

# Spring High School Choral Department

2015-2016

Parent Meeting

# We are GLAD you are here!

- We think we have one of the BEST PROGRAMS in the school because we have the BEST students and have enjoyed GREAT parent support over the years.
- This year will be NO DIFFERENT despite all of the events that have happened so far.

# Contact information

The lines of communication are ALWAYS open.

You may CALL: 281.891.7061

Or email:

[dlandgre@springisd.org](mailto:dlandgre@springisd.org)

[cberner@springisd.org](mailto:cberner@springisd.org)

[jlevine@springisd.org](mailto:jlevine@springisd.org)

Or visit the website: [www.springchoir.com](http://www.springchoir.com)

Amy Drake – Academy Principal & Choir Liaison

Tia Simmons – Principal



# General Information

Our enrollment this year is 300 students in 8 classes during the day.

1<sup>st</sup> – Conference

2<sup>nd</sup> – Chamber Choir – Landgrebe

3<sup>rd</sup> – Concert Men – Berner & Landgrebe

4<sup>th</sup> – Chorale – Landgrebe

5<sup>th</sup> – A Cappella Women – Berner & Levine (Applied Music – Landgrebe)

6<sup>th</sup> – AP Music Theory – Landgrebe & Levine

7<sup>th</sup> – Concert Women – Levine & Berner (Applied Music – Landgrebe)

Chorale Women and Chorale Men rehearse on Monday p.m. (Rehearsal Block is 5-9pm in the Fall Semester)

# You are always welcome to VISIT during the school day!!

Our door is always open and we welcome  
parental visits while we are rehearsing –  
regardless of what your students may say.

Parents are always amazed at what really goes  
on the rehearsals 😊

# Recent Changes

- Ms. Webb moved home to the Dallas area over the summer. She is now teaching at Garland HS.
- Mr. Levine is joined us in July. He is a recent summa cum laude graduate from the University of Houston. We are so excited to have him on our team this year. It is always wonderful when we can hire the BEST!



# Philosophy of Music Education: Why We Teach Music

- The arts/music make us better people both intrinsically and extrinsically.
- Students who participate in music generally do better in ALL other subject matters as music requires the use of the whole brain.
- The elements that music teaches: empathy, creativity, teamwork, to name a few, are essential for the success of the 21<sup>st</sup> century worker.
- Your student is not in choir because they want to be a music major - - they simply like to sing!
- Our standards are VERY high – we hope you will hear why when you attend our first concert.

# Why MUSIC MATTERS:

“I would teach children, music, physics and philosophy, but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the key of learning”.

Plato



“We all know that a well-rounded curriculum that includes the arts and music contributes to higher academic achievement.”

U.S. Secretary of Education  
Margaret Spellings

“We have encouraged the study of music and the arts in addition to the fundamentals of math, science, reading, and writing, which all have led collectively to tremendous gains in education in Texas over the last decade”.

Governor Rick Perry

“The arts are not a frill. The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature, and help to shape our identity. What is there that can transcend deep difference and stubborn divisions? The arts. Art has the potential to unify. It can speak in many languages without a translator. The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us all up”.

Barbara Jordan, Former Texas Congresswoman



# We expect your student to:

1. Have a willingness to WORK HARD and to IMPROVE his/her skills every day.
2. Be open to all teaching techniques as all directors have our own style.
3. Be at school. If they are not here, we can't teach them.

4. PASS all classes. If students are IN SCHOOL and TURN in work, they should pass. It's absenteeism and zeros that create problems.

5. Turn-in completed choir homework assignments on TIME as well. We do have homework in choir and will deduct points for late work.

# We need YOUR help with the following:

Limit absences to an absolute minimum.  
Keep up with ALL choir activities on your calendar, the website, etc.

Get involved in the program through volunteering. If everyone volunteers for ONE activity, we will be in great shape.



# Calendar of Events

- The fall calendar of events is being given to all students this week.
- This information is also available on charms.
- A copy has been provided for your reference.
- Concert attendance is mandatory. Students who miss a concert for an unexcused reason will not pass choir.

# Chorale Expectations

- Calendar is available on Charms.
- Calendar can be downloaded to your smart phone.
- All rehearsal dates through December are set now.
- Students **MUST** be at rehearsal – Chorale trumps most other activities because they get to practice as a full team every day!!

# Chorale Expectations

- More than two unexcused absences from an after school rehearsal results in removal from the Chorale.
- Two tardies to a rehearsal = 1 absence.
- Transportation concerns.



# Chamber Choir Expectations (Ambassador Group)

## Activities

- All-state Audition Process (\$15)
- Elementary School Holiday Shows (\$20-25)
- Madrigal and Chamber Choir Festival (\$130)
- Performances at Football Games and special events
- Pop Show & Broadway Night
- Performances at Astros, Rockets, & Texans

# Wunsche

- If your student attends Wunsche, they **MUST** come to SHS each day. They do **NOT** have the right to remain at Wunsche for another class.
- All tutorials for all classes must be done **AFTER** school both at SHS and at Wunsche.

