

Horn Lake High School Choral Department

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Greetings!

Although our usual way of auditioning for next year's choir placement could not happen this year, we have been able to solidify choir placement for the 2020-2021 school year. As usual, choir placement was based on independent musicianship, confidence, intonation, tone, & sight singing. This information was gathered from your time in the choir room and your Sight Reading Factory assignments.

As was explained in the 4/20/20 update, with the official addition of Mr McDowell, there will be changes to the choral department. There is a choir description sheet enclosed. We are excited to move the program in a direction that was not possible before. Your choir placement is notated on the choir description sheet. If everyone comes in with the right attitude & continues to work on their SRF over the summer, we will have four choirs fighting for those top honors in festivals and competitions.

Enclosed you will find important information including a copy of the money outlook information and performance attire information. Please review ALL information carefully including the due dates of fees.

A calendar for the upcoming school year will be posted on the website later this summer. With our current situation, we may need to be more flexible with the calendar. The calendar is normally set for the year and minimal changes are made. That is not really an option this year.

One calendar item I would like to talk about is our "First Wednesday" leadership opportunity. We will be heading to the middle school after school on the first Wednesday of each month to lead the middle school choir members in sectionals, workshops, team building, pre performance critique sessions, etc... These events will last about 90 minutes. What an amazing way to leave your footprint!

Also enclosed will be a description of our Disney trip that was moved to March 2021. There are minimal travel spots since the travel list remains the same with just a few exceptions. If you were not signed up to travel and would like to be added to the travel list for next March, you will need to contact me. A \$125.00 deposit will be needed to solidify your travel spot. Please review the trip information if interested.

We want to reassure parents, guardians, & students that we will be keeping up with the Covid-19 guidelines and making decisions for the upcoming year that have the best interests of the students in mind.

FYI - if you have missed updates or if you missed our 19-20 choir video with tributes to our seniors, go to the choir website! We are working to keep everything updated, so check in to make sure you are up to date!

CHOIR DESCRIPTIONS:

Non Auditioned choir is split by gender and take place during the first semester - girls during the first 9 weeks (Term 1) and the men during the second 9 weeks (Term 2). These classes are primarily for those who are not ready for the other choirs, either musically or socially, and/or those that simply would like to earn a Fine Arts/Elective half credit towards Graduation. These classes will be taught by Mr. McDowell.

Men's Chorale is a group that we are very excited for next year! It is proven through research that choirs separated by gender have great success. This group has over 30 experienced male singers. With Mr McDowell at the helm, they are going to do amazing things! The Men's Chorale will meet during the second semester.

Women's Chorale is a group that we are also very excited about. Women's music is typically focused on either very small groups or very large groups. We have never had the capability to have a large women's group like this. This group is NOT an intermediate level group. Every one of the over 50 ladies will be held accountable with their musicianship and reading. Every member must read SRF level 3 to perform! This group is going to be a beast and will focus on music that requires large, musical forces! Ms Beck will be directing the Women's Chorale during the second semester.

SATB Ensemble is a group of 12 elite singers - 3 singers on each voice part. The members of this group will perform all a cappella music. Unlike previous years, the members of the ensemble will not be part of the Chorale groups. This group will meet daily for the entire school year and will be directed by Ms Beck.

SSAA Ensemble is a group of 15 elite singers. The members of this group will perform 3 & 4 part a cappella music. These ladies will be the complete opposite of Women's Chorale - they will focus on that music that is written for small groups. Unlike previous years, the members of the ensemble will not be part of the Chorale groups. This group will meet during the first semester. It will be up to the members of the group if they would like to continue meeting after school one day a week in the Spring. This group will be directed by Ms. Beck.

Performance Attire

MENS CHORALE:

- ➔ Black dress pants
 - ➔ Black, Long Sleeved collared dress shirt - no pattern
 - ➔ Undershirt (plain)
 - ➔ Black dress socks
 - ➔ Black dress shoes
 - ➔ *tie provided by the choral department*
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LADIES CHORALE:

DCS dress code applies

- ➔ Black dress pants (no jeans) or skirt
 - ➔ Black shoes
 - ➔ Black dress shirt/blouse or dress (no pattern!) - sleeve should be 3/4 length
 - ➔ *an accessory will be provided by the choral department*
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LADIES - SATB ensemble & SSAA ensemble:

- ➔ Formal Dress - ordered through the choral department
 - order forms will be sent home via the choir member in August
 - cost is \$67.00 & includes the dress being hemmed (\$ due prior to receiving dress)
 - some used dresses will be available at a lower cost
 - ➔ post earrings - pearl, silver, or clear-stoned only
 - ➔ Spanx-type of garment to smooth out undergarment lines
 - ➔ the cost of uniform shoes is included in the choir expenses. These will be ordered in August.
 - ➔ INFORMAL ATTIRE - all black semi-dressy (within DCS dress code)
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MEN - SATB ensemble:

- ➔ Black Suit (single-breasted; plain - no pattern)
 - Suits can be ordered through the choir, but are more expensive than finding a suit at a local store!*
- ➔ White, Long Sleeved collared dress shirt - no pattern
- ➔ Undershirt (plain)
- ➔ Black dress socks
- ➔ Black dress shoes
- ➔ *tie provided by the choral department*
- ➔ INFORMAL ATTIRE - all black semi-dressy (within DCS dress code)

COST OUTLOOK FOR THE 2020-2021 AUDITIONED CHOIRS

Women's Chorale & Men's Chorale *

\$65.00 fee due by January 31st

Fee Breakdown:

Music	\$5.00
Accompanist	\$10.00
Transportation	\$20.00
State Performance Assessment	\$10.00
Performance accessory	\$10.00
Tuning Fork	\$10.00
Performance Outfit	see enclosed information

SSAA ensemble *

\$95.00 fee - due by August 31st

Fee Breakdown:

Music	\$5.00
Transportation	\$20.00
Ole Miss Choral Festival	\$30.00
State Performance Assessment	\$10.00
Shoes	\$20.00
Tuning Fork	\$10.00
Performance Outfit	see enclosed information

SATB ensemble *

\$125.00 fee - due by August 31st

Fee Breakdown:

Music	\$5.00
Transportation	\$20.00
Ole Miss Choral Festival	\$30.00
State Performance Assessment	\$10.00
Bluff City Choral Festival	\$30.00
Shoes (girls)	\$20.00
Tuning Fork	\$10.00
Performance Outfit	see enclosed information

*** ALL MEMBERS OF THE UPPER LEVEL CHOIRS ARE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO GROUP FUNDRAISERS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. IF A CHOIR MEMBER DOES NOT PARTICIPATE, HE/SHE WILL NEED TO PAY A 'FAIR SHARE' FEE OF APPROXIMATELY \$30.00.**

Choir Trip

STUDENT INFORMATION - CHOIR TRIP - MARCH 10 - 15, 2021

Orlando, Florida

This year we will be going back to Disney - something that we haven't done since 2016! We will be COMPETING at Festival Disney! Those traveling will combine forces to make a large SATB group for the competition. Rehearsals will be after school one day a week for the months of January & February with Mr McDowell. Our goal is to win the golden Mickey!! Besides the two theme parks at Disney, will also have time at Disney Springs (disneysprings.com) and a day on the East Coast as we visit the original Ron Jon Surf Shop (ronjonsurfshop.com) and the Cocoa Beach Pier (cocoabeachpier.com).

The estimated trip cost includes \$525.00:

- ★ Resort style Hotel
- ★ Disney's Animal Kingdom admission
- ★ Disney's Magic Kingdom admission
- ★ Festival Registration
- ★ a trip t-shirt
- ★ Charter Motorcoach

**THERE WILL BE A \$125.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT
ASAP TO HOLD YOUR SPOT.**

THE REMAINING BALANCE OF \$400.00 CAN BE PAID IN FULL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

OR

**THE REMAINING BALANCE OF \$400.00 CAN BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PAYMENTS
OF \$200.00 ON NOVEMBER 2 & \$200.00 JANUARY 8.**

8th GRADERS!

Welcome to the HLHS choirs! Normally we would have many chats about high school life as you prepare to leave the middle school and move on towards your next educational step, however this year is obviously different! As you look through the enclosed information, please do not get overwhelmed! If you have questions, email HB (holly.beck@dcsms.org)! Also, make sure the adults in your home get a chance to look through the information as well.

It is CRUCIAL that you use the Sight Reading Factory exercises! You can download the app for free or you can use it by signing in on a computer. Mr Wortham has set EVERYONE up and even has a video explaining how to use it! In high school it is a separate grade that they earn weekly with the SRF assignments. You will be SUPER rusty if you do not spend some time weekly singing and sight reading until we see you again in class!

Lastly, there is information enclosed regarding our trip to Orlando in March. I literally have less than 10 spots available. If you paid money towards the middle school choir trip to St Louis, that money can be moved to the Orlando trip - just let me know!

- HB