

2017-2018 PCHS Chorus Classes



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Greetings! My name is Brad Bensen and I am the Director of Choirs and AP Music Theory at Panther Creek, and I'd like to welcome you to a great school year ahead. In an effort to be fiscally and environmentally conscientious, a Choral Handbook with program/class information is available

- a. On the WCPSS Canvas site under both "announcements" and "syllabus"
- b. On the chorus website, accessible at www.panthercreekchorus.com

The handbook is full of important information that needs to be read by both students and parents, and a **signature page needs to be returned by Friday, September 1st**. Items in the handbook include:

- *General Program Description*
- *Honors Credit: Vocal 3 & 4*
- *Supplies/Materials*
- *Classroom Expectations*
- *Concert Information*
- *Choral Outfit Explanations*
- *Grading and SMART Lunch*
- *Student Fundraising*
- *Choral Class Curriculum*
- *Year-long Performance Calendar*
- *Choral Booster Organization Info*
- *FairShare Explanation*

Several of the most current items that need attention involve the following:

- ✓ **Google Doc:** Parent/student information form needs to be completed ASAP. Link is on website and Canvas
- ✓ **Communication:** We will use Remind.com for messages to both students and parents—PLEASE accept the invitation to join!
- ✓ **FairShare:** a per-student commitment for chorus families to help raise funds to support the many activities and expenses of the program; over the last 2 years, we have reduced our planned formal fundraising so as to alleviate pressure on our families and surrounding community. However, this reduction of fundraising requires a slight increase in the FairShare commitment (**due by October 2nd though preferred ASAP**):

--Semester-long students (2nd pd. Mixed Chorus): **\$40**

-- Women's Ensemble (3rd pd.) **\$70** --PCHS Chamber Choir **:\$99**

This fee is simply the difference between our expected income (via concert tickets, fundraising, etc.) and the proposed budget that allows students to have access to needed chorus resources. Included in this fee is a chorus t-shirt. ***Benevolence is available to those needing financial assistance.***

- ✓ **Outfits:** Each of the choral groups have specific outfit requirements/expenses (see back of this letter). Sizing and ordering of these items will happen quickly in the semester. **Payment should be made before the outfits are ordered.** See the Handbook for more info. Again, ***benevolence is available to those needing financial assistance.***
- ✓ **Choral parent meeting on Tuesday Sept. 5th** at 7:00pm in the chorus room. The meeting will involve introduction of both the choral booster officers and myself. We will have stations set up to:
 - **Register as an approved WCPSS Volunteer**
 - **Pay/collect semester expenses (FairShare, outfits, donations, punch cards, etc.)**

We will also explain the items above and discuss other important elements in the Handbook like outfit information/samples & class overviews, a presentation of our operating budget (including how FairShare commitments are allocated in), a review of the 2017-2018 calendar, information regarding fundraising, plus some time for various Q&A related to the choral program. If possible, please plan to attend as the support and engagement of our choral families is greatly intrinsic to our success as a program.

- ✓ **Semester 1 Concerts 4:30 & 7:00pm**—add to your calendar: **Thurs. Oct. 26: Fall Concert ; Tues. Dec. 19: Winter Concert**
 - We have a matinee concert at 4:30 and an evening one at 7pm. Both are required for students. See Handbook.
- ✓ Please consider buying a **Concert Punch Card** at \$35 for 10-use pass. Or even better—consider making a **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation** to our booster group—**a \$100 donation will earn a FREE Punch Card (\$65 is tax-deductible); This is a win-win for both families and the program!**

I am excited to have the opportunity to work with your children this year. Please see the reverse side for a "to-do" list. Thank you in advance for being engaged in our program!

Regards,

Brad Bensen

PCHS Chorus 2016-2017 Beginning of Year "To Do List"

This form does **NOT** need to be returned—it is just a checklist for families to go through in preparation for a great semester of learning and music-making!

- Complete Google Doc online form—available on the chorus website (www.panthercreekchorus.com), on Canvas, and on Google Classroom (for students)
- Read Chorus Handbook (online, as above)
- Return **Chorus Handbook Signature Page** (last page of Handbook) by **Sept. 1**
- Students and parents join Remind.com** communication groups (you will receive an invitation via phone or email)
- Pay **FairShare** Commitment; **DUE ON OR BEFORE OCT. 3**—(fee for all choral students that helps to pay for items that impact every child in the chorus, such as sheet music purchase, piano maintenance, accompanist fees, program printing, concert security, transportation for adjudication events, etc.) and **includes a CHORUS t-shirt**. This expense can be met in **any** of the following ways:

1: Cash or check to PCHS Choral Boosters

>>>\$40 for **Mixed Chorus** Students (Pd. 2)

>>>\$70 for **Women's Ensemble** (Pd. 3) >>>\$99 for **Chamber Choir** (Pd. 4)

OR

2: Find community/corporate donors as follows: To fulfill FairShare (does **NOT** give free concert punchcard):

- One \$50 or higher amount for Mixed Chorus students;
- One \$100 or higher amount for the other 2 classes (or two \$50+ patrons)

The business donor application slip is available on our **website** under "documents" and explains the various levels of patronage along with advertising that is available with the donation amount.

OR

3: Request benevolence to meet the need; students should be

- Attend parent meeting** on Tuesday Sept. 5th at 7pm in the chorus room
- Consider making a **Family Donation!** *Donations mean less fundraising is necessary to meet our needs!*
 - "FRIEND" \$5-49
 - "PATRON" \$50-99: Names are printed in all concert programs
 - ****"BENEFACTOR" \$100-250 Names are printed in all concert programs, and **FREE 10-use concert pass punch card** included with family donation (\$65 is tax-deductible)—**BEST VALUE!**
- Consider the purchase of a **Concert Punch Card** (optional): Qty: _____ x \$35 (Remember: included in family donations of \$100+-- corporate donations receive advertising instead of a punch card!)

Make **Outfit Payments ASAP**—we have to prepay at time of order, which will be in the first 2 weeks of school

- Mixed Chorus: **N/A**-- FairShare now **INCLUDES** rental of white blouse for girls and black ties for boys.
- Women's Ensemble: _____ \$70.00 Dress _____ \$7.00 Jewelry (required) [\$77.00 total]
- PCHS Chamber Choir:
 - Girls: _____ \$95.00 Dress _____ \$10.00 Jewelry (required) [\$105.00 total]
 - Boys: _____ \$145.00 Tuxedo with shirt & all accessories

Please make **checks** out to **PCHS Choral Boosters**. The preceding items may all be paid on 1 check, but **please list on memo line** what is included, like: "FairShare, Dress, Donation, Punch Card, etc." BENEVOLENCE request forms are available on our website under "Documents" ...

Please look for more communication from me with important information about the semester—it will likely go out as an email and/or text attachment via Remind.com—please provide this contact info ASAP! Thanks!

A copy of this letter/form is available on our website under "Documents."