# Charms Office

- This is your lifeline for everything choir related.
- Access via the SHS Choir Website.
- See instructions sheet on the back of the first page in your packet



# Voice Lessons

- Offered through Spring ISD
- Primary instructor is Mark Swindler. He has been at Spring HS since 1995 with us.
- Second instructor may be available there is enough demand.
- Students usually take during their class period, during early release, or after school.

# Voice Lessons

- Year-long commitment
- \$60 deposit required to begin instruction
- \$20/lesson (\$80/month total)
- Total approximate cost is \$640 for the year if a student takes every week.
- Every other week is a possibility as well.

# ASTROS GAME

- Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> (open football)
  - Depart 5:30pm, arrive back around 10:30pm
  - \$20 includes transportation and game ticket.
- 
- 90 tickets available; approx. 30 left now
  - Money due tomorrow (Sept 11)
  - No late orders



# Upcoming Events:

- Uniform Sizing – Almost complete!!
- District Choir Workshop
  - This Saturday at The Woodlands HS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Campus
  - \$25 / register online
  - Includes lunch and 2 bottles of water
  - Registration link available through Charms on the Calendar page
- District Choir Auditions – September 26<sup>th</sup> (Conroe HS)

# FALL CONCERT

Monday, Oct. 5 7:00 p.m.

- Call times depend on which choir your student is in. Call times announced 1 week prior to concert.
- Students must be on time and stay until the conclusion of the concert.
- It is an expectation that all classes complete writing assignments – even math, P.E, and music!! Our writing assignments relate to concert assessment of ALL choirs that sing in a concert.
- Formal uniforms are worn for all formal concerts.

# Required Clothing Needs:

- All students will be issued a uniform
- All students **MUST** provide **DRESS BLACK SHOES**. Men must wear **BLACK** dress socks / Women must wear black hose (no knee highs).
- Men must be **CLEAN /NEATLY SHAVEN** for the concert and hair **MUST** be out of eyes
- Women's hair must be **PULLED** back and completely out of their face.
- Women – the only jewelry to be worn is a watch and stud earrings. No necklaces, bracelets, etc.
- We have several choir shirts in stock for anyone to purchase. Those will be on sale in the foyer when you leave tonight's meeting.



# VOLUNTEERS

- We can't do it without YOU!! You received a volunteer form on your way in
  - please fill it out tonight
  - we will collect them as you leave
- You can contact a director if you are interested in helping with ANYTHING!! You will find her contact info on the website under Boosters.

# Los Angeles Trip

- Open to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> grade multi-year choir students at SHS.
- \$115 bank days started in June. We have paid \$460/person so far.
- 2 slots currently available if you can afford to catch up with payments and your student qualifies for the trip.
- More about LA trip at the end of the meeting.

# One Day Trip for ALL STUDENTS

- Schlitterbahn in Galveston, TX
- Date: Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016
- Estimated cost \$90
- Planned activities: Schlitterbahn, group meal, bus transportation
- Payment due on April 4, 2016
- Eligibility will not matter, but student must be in good standing with choir and the school.



And now....

The "F" Word.....

# FUNDRAISING 😊

- Fundraising benefits ALL students. Every dollar that is earned defrays the OVERALL cost of the trip for ALL students.
- We have many students who can not participate in the trip unless they have fund-raising support. We would like for ALL in all classes to attend as we are going to SING as well as have fun.
- If you, the parent, will support your student and the choirs by “getting behind” the fund-raising efforts, we could decrease the cost of the trip for everyone significantly.

- Fundraisers:

- Trash Bags (Post-paid)
- Brochure Sale
- Popcorn (Post-paid)
- Texas Roadhouse Rolls
- World's Finest Chocolate (Post-paid)
- Welch's Fruit Snacks (Post-paid)



Dismiss all students and parents except those going on the Los Angeles Trip.

See Ms. Berner for Astros tickets and Mr. Levine about voice lessons.

# Los Angeles Update

- Nothing changed on the cost of the trip.
- United Airlines is our airline!
- Dates shifted. We are now flying out on Wednesday night, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Return Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> about 10:15pm.
- \$410 for airfare
- Added one night of hotel
- We don't have to be at the airport at 3am.

# Los Angeles Update

- All students must fill out and return the airline registration form at the end of the evening. This allows the airline to issue airline tickets and to get students through the TSA security checkpoint.
- Every student must have a valid photo ID for TSA.



# Los Angeles Update

- Students 18+ must have a State ID or Driver's License
- Students under 18 may use their SISD photo ID but it must match their airplane ticket EXACTLY.
- A passport is also a valid photo ID for TSA.
- Questions???