

August 29, 2017

Hello UMS Parents and Students,

Welcome to another amazing year of the UMS choir program!

Please read the information below, and let me know if you have any questions.

Rehearsal days:

This year, due to scheduling conflicts, we are holding choir rehearsals on Tuesdays ONLY until after the winter break, where we will resume to Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for the remainder of the school year. The rehearsal times are explained below:

The "All-Sing" Choir

This choir is open to any and all students who wish to participate in the after-school choir. This choir is designed for students to find their voice as well as enhance their ability to sing in parts. This after school choir is all about fun and skill enhancement. They will perform in all concerts and school assemblies. Rehearsal for this choir will take place in the UMS cafeteria on Tuesdays from 3:00-3:55 until winter break, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-3:55 until after the last concert of the year.

There are no auditions for this choir and ALL are welcome to participate. Students who make it into the Advanced Choir are welcome to be a part of both choirs.

The "Advanced" Choir

This choir is for *no less than 20 and no more than 35 select students who audition to gain their spot in the choir.* Unlike in previous years, this year, it is a requirement for those chosen to be in the Advanced Choir to also participate in the All Sing Choir. The choir will perform in all concerts and assemblies, as well as travel to the various elementary schools for the Elementary Tour in February. This choir will also have the opportunity to travel to Disneyland with the Symphonic Band over Memorial Day Weekend.

Rehearsal time for this choir will be the same as the All Sing Choir, but will extend until 4:30. Their required participation will be from 3:00-4:30pm on Tuesdays until winter break and Tuesdays and Thursdays from January through Memorial Day.

The members of this choir are selected through an audition process. Read below for audition information.

Auditions:

The first choir rehearsal will be **Tuesday, September 5th from 3:00-4:00pm**. At this rehearsal, they will learn more about the program, as well as review the material that will be required for the Advanced choir auditions. **Please know that your child DOES NOT NEED TO AUDITION.** This is only if they want a chance to join the Advanced Choir. **The auditions for the choir will be on Thursday, September 7th from 3:00-5:30pm.** The audition slots are 10 minutes each and 5 students audition at a time. Results will be posted no later than Monday, September 11th.

Rehearsals will proceed as normal on Tuesday, September 12th from 3:00-4:30pm.

Attendance:

Participation is KEY for the success of this after-school program! I do ask that if your student plans to compete in a Fall, Winter or Spring sport, or take part in the Spring Musical, that they inform me as soon as they can about that time conflict. I encourage well-rounded students and I am okay with students missing rehearsal for a sport or other school sanctioned activity. I simply ask that your students be prepared for the upcoming concerts and events. Attendance is taken each day and if multiple unexcused absences occur, I will contact you and your student to create an alternate plan to learn the songs.

Cost:

Because choir is an after-school activity, each student must pay to participate in the program. **The fees you pay will cover the music, usage, and director fees, as well as a 2017/2018 Choir t-shirt.**

This year the choir fee is \$115.00—((not including the possible festival or competition charges.)) **Checks are made payable to Union Middle School.** *Please put your child's name and "UMS Choir" on the memo line. Please fill out the form below, detach it, and return it with your Choir payment. **All Forms & Fees are due on Tuesday, October 3rd.** Please email me directly if you have questions about finances. I don't want finances to hinder any student from participating. Payment plans can be made with special arrangement.*

I look forward to a successful year with the Union Middle School Choir! Please email me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the choir, practices, performances, festivals, or anything else.

Sincerely,

Kit

Kit Abele

Choir director

kitabele@gmail.com

408-568-2801

UMS CHOIR INFORMATION SHEET AND CONTRACT

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT ATTACHED by **October 3, 2017**

Make checks payable to **Union Middle School**

Please write your **child's name** on the memo line

Amount due: \$115.00

Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Parent's email address(es): _____

Parent's Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

T-SHIRT INFORMATION

(please circle)

Youth: YM(10-12) YL (12-14)

Adult: S M L XL XXL

Quantity: _____

(If getting more than one shirt, please attach \$10 for each additional shirt. The \$115 price includes ONE t-shirt)

CONTRACT

STUDENT: By signing below, I _____ (*student name*) agree to the information written in the letter and will do my best to attend as many practices as I can. I will do my best to be on time to rehearsals and performances, and do my best to act in a professional, well-behaved manner. I understand that if I miss too many rehearsals, I may lose the opportunity to perform in upcoming events or concerts. I understand that my participation, skills, talent, and energy are necessary to the success of this choir.

PARENT: By signing below, I _____ (*parent name*) agree to the information in the letter and will do my best to see that my child attends as many rehearsals and performances as possible. If problems or conflicts arise, I will do my best to communicate in a timely manner to Mrs. Abele. I understand that my participation helps aid in the success of my child and of this choir.

(Student signature): _____

(Parent signature): _____

CHOIR IMPORTANT INFO CHEAT SHEET

Parent Meeting: Wednesday, August 30th @ 6:30pm

First Choir Rehearsal/Student info meeting: Tuesday, September 5th 3:00-4:00pm. They will sign up for audition slots at this meeting.

Advanced Choir Auditions: Thursday, September 7th 3:00-5:30pm (your student can leave after he/she is done. If their audition slot is well after school gets out, they can go home and come back to audition.

Fall Choir Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 3:00-3:55pm for All Sing Choir, and Advanced Choir students stay until 4:30pm.

Winter and Spring Rehearsals: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-3:55pm for All Sing Choir, and Advanced Choir students stay until 4:30pm.

Choir Fees and Paperwork due Tuesday, October 3rd. (this way, your child can "try before they buy").

Additional (Optional) Fees: The All Sing Choir will participate in a singing festival competition in the spring. Dates and location TBA, but the cost will be roughly \$60.00. The Advanced Choir has participated in the Disney Performing Arts experience for the past few years, and if accepted, plan to again. The cost of this trip is between \$500.00-\$600.00, paid in installments. There will be multiple fundraisers possible during the school year.