



Forging the American Spirit Parent Meeting

January 24, 2022

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. Concert Preparation
4. Schedule for concert weekend and volunteer needs

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. Songs are available for listening on the JW Pepper website (jwpepper.com). Mr. Perez is making recordings of parts for each song, and I will post links to the recordings on the Member page of the website.

There will be a lyrics test on February 14.

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. Please let me know if you have any difficulty receiving Choir Notes. I do post the links for the notes on the

Member page of the website, so using those links is a quick way to find what you need.

Notes from Our Speech Coach, Carol Carpenter

Our Speech Coach, Mrs Carpenter mentioned in the emails to parents of student speakers that the students' speech Google Docs give families a way to print copies of their speeches and Practice Tips, should they lose theirs, but would like to clarify that that is for printing at home, not upon arriving at choir. Sorry for any confusion about that! So, parents, be sure your student speaker leaves home with a copy of his or her speech to bring to practice each time, as well as a pencil with eraser, unless they will be using one from their choir folder. Also, parents, please do routinely check the Google Docs so your students will always know what is in the written version of their weekly Practice Tips. Mrs. Carpenter is planning to do updates to Practice Tips by Wednesday mornings

Audition Meeting

On Monday, February 28 at 7:00pm, we will be holding a meeting to talk about spring auditions. To prepare for auditions, returning students will be given a section of a piece to sing as well as being evaluated for sight singing. Students who would like to audition for honors groups will be singing a section of a piece we are singing this semester. Sheet music as well as a rehearsal recording will be available for students to download and practice. Finally, students should learn the first verse of *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. Auditions will be held in person at MCC on April 23. Additionally, we are working on a couple of videos that will help students know how to prepare for an audition. I will be adding an Audition page to the website where all audition information will be housed.

Music Teachers' Reception

On March 7 we will be holding a Music Teacher's Reception during rehearsal. We are inviting music teachers from around the county to come to rehearsal to see what we do. We hope that they will refer their students to us, but we would also like to be an encouragement to them, holding in-services during the year that would benefit both our directors and them. This is another way that we want to invest in our community.

CC/PA Banquet

March 28, 4:30-5:30pm, Fellowship Hall. This is a time of celebration for CC/PA families. There will be an opportunity to visit and enjoy a kid-friendly meal, and Mr. Crawford will talk about what the children have learned this year. Additionally, students will receive completion certificates. NaTosha Hansome will be setting up an online

signup for food. We'll also need a few parents for set up and clean up and a point person to coordinate. Volunteers?

Menu: NaTosha Hansome

Set up: _____, _____, _____

Coordinator: _____

Spring Banquet

We are well on our way to being ready for our spring banquet. Lee Ann DeMoss will be catering the banquet and juniors Delaney Jones and Nicole Delgado will serve as emcees. The banquet will be held at Mercy Road Church in Fortville on April 25. Tickets are \$7/person and will go on sale March 7. We only have 1 need for the banquet, and that is for 5 people to serve the meal. Volunteers?

Servers:

Summer Camp

The Music in Me, HCCC's annual summer camp, will be held at Brandywine Community Church on Monday, June 13, 2022. This will be a day of musical fun and learning. Mrs. Ruth Dwyer will be our guest clinician, and she will be joined by our own staff. Mrs. Carol Carpenter will hold a speech workshop to help students develop their communication skills in a fun and engaging way. Summer camp registration opens April 18.

Uniform Details

Our wardrobe department is hard at work to assure that all of your children look sharp on concert weekend. Emily Frye and Lee Ann DeMoss have worked out a system that will have everyone ready for the concert and that keeps their workflow steady and not overwhelming. I am so thrilled to have these skilled and organized ladies on our team!

Dress for this concert will be a little different than we have done for a few years. For the first half of the concert, all students will be dressed in their concert uniforms. During the second half, however, 7th-12th graders will change into jeans, white t-shirts, and plaid button downs. Parents will need to supply the jeans. Girls can wear ankle,

cropped or capri length jeans. We're thinking about shoes. We don't necessarily want everyone to match, but we don't want bright colored shoes that stand out either. The last time we did this, we asked the girls to go to Walmart and purchase a pair of canvas Ked-like sneakers that were about \$6 so that the shoes melted into the background. We may do that again. The choir will purchase the white t-shirts and plaid shirts. Students will get to keep the t-shirts and plaid shirts.

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 Weekend Meals

We will be doing a boxed meal again for the dress rehearsal. I'm still working with vendors, but I will have the details finished by the February 7 announced date for meal sales to begin. The pizza dinner for concert day is set up on the Member page of the website, and several of you have already started purchasing your meals. It's a great idea to take care of those details now while you're thinking of it. Meal sales will close on March 21.

Concert Tickets

Tickets are available for choir members and families exclusively until February 7. There is reserved seating, so now is the time to choose your seats. If you have CC/PA students, remember to reserve seats for them. It is our practice to have CC/PA parents pick up their children at intermission and have them join their families to watch the second half of the concert. Please use the code CCPASTUDENT to reserve their seats free of charge.

On February 7, tickets become available to the public, and we want to let everyone know. I will be posting on social media often, so I would really appreciate it if you would like and share the posts. Ticket sales underwrite the cost of our performances, so we need to fill every seat. We need your help to accomplish that goal. Please spread the word to your neighbors and friends.

It's been our tradition to hold a *Fill the Seats* ticket sales campaign during the spring semester. Students earn prizes through selling tickets and then we have a collective party at the end if the concerts are sold out. This has been great fun for the kids, and places like The Children's Museum, Conner Prairie, Starbucks, and Culver's have been very happy to offer prizes. I would love to do this again! The students get involved in inviting people to the concert, have fun winning prizes, and we have really had some great end-of-the-season parties. We just need a parent who is willing to spearhead the project. Please consider this. I think the kids would benefit from the contest because the reward would be doing something fun with friends.

Volunteer Needs

I can't tell you how excited I am to be going back to Park Chapel for our spring concert. Besides the fact that the set up at the church fits our needs so well, the sound was great and you couldn't ask for nicer people to work with. Now that we have been there once, we can better refine the volunteer duties.

The biggest need we have is for student supervisors. Therefore, we're going to spend a few minutes now filling those roles so that we know that the kids will be cared for when they are not on stage.

Here we go!

(Using spreadsheet, fill each volunteer position)

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 in the lobby as much as I can during choir, but please don't hesitate to call or send me a text or email during the week.

Lisa Heady

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