

## Stratford Choir Booster Club General Meeting

August 25, 2022

Members attending: Marcie Baker, Mimi Hamilton, Debra Harris, Paige Larrabee, Nadia Sledge, Courtney Thrasher, and Tina Throckmorton.

President Debra Harris called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Mrs. Harris introduced the new Booster Club Board Members.

### **Updates from Choir Director – Marcie Baker**

**Introduction:** Ms. Baker introduced herself and Mr. Blanton (not present). She provided information on the Stratford Choir communication platforms, including [www.stratfordchoir.com](http://www.stratfordchoir.com), Facebook (Stratford Choir), Instagram (@stratfordchoir), and Twitter (@Stratford\_Choir). Ms. Baker's email is [Marcie.baker@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Marcie.baker@springbranchisd.com), and Mr. Blanton's email is [Gyasi.blanton@springbranchisd.com](mailto:Gyasi.blanton@springbranchisd.com).

### **Choir Handbook:**

Ms. Baker provided details regarding the Choir Handbook, the final page of which must be turned in by September 23<sup>rd</sup> for a test grade. Key information is included in the handbook:

#### **Uniforms:**

- Choir uniforms consist of black dresses or black tuxedos. This year boys will need to provide black dress shirts instead of white. Boys and girls must wear black dress shoes. Girls' shoes must be closed toe with low or no heel.
- Choir directors will need assistance with uniforms inventory and distribution. Inventory will be conducted the week of September 4<sup>th</sup>, and distribution will be the following week. Volunteer sign-up was circulated.

#### **Concert Attendance:**

- Concert attendance is mandatory and is a test grade. Students may only miss due to extreme circumstances – illness or a conflicting Stratford event.
- The first concert is the fall concert on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Grades:** 40% of grades are performance and test, 30% are rehearsals, and 30% are class assignments.

### **Texas All-State Process:**

Ms. Baker provided detailed information regarding the optional Texas All-State Process for choir students.

- District auditions will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Cy-Ranch High School. Students must prepare four songs, three of which will be performed. The top 15 singers in each group will move to Region.
- Region auditions require three songs. The top 12 students advance to Pre-Area. The top 17 students advance to Region Mixed Choir. Students who place 18-37 move to Region Treble Choir.
- Region Weekend (clinic and concert) will be held November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Stratford High School.

- Pre-Area Auditions include sight-reading. The top 5 students from Pre-Area will advance to Area, and the top students from Area will advance to All-State.
- Freshmen and Sophomore have the option to skip District auditions and audition for Region Honor Choir. Students who qualify for Region Honor Choir are able to participate in Region Weekend but will not continue past Region Weekend.
- Ms. Baker and Mr. Blanton are holding after school and Spartan Time rehearsals for students participating in the All-State process.

UIL Solo and Ensemble: UIL Solo and Ensemble will be held January 21, 2023 at Cypress Lakes High School. Students will select their solo music in December from a prescribed music list and will have class time in January to prepare and rehearse with an accompanist.

Spring Choir Trip – Corpus Christi: March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> choir students can participate in the Choir Trip to Corpus Christi. The total cost is \$720, with \$200 due by September 9<sup>th</sup>. The trip must be paid in full by January. Payments can be made via MySchoolBucks, check or cash. The trip includes accommodations at Port Royal Resort Condos, a charter bus, some meals, admission to the Texas State Aquarium and the USS Lexington, a day at the beach/pool, and a sandcastle team building event. The students will perform at the USS Lexington.

Fees: All choir students are responsible for a \$60 activity fee. Other activities require additional fees, including \$15 for Honor Choir entry, \$43 for solo and ensemble accompanist, \$25 for All-State entry, and \$13 for solo and ensemble entry. \*\*Fees should not prevent any student from participating. If a student has a concern regarding fees, he or she should speak to Ms. Baker or Mr. Blanton.\*\*

Choir Carwash: The annual car wash will be held on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up for parent and student volunteers will be sent.

### **Updates from Booster Club Board President – Debra Harris**

Merchandise – Choir is permitted to sell merchandise at football games. Only non-choir merchandise will be sold at football games (stakes, yard signs, and license plate frames). Additional merchandise will be sold at concerts. A volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated, and additional communications will be forthcoming.

Booster Club Membership: Ms. Harris encouraged parents to participate in Booster Club by signing up for membership.

### **Updates from Wassail Chair – Nadia Sledge**

Ms. Sledge confirmed that Wassail is scheduled for December 4, 2022 at Norris Conference Center. Each choir will perform two to three songs. Solo auditions will be held in early November. Ticket purchases will open to senior parents first in mid-November, then about a week later to all others.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm by President Debra Harris.