



Let Freedom Ring! Parent Meeting

February 4, 2019

Thank you all for taking the time to meet with me here today! There is a lot of information to share with you, and as I usually do, I have linked the notes for this meeting on the website. If we talk about something that isn't in the notes, I will add an addendum to the notes on the website. I'm doing that because there is so much information to share that I want you to be able to concentrate on listening and participating rather than having to scribble notes. I hope that's helpful!

We have grown by another 25% this semester, which means that there is a good number of parents here who have never experienced preparing for a concert. I hope to give you all the information you need, but if you are new and need information, please ask; and if you are an experienced parent, please come alongside our new families.

Here is the agenda for today's meeting:

1. General announcements
2. Uniform details
3. Ticket sales contest
4. Run through rehearsals
5. Schedule for concert weekend
6. Set up service teams

General Announcements

Please have your children listen to their rehearsal recordings. If they come to choir knowing their lyrics and familiar with how their part sounds, the directors have much more time to do actual vocal training. Encourage your children to sing along with the recordings - out loud - and to sing in front of a mirror. Sometimes we are completely unaware of the expressions we make when we sing. If your child sings in front of a mirror, he will potentially catch some of his idiosyncrasies. The expectation is that your children should listen to their recordings four times per week.

Please clean up behind you. We are responsible for leaving the church in better condition than we found it. If you use the nursery during rehearsal, you need to make sure that it is neat and tidy before you leave. Please be sure to take all your belongings with you each

week. For the PC, BV, RC, and AV ensembles, please plan to help re-set your rooms, put away chairs, and gather trash each week before you leave. With so many of us, it will only take a few minutes to complete these tasks. We will have a list of assignments in the foyer next week so that you will know who is assigned each job.

Parents of CC/PA students

Mrs. Bagnall has asked that parents not attend the CC/PA rehearsal time unless you are a parent helper. With rehearsal lasting only one hour, Mrs. Bagnall would like to have as few distractions as possible. Thank you for your cooperation!

Read your Choir Notes each week

So much information goes out each week - you will miss something crucial if you don't read the notes - especially as we get closer to the concert. I have added links on the member page to all the Choir Notes that have been sent this semester. This should be an easy reference for you in case they get lost in your email boxes.

Concert DVD's for the 2017-2018 season are ready and available at the Welcome Desk

There are a few extras available for purchase.

New Families: If you have not yet completed the Photography and Recording Release and Waiver of Liability forms, please see Joanna Crump after the meeting. She has copies for you.

Etiquette Lunch 2019

Purchase your tickets today for the choir etiquette luncheon to be held on February 18. There will be two seatings: 11:00am for those in K-6th grade and their families, and 1:00pm for those in 7-12 grades. We will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Carnegie's chef/owner Mr. Ian Harrison, and through games, activities, and some instruction, we will be learning the fine art of being a good guest. It should be a delightful and delicious time! Parents and siblings over age 5 are invited.

Mr. Harrison is opening his restaurant on his day off just for us, but he is not bringing in his staff, therefore, we will be providing him with kitchen and dining room help. You will be able to work one luncheon and enjoy the other luncheon as a guest. If any of you are foodies, this is a great opportunity to work side by side with a terrific chef - you may learn a few tricks! Michelle Smith is our volunteer coordinator for this event, so please contact her at: 317-432-6057 or michelletilford@hotmail.com. We need 14 volunteers for each seating.

Uniform Details

I am so excited that our uniform department has grown this year! We now have two wardrobe rooms. For the CC/PA, grades K-3, we have three ladies who are working together to make sure that each student has a properly fitting uniform for the concert. They are Lee Ann Demoss, Beth Deutsch, and Lori Zwiirn. These ladies have put together a wonderful informational flyer for you that will answer so many questions.

For students in 4-12 grades, Kim Pascoe and Jenny Rumble are your wardrobe champions! These ladies have done so much to make uniform fittings prompt, accurate, and easy for us.

The uniform department has been hard at work. They have measured everyone for a uniform and orders have been placed. They have set up a schedule for when they will see each group of students to do the final fittings. **I have added their schedule to the choir calendar on the website for your convenience.** Additional details will be in Choir Notes each week. It's imperative that you pay attention to the dates that each ensemble is scheduled for fittings – things can fall very behind if the alterations aren't completed on schedule.

Each ensemble has a little “dress up” that we have planned for this concert.

CC/PA: cloth ribbon pin for girls and red bowties and cummerbunds for boys.

PC: Patriotic ribbon pin for girls, red bowties and cummerbunds for boys.

BV and AV: red, white, and blue stoles

RC: red cummerbunds and bowties

CL: still shopping for this, but we are working on the costumes for the rhythmic dance.

General concert dress uniform requirements:

1. Boys need to wear a plain white undershirt under their shirts. No logos or designs.
2. Girls – hair must be secured and may be worn up or down – your choice. Hair ties, headbands, etc. must match the color of your hair. We don't want any hair ornaments to be seen.
3. Clear nail polish, clear or pale pink lip gloss may be worn.
4. Hair must be a natural color.
5. Stud earrings only. No necklaces or bracelets.
6. **Black panty hose for CC/PA and black knee-high hose for older girls.** A slip is necessary.
7. Girls may find that a little extra blush is helpful since the lights can wash out skin tone.

