

January 15, 2020

For auditioning students and their parents-

This letter and list is to help you be more prepared for your experience in Belle Voci, Cantate, Cantar Bellamente, Sound Steps, or Voce Unificato. For the 2021-2022 school year, these ensembles will be open to rising 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade and a select few rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each of these groups is a commitment that will require time, money, and commitment outside of what is required in the regular classroom or even in a larger choir. I'll spend just a moment on each topic.

Time commitment-

Each auditioned choir at Deep Run will take up one class period. Auditioned choirs occasionally have to spend time outside of class time rehearsing before school, during extended study or after school. Auditioned choirs participate in competitions and perform for events during or after school. Prior to the start of school students may be asked to attend parts of that week at school getting to know each other and learning music for the first semester. All of your time is rewarded with grades and exceptional performances!

Monetary commitment-

Students in each choir must purchase performance attire. We will be making some changes to our performance attire for next year. Students in all ensembles should prepare to purchase attire different from the current attire at a cost not to exceed \$80 per student.

All vocal music department students are invited to participate in the annual trip. This trip includes exciting performance and touring plans. Trips in the past have included Orlando, Atlanta, New York, Nashville and Boston. Expenses are all included and trips run between \$600 and \$800 depending on the destination, costs and touring options selected. Scholarship and fundraising help is made possible by the Vocal Music Boosters. Information about this trip will be coming as soon as we have information about permissions to travel post COVID.

Booster membership-

It is important for parents of students in auditioned ensembles to be committed to the process of making music by supporting each choir. Each student in Belle Voci and Cantate (just for an example) will perform about \$85.00 worth of printed music during the school year. Unfortunately funding from outside sources like private donations and fundraising is needed to fund purchasing the musical scores alone. The vocal music boosters help underwrite the music budget by paying for accompanists, piano tuning, purchasing equipment, paying portions of a choreographer and prop costs, and other fees not covered by the school system budget. Vocal music boosters lead the effort to help fill in the gap between what the school covers and the needs of the department. Sound Steps families are asked to help cover the cost of their choreographer if needed.

Special personal qualities-

In order to really achieve a feeling and sound of ensemble it is crucial that students in auditioned ensembles be respectful of each other and make real attempts to appreciate and get along with students they may not be friends with in other situations.

Students should without exception be tolerant of new or unusual music and be prepared to work for perfection on every piece.

This really goes without saying but auditioned choirs are not an easy A and are not for the faint of heart. They will be extremely rewarding and potentially life changing experiences! Check out the audition materials on this page for help in preparation and turning in your materials!

I look forward to your audition or your participation in Cantar Bellamente!

Amy El-Khoury

[awel-khoury@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:awel-khoury@henrico.k12.va.us)

364-8000 ext. 6503

PS While you're here make sure to look around the site for some pictures of past chorus fun and videos from our virtual winter concert.