



All Is Well Parent Meeting

August 24, 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!

Though COVID has certainly interrupted our plans and rearranged our schedules, we are thrilled that we have 86 students this year in the choir. We have several students who are off-site watching virtually, and many who have expressed an interest in returning to choir when the pandemic ends. Thank you for hanging with us and helping us to bring some sense of normalcy into our children's lives. Thank you for your willingness to work with a less than convenient schedule. I truly believe that your children are going to receive more music education this year than we have ever been able to offer before.

Here is the agenda for today's meeting:

1. General announcements
2. Uniform details
3. Month of Giving
4. Concert Preparation
5. Schedule for filming weekend and volunteer needs
6. Premiere Night

General Announcements

Rehearsal recordings: We chose not to have rehearsal recordings made for the songs this semester. We found that very few students were taking advantage of the recordings, and they were quite expensive to have made. Therefore, we encourage students to listen to their pieces on the JW Pepper website. Encourage your children to memorize the lyrics as soon as possible so that their directors can spend their time working on vocal training rather than drilling lyrics. Encourage your children to sing along with the recordings on JW Pepper. They should sing out loud and to sing in front of a mirror whenever possible. 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 practice their pieces four times per week.

Thank you for helping to keep the church neat. Because we are using fewer rooms and students are bringing fewer belongings into the building, clean up is easier.

Need for Ensemble Parents during weekly rehearsals

Each director is in need of parents who will agree to stay for the 1 hour rehearsal in order to help us fulfill the requirements set out in our child protection policy as well as to be an extra pair of hands as needed. The ensemble parent will need to be on-task for the entire hour - meaning refraining from phone or laptop use.

CC/PA: Jennifer Kelley and Kat Wiegand

PC (4:00-5:00): (need 2)

BV (7:15-8:15):

RC (5:45-6:45):

AV (5:45-6:45)

CL (7:15-8:15):

Finale Choir (6:45-7:15):

Mr. Crawford's tutoring class (5:00-5:45):

(6:15-6:45):

(7:15-7:45):

Mr. Perez's tutoring class (5:45-6:30):

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 did create a Google Calendar for the choir and shared it with each of you - I hope this is helpful!

Month of Giving

Our Month of Giving Campaign is about to launch!

This year we have been given a \$5000 matching grant from the Wortman Family Donor Advised Fund for our Month of Giving campaign. This generous matching grant will help us assure that we reach our annual goal of 10K for this campaign - usually we exceed 10K.

There are many advantages of this type of fundraising program.

- First and foremost, we are not asking our students and families to sell things, keep track of inventories, etc., etc.
- It's really a very short duration campaign
- Helps us engage with community members who may never have heard of us before.

As a nonprofit organization, the Month of Giving helps us to be more attractive to grantors. As I write grant narratives, one of the questions that is always asked is about member engagement. It's important to grantors that our own members are engaged in some activity that supports the choir. This campaign sends a huge positive message about the choir.

Our goal for this program is 100% participation from every family in the choir. The monetary goal is for each choir family to gather \$100 in donations for the choir. Many students find that they can easily gather more because the community really likes the idea that students are getting involved and willing to earn a donation. Students have raised 150% of our goal each year during MOG.

If you listed businesses on your registration form who you thought might be potential donors, Joanna Crump will be contacting you. She will put together a personalized donor packet for you to deliver to the business. If you have new ideas for potential business donors, please contact Joanna at jcrump@hccchoir.org.

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!

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 Preparation

This is the part of the meeting where we usually sign everyone up for a variety of positions for concert weekend - meals, students supervision, etc., etc. Because we are filming this concert, the only additional committee I will need is a stage and set committee.

Here are a few things we need that I thought we could potentially begin working on during rehearsals.

Christmas ornaments for our tree: These will be small bottles of hand sanitizer with Christmas bows on them

Garland made out of toilet paper.

Wrapped empty boxes for under the tree.

If you have interest in helping with these things, I would love to add you to the stage and set committee!

As we continue to develop the program, I will let you know what else comes up.

Schedule for filming weekend

We will be filming our Christmas Concert on Saturday, November 7

We will begin with our youngest students and work our way through the concert from youngest to oldest by ensemble.

9:00am	CC/PA
10:00am	PC
11:00am	Small ensembles, piano solo, emcee dialogue
1:00pm	BV
2:00pm	Finale Choir
3:00pm	RC
4:00pm	AV
5:00pm	CL

Volunteer Needs

Each ensemble will need 2 very attentive parents who will watch for hair and wardrobe issues, behavior issues, or stage issues that we don't want on film. These parents will be charged with assuring that the visual part of our performance is the best it can be.

The filming will be closed to observers except for the ensemble volunteers.

New Palestine High School Premiere Night

We are renting the auditorium at New Pal High School on Friday, December 4 for choir families to be able to watch the concert before it is broadcast on Facebook on December 5. We are also considering renting Ric's Theater in Greenfield for a community viewing, if it seems we could get an audience.

Having a virtual concert is certainly different than an in-person concert in that we will not be able to sell tickets to the concert due to the cost of performance licenses. Therefore, our performance will be free to all.

There are some really wonderful advantages to this option:

1. Families will be able to invite friends and family members from near and far to see the concert.
2. We have an opportunity to increase our audience like never before. In fact, I am hoping that every family will be able to host a watch party on Facebook.

One caveat to the virtual option is that since we cannot sell tickets, we need to encourage donations to pay for all the costs of production. We'll be pulling that campaign together and letting you know how we'll go about that soon.

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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