

2011-2012 PCHS Chorus Classes

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Room 1330



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. This year, in an effort to be fiscally and environmentally conscientious, the full **Choral Handbook** is in electronic form available in 2 places:

- a. On the Blackboard site for choral classes, accessible at <http://blackboard.wcpss.net>
- 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 Thursday, September 1st. Items in the handbook include:

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

As you can tell, the above items compromise a great deal of information. Please do take the time to review the entire document, as there are many specifics that need attention.

Last year, we implemented a **FairShare** commitment program that truly helped us meet the needs of the choral department. The FairShare program requests that choral families help raise funds to support the many activities and expenses of the chorus; the commitment is as follows:

--Semester-long students (Mixed Chorus only): **\$35**

--Year-long students (Women's Ensemble and the PCHS Chamber Choir): **\$60**

Ideally, no out-of-pocket expense should be necessary to fulfill this commitment as fundraising and community donor solicitations will be offered to all students. The FairShare amount has gone up \$10 this year to include a chorus t-shirt for all students and to help support a slightly augmented budget. Again, fundraising projects will be available to help meet this financial expense. Please also consider buying a **Concert Punch Card** at \$35 for 10-use pass. Or even better—consider making a **donation** to our booster group—a \$100 donation will earn a FREE Punch Card!

We will have a **choral parent meeting** on **Tuesday August 30th** at 7:00pm in the chorus room. The meeting will involve introduction of both the choral booster officers and our new Associate Director of Mixed Chorus, Mr. Jon Swofford. 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 2011-2012 calendar, a discussion about student 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.

We are excited to have the opportunity to work with your children this year. We believe that the community, academic scholarship and the quest for excellence that chorus provides will be well worth the time your children spend in our choral classroom. Thank you in advance for being engaged in our program!

Regards,

PCHS Chorus 2011-2012 Beginning of Year "To Do List"

Student Name and Period: _____

- Return this page with payment, as appropriate, plus **Parent email** address for receiving info relevant to the chorus program (dates, itinerary changes, reminders, etc.): _____
- Return **Handbook Signature Page** (last page of Handbook) by **Sept. 1**
- Pay **FairShare** Commitment **DUE ON OR BEFORE OCT. 1**—(fee for all choral students that helps to pay for items that impact every child in the chorus, such as piano maintenance, accompanist fees, program printing, concert security, transportation for adjudication events, etc.). An \$11 increase is in effect for this year, **HOWEVER**, this **includes a CHORUS t-shirt**. This expense can be paid in any of the following 3 ways:

1: Cash or check to PCHS Choral Boosters

- \$36 for Mixed Chorus Students (Pd. 2)
- \$61 for Women's Ensemble and Chamber Choir (Pd. 3 and 4)

2: Find community donors as follows: (requirement is one \$50 amount for Mixed Chorus students and \$100 total for the other 2 classes—two \$50 patrons or one benefactor/sponsor)

Community Supporter Definitions: The donor application slip is available on our **website** under "documents"

- "PATRON" \$50-99: Corporate name will be presented in all event programs
- "BENEFACTOR" \$100-499: Corporate name will be presented in all event programs **PLUS** inclusion of optional business-card sized ad in programs
- "SPONSOR" \$500+ : Corporate name will be presented in all event programs **PLUS** inclusion of half-page ad (on 11"x17" paper)

3: Fundraise the money through our Fall fundraising drive (Butter Braid sales—Sept. 9-21)

- Attend parent meeting** on Tuesday Aug. 30th at 7pm in the chorus room
- Consider making a **Family Donation** (does NOT count toward FairShare cost)
 - "FRIEND" \$5-49
 - "PATRON" \$50-99 Names are printed in all concert programs
 - "BENEFACTOR" \$100+ Names are printed in all concert programs, and **FREE 10-use concert pass punch card** included with donation (a \$50 value!)

For Patron/Benefactor, names to include in programs:

_____ (i.e. The Smith Family)

- Purchase **Concert Punch Card** (optional): Qty: _____ x \$35
- Make **Outfit Payments (due by Sept. 2 for girls, Oct. 2 for boys):**
 - Mixed Chorus: _____ \$30.00 for white dress blouse & belt; boys—purchase all on own.
 - Women's Ensemble: _____ \$58.00 Dress _____ \$10.00 Jewelry (required)
 - PCHS Chamber Choir
 - Girls: _____ \$85.00 Dress _____ \$10.00 Jewelry (required)
 - Boys: _____ \$138.00 Tuxedo

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"

Total \$ Attached: _____

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