



When You Believe Parent Meeting

January 27, 2020

Thank you all for taking the time to meet with me here today! There's 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!

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 theory rooms, put chairs and tables as they were before we came, and gather trash each week before you leave. With so many of us, it will only take a few minutes to complete these tasks. The Student Council has done a fabulous job setting up and cleaning up all year, but several of them are seniors and have a senior song rehearsal at 6:30pm, so we need a little assistance from the masses. :-)) Before you leave after rehearsal, would you check with your

student to see if his/her theory room is re-set? Thank you for helping us take good care of this facility!

Illness Policy

While every rehearsal is important, we do ask that if your child is ill, you keep him at home. Children should be fever-free for 24 hours before attending a rehearsal. In addition, if your child is still coughing and/or is actively blowing his nose, please don't feel compelled to be at rehearsal. We have several large families in choir, and if an illness gets taken home by one of them, it can put them out of commission for weeks on end while the illness travels from child to child.

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. If you are not receiving choir notes, you can always read notes online through clicking the link on the Member page.

Etiquette Dinner 2020

Because of Red for Ed, New Pal schools have to use President's Day as a school day. Therefore, we cannot have our Etiquette Luncheon on that day. Instead, we have worked out a date for an Etiquette Dinner to be held at Woodland Terrace in New Palestine. The date we are working on is Tuesday, March 10. The CC/PA and PC ensembles would have their dinner at 4:00pm and the BV, RC, and AV would have their dinner at 5:30pm. We will have all the details worked out very soon and communicated through Choir Notes. Tickets will be available on the Member page of the website. This is a family event, not just for choir members.

We have many families who have students in both the younger groups and the older groups. We are very happy to work with you to make sure that you are able to have your whole family together in one dinner. Just let us know which dinner you would like to attend.

Uniform Details

Spring semester is a much quieter season for the Wardrobe Department. They will be measuring students who need uniforms on February 3, and they plan to place only 1 order right after those measurements are completed.

Your job is to have your student try on his/her uniform THIS WEEK to make sure that it still fits. Though it's only been 2 months since the concert, children have a habit of sudden growth spurts. If any part of the uniform does not fit, please plan to see Mrs. Frye on February 3.

Please do not pay for uniforms until you are invoiced. Many people, in their desire to be efficient, use the payment buttons on the member page, but order the wrong pieces. Your invoice will tell you exactly what you should get.

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

Now that we have a date for our concert, we will be opening ticket sales to CHOIR MEMBERS on February 1. Ticket sales will be open to the public on February 10.

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 New Pal, so it is advantageous to purchase tickets in advance.

CC/PA parents should remember to reserve a seat for their students when you purchase your family tickets. Please use the code: CCPASTUDENT.

PC students will once again be able to watch the afternoon concert. Their student supervisors will bring them into the auditorium at intermission.

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 late 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 23. We are asking that students bring a sack lunch on Saturday. The choir will provide water bottles.

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 30 and bring it prepared and in a crock pot to dress rehearsal.

New Palestine High School Concert Details

We will have our final Monday rehearsal (March 30) at the school. This will allow us to set up the dressing rooms, holding rooms, and stage on that day. We will set up the risers and mark them on that day. We will not run through all the sound and lights on Monday, but we'll do as much as we can in order to be as efficient as possible for the dress rehearsal.

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 New Palestine High School at 4:00 pm. Park on the west side of the building near Door 35. The doors are not all marked, so you will find door 35 more easily through a description of its location. The auditorium at New Palestine High School is on the north side of the building, nearest to US 52. The door we will use, door 35, is the entrance with stairs and a ramp close to 52. The door closest to 52 is the door closest to the auditorium. If door 35 is locked, please go to the northernmost entrance and we will have someone let you in. At Christmas, we stationed a couple of early arriving students there to open doors for people.

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. I am working toward a clean up schedule so that every family will have a specific clean-up task to complete. That will make our clean up efforts more efficient.

** 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 138 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.

Parking: All choir members should unload and then park at New Palestine Elementary. We need to allow our guests, especially the elderly and disabled to be closer to the auditorium entrance.

We will set up a shuttle for choir members from the elementary school to the entrance on Sat morning. In the evening, we have arranged a shuttle to take members to their vehicles after the production. Woodland Terrace is providing a shuttle for us, and they will run the shuttle for the concerts too.

Whew! Thanks for reading! Looking forward to our best concert yet!

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