Concert Tickets

We have sold 511 of our potential 1230 seats for our Mt. Vernon High School concerts. There is a lot of excitement about this concert, especially among veterans. We anticipate a potential sell out. If both concerts on Saturday sell out, we have reserved the school for a Sunday matinee. We'll make that decision in March based on ticket sales.

Having our ticket sales online is such a huge timesaver for Joanna, but it does present a little challenge when you ask people to come to the concert, but you can't sell a physical ticket right then. To help you with that, I have some cards that you can take to give to people as you invite them to our concerts. The cards have all the concert and ticket information so that your guests don't have to try to remember all the details.

Remember to tell your guests that tickets can be purchased over the phone as well as at the door. We really want to encourage people to purchase tickets before the day of concert. We do have reserved seating at Mt. Vernon, so it is advantageous to purchase tickets in advance.

Fill the Seats Ticket Sale Contest

Mrs. Jill Thomas is our ticket sales contest chairman. She has orchestrated a really fun contest to help students think outside the box and invite new audience members to our concert.

Contest Guidelines:

1. Sell as many tickets as you can! Remember grandparents, friends, neighbors, church members, Boy/Girl Scout Leaders, teachers, and local businesses that you frequent. Everyone needs to hear about Hancock County Children's Choir!!
2. Be kind and friendly! Smiling faces will sell more tickets!
3. Each ticket sold can be claimed by only one student. Siblings will have to decide who gets to claim each person.
4. Tickets reserved with a coupon code do not count towards the ticket contest.
5. Tickets are purchased online through the HCCC website. Please have ticket purchasers enter the student's name into the appropriate box on the order form.
6. Model good sportsmanship! It's important to both win and lose well. Be a gracious winner and be happy for those who sell more tickets than you. Remember, we are all working as a TEAM!
7. Have fun! We are all working together to make this the best concert yet and we might just end up with a fun PARTY!

Run-through Rehearsals

Beginning in February, Mrs. Roschi will start the actual practice of the program. She works through every detail of the entire concert meticulously so that by the time we get to Mt. Vernon, the program runs like clockwork. Mrs. Roschi has been doing concerts, recitals, and productions for 35 years, and I don't know anyone who is more thorough in preparation. There are so many life lessons that your children can learn during this process that will help them in their adult lives, so please encourage them to pay attention and take in what she is teaching.

Please assist us in monitoring the use of cell phones during rehearsal. The tough thing is that there will inherently be some waiting while we practice the program, so there is great temptation to pull out cell phones. Unfortunately, screens steal the attention of students, and then important information is not heard. If students aren't paying attention, we have to go over the same things more than once, and rehearsals run over time. We would appreciate the presence of a few more parents during rehearsals for these last few weeks – your presence will help us run on schedule.

Meals for Concert Weekend

We provide 2 dinners on concert weekend for students and working parents. The first meal is a taco bar that is served on Friday night. The second is a pizza feed served on Saturday evening. We charge \$5 per student or \$15 per family per meal. The PayPal buttons are on the website, and meals should be ordered by March 19. We are asking that students bring a sack lunch on Saturday. The choir will provide water bottles and a dessert.

The taco bar dinner on Friday is a fun, delicious, and easy meal. The choir purchases the food and then doles it out to people who are willing to prepare the food. It's pretty easy – taking frozen corn and heating it in a crock pot, opening cans of beans and heating them in a crockpot, dicing tomatoes and lettuce, making some rice, and fixing taco beef and chicken. The chicken we purchase is already cooked, it just has to be seasoned and simmered. So, you pick up the food on Monday, March 26 and bring it prepared and in a crock pot to dress rehearsal.

Mt. Vernon Concert Details

Before I go through our rehearsal schedule for dress rehearsal at Mt. Vernon, I need to address the concern that many parents had about the length of our Friday night rehearsal.

For those who are new, our dress rehearsal last semester lasted far longer than we had hoped, and there was confusion about the schedule because we had to adjust the schedule on the spot. Without going into too much detail, I will tell you that we met with the school three times in advance of the rehearsal and had an agreement about what was to be ready for us and what was to happen at the Friday rehearsal. When we arrived, that preparation had not been made, and we were forced to work through an auditorium that was not ready. As the auditorium staff scrambled to finish their work, our rehearsal time was affected.

We have identified the problems and come up with some solutions. We will be meeting with the school on February 15, and have high hopes that we can work these things out.

Secondly, as we create our volunteer teams today, we will be planning for a meeting with the teams before the concert to make sure that everyone understands the responsibilities and duties of each position. We believe that this advance planning along with a clearer line of communication and the cooperation of the school will make things go much more smoothly.

Our dress rehearsal does take several hours because we have to assure that the sound is correct and that students are comfortable with the stage and their position. There are some things that you can do to help our dress rehearsal be as short as possible:

1. Encourage your children to pay close attention during walk through rehearsals here at MCUMC.
2. We ask that parents not sit in the auditorium during dress rehearsal. The noise of conversations carries to the stage and makes it difficult for Mrs. Roschi to communicate with the backstage coordinators and the sound booth.

