

Stratford Choir Parent Meeting

September 15, 2020

Meeting began at 7pm with a call to order by Choir Booster Club President, Kristin Hopper.

Approval of minutes from prior meeting

Secretary, Roxanne Camden asked for a motion to approve the minutes from May 30, 2020 general meeting. Trina Morford made the motion with a second by Alison Creed. Minutes approved and posted on Choir website.

Directors Report

Marcie Baker began by discussing the continued health and safety protocols being instituted in the classroom. Students are six feet apart, both masks and face shields are worn during class. Gyasi Blanton then shared that students are only singing for 30 minutes during class period. Remaining class is spent on composing, book work and choir skill building games.

Choir Handbook – Ms. Baker states that all choir students and their parents need to read through handbook, sign the handbook agreement page and turn form into herself or Mr. Blanton. The agreement page is being counted as a test grade for students.

Activity Fee/Choir T-shirt – Ms. Baker explains that activity fee is normally \$55, but due to the unusual circumstances this school year, activity fee has been reduced to \$45. The activity fee helps with the purchasing of music, class supplies, choir social events, as well as cost of choir t-shirts. Parents can pay fee online, cash or by check. Ms. Baker adds that if paying by cash or check, please put in an envelope with your student's name and activity fee on it.

Update on Concerts/Uniforms/Car Wash/Talent Show – Marcie Baker begins by stating that at this point there will be no choir concert performances. As she is given more information on the situation, she will convey to students and families.

Students will not be receiving choir uniforms (at this point).

The choir car wash scheduled for this week has been canceled. Alternative fundraising ideas for choir are being investigated.

There is also no choir kick off party or talent show.

Charms and Remind – Ms. Baker shares that parents and students can view choir updates, information and fees due/paid on Charms. You may access Charms by using our school code Stratford Choir. Each student will create their own password. Creating their Charms password is a test grade for students. Marcie is asking that all parents check to make sure their e-mail address is current and correct as Charms is how Ms. Baker and Mr. Blanton communicate with families. Mr. Blanton emphasizes the importance of making sure contact information in Charms and Remind is up to date.

All State Process – Gyasi Blanton states that this year All State process will be done virtually. Students will submit their audition videos for each cut in process. First audition videos are to be sent in between October 10-14, 2020. The videos will be reviewed, and cuts made/students moved to next round of

process. He notes that there will be no sight-reading portion in Round 3 this year. Mr. Blanton goes on to state that there is discussion of a virtual All State for all students who make it. He also notes that due to Covid-19, there will be no Region weekend concert held.

As for All State rehearsals, Mr. Blanton states that rehearsals will be held after school for both in person and virtual students. Ms. Baker shares that rehearsals are from 3:30-4:30pm for in person and virtual students.

Mr. Blanton shares all students will have their own All State account and log-in information. He reminds parents that students are not to share or compare their audition recordings with other students.

He also shares that students must click the submit button when sending their audition recordings. Otherwise, audition will not be sent. Mr. Blanton also states that it is preferred the students not use headphones when doing audition recordings.

Ms. Baker goes on to share what an impactful thing the All State process is for choir students and looks great on college applications/resumes. She states that going through the process is a wonderful skill builder, as well as teaches students the benefit of hard work, practice, etc. and suggests that students going through All State to be practicing 30 minutes each evening.

Solo & Ensemble – Ms. Baker shares that Spring events is uncertain at this time and that Solo & Ensemble may be held virtually.

UIL – Ms. Baker states that she is unsure whether UIL will be in person or virtual this year.

Marcie Baker asks meeting attendees if there are any questions and as there are none, she concludes the directors report.

Financial Report

Treasurer, Kaci Guy reports that there is \$8,838 from last school year with a current balance of \$11, 469. She states that \$1,575 in activity fees have been collected thus far.

Ms. Guy shares that choir will be going in with band and orchestra in order to purchase a piano for new theater.

Kristin Hopper also shares that monies will be going towards our newly created scholarships for choir students. Various scholarships are available to students, from vocal lessons to All State Camp.

VP Fundraising

Katie Fields shares about the new comfort color sweatshirt with the logo SHS Choir will be a part of our fundraising this school year. Ms. Fields states that we will also have a SHS license plate frame available for all SHS students and their families to purchase.

Wassail

Alison Creed shares that we typically have our holiday seated dinner/choir concert, but due to Covid-19 we are unable to have our Wassail event. Ms. Creed goes on to state that she and Ms. Majewski are waiting on final approval to move forward with a “drive in” concert to be held at SHS. Families will be able to pick up dinner from a partnering restaurant, come park at Stratford and enjoy our choirs perform

on an outdoor stage. Current date (tentative on getting approval) is the evening of Sunday, December 6, 2020. Our rain out date will be the evening of Sunday, December 13, 2020.

VP Activities

Trina Morford begins by discussing how hard it is to remain social during Covid-19. Due to the circumstances, she will be spearheading our Choir family Bingo game/swap. Bingo cards will be sent home next week, and Bingo game will begin on Wednesday {23rd}. Each family will receive one bingo card, but if you join the booster club by this Friday, you will receive a second bingo card.

Trina will send out bingo numbers virtually and if you get BINGO, you will e-mail her with a picture of your winning card and be able to claim your prize. Ms. Morford shares that we will also continue the game with a blackout version and have a grand prize winner.

For the swap, she is asking for families to donate a new/gently used item (\$10 value). Participating families will take a picture of their swap donation and send to Trina. Swap prizes will be posted online, and you will pick a prize, contact donor and arrange pick up. So fun!

New Business

Communications – Kristin Hopper reminds everyone to join the SHS choir Facebook page. It is a great way to get choir information. She also reminds parents to make sure e-mail is up to date in Charms. Ms. Baker shares our new choir website, Stratfordchoir.com, another great resource for choir families. Ms. Baker goes on to encourage everyone to join the choir booster club.

Spirit Night -_Kristin Hopper shares that our first Spirit night will be September 24, 2020 at Grub Burger (10403 Katy Fwy). When you order, just let them know you are with SHS choir and we will receive 20%. You can go all day, lunch or dinner. Ms. Baker states that we will have four additional Spirit Nights this school year. Watch your email, the Facebook group, etc. for future Spirit Night details.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm by President Kristin Hopper