

August 18th, 2021

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! I am so excited to get back to what I hope will be closer to a normal school year. We will be masked, but past that I expect things to be fairly standard.

First, **we will be having our beginning of the year meeting on Tuesday, August 24th at 6pm in the choir room. This applies to members of both ensembles. Everyone must be masked.** This meeting is very important, especially for freshmen/new members and their parents/guardians. This is a great chance for parents to ask any questions. I would love to meet all of the new faces! In addition to going over the handbook, we will be talking about parent volunteer committees, and **I will announce this year's musical!** If students bring a parent to the meeting and they sign in, the student will receive one notable point. Parents may still come to the meeting without their student (and the student will still receive their point). *Please* read through the handbook on Schoology. So many students will come up to me and say, "I didn't know that!" when so many of these things are clearly stated in the handbook. You are responsible for all of the information in the handbook.

An exciting change this year is the creation of a joint music booster organization between the band and choir programs. Mr. Drake and I decided that coming together would be beneficial for both of our programs and display a united front to our community. Anyone is invited to be a part of the music boosters! The boosters will be responsible for the bulk of the fundraising for both programs.

Choir officer elections for both ensembles are coming up quickly! These people are very important as they help the choir run smoothly and assist me with important tasks and decisions. The concert choir positions are president (senior only and 4 year choir member), vice president, secretary, treasurer, librarian, 2 historians, and 2 robe masters. Chamber Singers will have a president only, who will be responsible for multiple duties including attendance, filing music, collecting money, etc. Each person running for a position will need to create a short campaign video. The videos may be done in groups. The videos are due via Schoology or email by class time on Friday, August 20th. We will watch them in class on Friday!

Please take a look at the choral calendar in the handbook. We are back to a more normal looking performance schedule! First up - the Variety Show at the end of October!

ILMEA festivals are *hopefully* taking place this year. Auditions will be virtual, as they were last year, but we are in the process of planning live, in-person festivals. I will be working with students during Flex time, on Fridays after school until 4:15, AND Friday mornings during the Chamber Singers hour from 7:15-8:00am. Concert Choir students are welcome to join Chamber Singers as they learn the required repertoire for ILMEA auditions on Friday mornings.

As we did in 2019, we will host our own solo and ensemble contest in November. Mr. Drake and I will bring in guest judges to score each performance. Any student may participate in solo and ensemble.

The handbook contract is due by **Wednesday, August 25th during class time.** The handbook will be posted in Schoology, so please read through it with your student. Attached to this letter is a paper contract that will be signed and returned to the black tray on top of the folder cabinet.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email, Remind, or Schoology! Welcome back!

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