

Falcon Choir News to Note

August 15, 2021 Edition

Hello Falcon Choir parents and students!

What a joy it has been meeting and reuniting with the wonderful MHMS Falcon choir students during this past first week of school. I am so excited for an awesome year of singing, learning, sharing, and caring with them. Choir students are important members of a team called an ensemble that will work together toward musical mastery much like a sports team, and it is an awesome experience.

NEWS TO NOTE:

- Mrs. O's WEBSITE - Falcon Choir class information for parents and students can be found on my WCSD website. This website is easy to find by just searching my name (Janet Orton) on any browser's search engine. My homepage usually comes up as the first hit! It's nice to be famous. ;-)
- STUDENT FEES - I have been asked to remind you that if you have not paid your annual student fees, please make sure to contact Paula Edmonds in the MHMS office in person or by phone (775-851-5629) to do so. None of the elective classes in the WCSD receive a budget from either the district or the school. The items we need for class instruction and educational music experiences are funded completely by program fundraising and the class fees asked for as part of these annual student fees. This year these funds will pay for performance polos, choir t-shirts, choir folders, sheet music, accompanists, piano dollies & covers, festival fees, bus fees, class incentives, rehearsal needs, and so forth. The MHMS fee sheet which lists the fee amounts so you can calculate what fees are owed can be found on my website. Please contact Mrs. Edmonds if you have any questions about this. Thanks!
- EXCLUDED STUDENTS - As I mentioned in my email last week, Choir students that are excluded from school due to COVID protocols will need to attend class by joining the live video meetings through Teams each day during their regular class time as part of their class grade. There will not be any other requirements of them such as a check-in form or an assignment, just the attendance of these live video classes. We will follow the regular MHMS bell schedule (this can be found on my website). They will find the link to join the meetings by going to their Choir Class "team" in Microsoft Teams. The join option will appear when I open the meeting within the first few minutes of class. Due to the nature of a choir class standards & singing in general, students' video cameras will need to be on during these live meetings so their participation in the activities can be seen on the screen actually participating. This is how they will receive full credit. We were very successful using this method last year.
- ABSENT WORK - Choir students receive 20 points each day for Learning Engagement when they: attend the entire class (in-person or through the Teams meeting), are prepared, are actively engaged in their learning, and allow others to do the same. If a student is absent for more than 15 minutes of class, they do not receive these points until they complete an Absent make-up Assignment (found on my website) for that day. This includes excluded students that miss the Teams meeting video class.

I already love teaching these amazing choir students and I will be striving this year to provide the opportunity for these young musicians to make the greatest progress in this art form they have elected to pursue, because I truly believe that. . . ***FALCON CHOIRS CHANGE THE WORLD WITH MUSIC!***

Looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Janet Orton

Director of Choirs

Marce Herz Middle School

Email: janet.orton@washoeschools.net

Website: www.washoeschools.net/janet-orton

