singer.
- Donations from individuals, offerings, and business sponsors cover the other third of MCCL's budget.

Mission...training children and youth to glorify Jesus Christ through excellent choral singing.

Vision...We honor and celebrate music as a gift from God by creating exceptional choral music, fostering community, and nurturing character. We equip children and youth for a lifetime of worship and service to the church and community through Christ-centered repertoire that both affirms Anabaptist beliefs and reflects the musical diversity of the church around the world and through time.

Rehearsals and Prayer (page 10,11,12)

- Arrive 5-10 minutes early to sign in. Use the restroom **before** coming to rehearsal.
- **Bring a full water bottle (with name), music folder, and name tag lanyard in a tote bag each week.**
- Keep cell phones and other electronic devices at home (or in tech basket) during rehearsals/retreats. Limited tech builds relationships! If electronic devices are out, they will be held by a staff/parent volunteer until end of event.
- **You are invited to pray each week for MCCL singers/families, directors, and staff.**

Attendance (page 10) & **Calendar** (pages 18 - 22, also Google Calendar link on Member Portal)

- All MCCL 2023-2024 dates are on your calendar (part of registration commitment).
- Prompt arrival and consistent attendance encourages healthy voices, builds team and friendships, develops unified sound, and strengthens choral music knowledge. When one choir member is missing, the whole group is impacted.
- Each singer is granted one excused absence per semester. Reach out to the director if you have more conflicts.
 - Use "Excused Absence Request Form" found on the member portal on the MCCL website throughout the year for attendance changes. (Note: day of illness can be emailed to directors)
 - Last-minute requests are considered unexcused (except for illness).
 - Unexcused absences will be addressed and a make-up plan determined with the director. The make-up plan may include rehearsing with the director or voice coach outside of choir for a fee of \$30/half hour.

Communication and At-Home Practice Assignments (page 11)

- Weekly at-home practice assignments provide singers essential learning and review of music between rehearsals, generate deeper understanding, and help directors prepare for rehearsals.
- Weekly emails are sent (usually Wed or Thurs) with a link to Member Portal for practice assignment.
- Missing assignments will be addressed and a make-up plan may be needed. The make-up plan may include rehearsing with the director or voice coach outside of choir hours for a fee of \$30/half hour.

Illness guidelines (page 14)

- Please stay home and email the director immediately if you have any symptoms listed in the handbook.

Dress Guidelines (page 11)

- MCCL's goal is to maintain a professional and neat appearance at each rehearsal, retreat, and event.

Local Tour Day (page 17)

- Spring local tour day connects MCCL to the community, builds teamwork among singers, and is fun. MCCL provides an excused absence request form for schools.

Summer Tour (page 17)

- Concert Choir and Chamber Choir participate in early June 2023. More details are coming.

25th Anniversary Celebration

- Sunday, June 9 (afternoon rehearsals times TBD and evening 6:30 p.m. Final Spring Concert & 25th Celebration)

Questions?

Mrs. Bowman mcclchoirmanager@lancastermennonite.org

Ms. Wingard carolandconcertchoir@lancastermennonite.org

Mrs. Blessing chamberchoir@lancastermennonite.org

Member Portal Access

Username: mcclmember

Password: MCCLsing!2324!

Practice assignments, calendar, forms, handbooks, etc. can be found on the member portal.