Be assured that we are doing our level best to make dress rehearsal as short as possible, but also be assured that Mrs. Roschi doesn't do anything half-way – we will go over things until they are right.

Please arrive at Mount Vernon High School no earlier than 4:00 pm. The school has asked us not to enter the building until their students have been dismissed for the day. Park on the west side of the building near Door 7. The doors are well marked, so you will find Door 7 easily. Once you enter the doors, we will either have a person there to direct you, or we will have signage to direct you to the dressing rooms and auditorium.

On Friday, pictures of the RC, CC/PA, and PC ensembles will be taken. Please be completely dressed in your concert uniform and ready to be photographed at the appointed time set for your ensemble. Pictures will be taken in the auditorium on the risers. Directors will be photographed with their ensembles. RC and BV should come directly to the auditorium for pictures. CC/PA and PC should report to the hallway which is on the left (west) side of the auditorium to be lined up by height for the pictures.

We have a limited amount of time for pictures, so unfortunately, we cannot wait for students who are not in place when their ensemble has its picture appointment. Please plan to be early to your picture appointment. We don't want to miss anyone!

Picture Schedule:

4:30 PM: RC

4:40 PM: CC/PA

4:50 PM: PC

Rehearsal Schedule:

5:00 PM: Walk through program in full concert dress.

*6:10 PM: Change out of concert uniforms into street clothes for dinner.

*6:15 PM: Taco Bar dinner served in cafeteria

7:00 PM: Full rehearsal begins. Choir will remain in street clothes except for emcees. Please plan your time accordingly during dinner to assure that you are dressed and ready for rehearsal to begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

CC/PA is released as soon as they finish their part of the rehearsal. Parents of these students should plan to stay from the time of arrival through the CC/PA rehearsal since they are first on the program, then they will be released by 5:30 PM.

* Dinnertime will be staggered this time to help each ensemble have adequate time to eat.

Parents: We are planning to be finished with rehearsal at 9:00 PM. PC will finish by 8:30pm Thank you so much!

Saturday Schedule

9:30am: Arrive at Mt. Vernon (BV, RC, AV, and CL)
10:00am: Rehearsal begins for BV, RC, AV, and CL
11:30pm: Rehearsal begins for PA/CC and PC
12:30pm: Lunch (Students bring a sack lunch. Choir will furnish water and dessert.)
1:15pm: AV pictures
1:25pm: CL pictures
1:35pm: BV pictures
1:45pm: Combined choir pictures
2:00pm: Doors open
2:30pm: Concert
4:00pm: Meet and greet your guests after the concert
4:30pm: Change out of concert uniforms and hang them neatly in dressing rooms.
5:00pm: Pizza feed!
5:45pm: Gather belongings and take anything you don't need out to the car.
6:30pm: Dressed and ready - meeting backstage with Mrs. Roschi
7:00pm: Concert
8:00pm: Meet and greet guests
8:30pm: Change out of uniforms.
8:45pm: *All hands on deck* for cleanup and loading of cars. The goal is to be out of the school by 10:00pm

** For the littles – In order to fight fatigue, it might be best for you to leave immediately after the afternoon performance and plan to stay during the evening performance. Parents of students in this group should plan their day in a way that helps your student be the most rested and refreshed for performances.

*** The hours between the afternoon concert and the evening concert are going to need to be well-supervised so that they are restful and rejuvenating for the students. We have designed a supervision schedule that should be adequate to care for the students properly, but at the same time we are going to need to have some activities for them so that the time is enjoyable. Your ideas and suggestions are welcomed!

As a side note - but an important one - we ask that students in grades K-6 not be in possession of a cell phone during concert weekend. We found, for example, that sometimes in all innocence a student started to take a picture of a friend in the dressing room, not noticing the fact that in the background another choir member was dressing. There are just too many potential issues that could happen, so please send your student with a game to play, but not a cell phone.

Concert Preparation

Many hands make these wonderful concerts come together! I have a Committee Assignments document that lists all the jobs that need to be completed for concert preparation. We will be signing up for jobs today because it is so much more efficient to do it in person than to follow up with many emails and phone calls. The beautiful thing

about having 2 concerts is that you can work for one concert and watch for another. Lots of jobs are available, and they have been divided into categories: backstage, student meals, foyer committee, and auditorium committee. Each parent will have a job – there are 146 jobs on my list, so that means you can expect to have 2-3 jobs each. Some are very simple and take very little time, others are longer. Obviously, if you take a job like working backstage on microphones, that is the only job you will take. There is something for everyone!

We will begin today by filling our student supervision slots. These positions are crucial for keeping our children safe. Our student supervisors will be identified by a bright colored lanyard and name tag. This will help both students and parents to know who is in charge at all times.

After student supervision slots are filled, we will fill the other positions. My goal is to fill all slots today.

Thank you for attending the parent meeting - this is going to be a wonderful concert! As you think of questions you might have, please feel free to contact me. I am trying to stay at the Welcome Desk as much as I can during choir, but please don't hesitate to call or send me a text or email during the week.

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