

August 2019

Dear Parents of Fourth and Fifth Grade Students,

Welcome back and best wishes for the new school year! As fourth and fifth graders, your child has the option of joining the Riverside Chorus, and this letter serves to inform you about being involved in the chorus program. Last year the chorus worked hard and had a superb year of making beautiful music at our school and in our community. I have high hopes and expectations for this year's group, and I am eager and excited to work with this year's chorus!

Rehearsals... Chorus will rehearse twice a week before school, on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:50-8:35am in the music room**. [If your child is Part 1, they will rehearse on Tuesday mornings.](#) [If your child is Part 2, they will rehearse on Thursday mornings.](#) An email will be sent out notifying students of their part a week before the first chorus rehearsal. Students will rehearse all together twice a week to prepare for concerts halfway through each concert season. I start rehearsing promptly at 7:50, so students should arrive a couple minutes before to get in the building and come upstairs for attendance. Please see the attached rehearsal schedule for details.

Attendance and practice... Regular attendance is an essential part of participating in chorus. Chorus is part of your child's report card; students should treat chorus rehearsals just as they would any other class in school. Students are expected to complete the practice assignments posted on Schoology and to be listening and practicing regularly at home. Please note that the most important rehearsal of the semester is the dress rehearsal on the day of the concert and is mandatory for all students. It is our only opportunity to rehearse in the gym on the choral risers with our accompanist.

Concerts... The Holiday Chorus Concert this year will be on **Monday, December 16th at 7pm** for family and friends; the chorus also sings for the Veteran's Day Celebration in November. In addition to these concerts, there are optional opportunities to sing other times before the holiday break, at the Sound Tigers and at Nathaniel Witherell (TBD). In the spring, the chorus performs for the Earth Day Celebration and the Flag Day Celebration in addition to our spring concert, scheduled for **Tuesday, May 26th at 7pm**.

Riverside Chorus T-Shirts... The chorus members may choose to purchase a "Riverside Chorus" T-shirt that we like to have them wear to all our performances that take place outside of the school, so the audience knows who we are and from where we come. The T-shirts are the same as last year, so fifth graders who were in the chorus last year and already have a shirt do not need to purchase a new one. Purchasing the shirts is voluntary, although most chorus members choose to have one. They are \$6, and the forms and money need to be returned by [Wednesday, September 11th](#).

Chorus Sign-Up... If your child is interested in joining the chorus please fill out the attached membership form, and return it to me no later than [Wednesday, September 11th](#). Fifth graders should note that in order to be recognized chorus at the Recognition Ceremony, they will need to make the commitment for the entire school year. **The first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 17th for PART 1 and Thursday, September 19th for PART 2.**

E-mail... Each year I try very hard to be "green" and e-mail chorus announcements as opposed to always sending home letters, which uses a lot of paper. On the attached form, please clearly print an e-mail address that you check on a regular basis. Chorus Part Assignments will be sent out via email by Friday, September 13th. Throughout the year I will e-mail you updated schedules and announcements. Rehearsal tracks, the calendar, and updates will be posted on Schoology for students. I will make large announcements via email, but all materials will be uploaded to Schoology for students to rehearse at home.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with the students of the Riverside Chorus!

Musically Yours,

Jessica Punchatz

General Music & Chorus Teacher

Riverside School

Riverside Chorus Membership Form- TO BE FILLED OUT BY ALL MEMBERS (including returning members)

Student Name _____ Class _____

Cell phone number _____

*Parent's e-mail address _____

If you were in chorus last year, what part did you sing? _____

For Students and Parents:

I have read the letter and rehearsal/performance schedule attached to this form, and understand my responsibilities as a member of the chorus.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Please detach here

Riverside Chorus T-Shirt Order Form

Student Name _____

Please order _____ shirt(s) @ \$6.00 each = Total _____

Size (please circle)

Youth

Adult

S M L

S M L XL

Please make check payable to **Riverside PTA** and return in an envelope with this form to Ms. Punchatz.